

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
Special Projects Minutes
Teleconference Meeting
January 17, 2014 * 08:30A.M

Board Members Present

Bo Hamil, PT- President
Stefanie Palma, PT
John Cowherd, Consumer Member

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Tamara Elliott, Board Support Specialist
Wanda Jaffe, Licensing Supervisor

Attorney General's Office

D. Williams-McNeely, Assistant Attorney General

Mr. Hamil established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 8:38 am

OPEN SESSION

1. **490-4-02 Continuing Competence Requirements** The Committee correlated BR 490-2-.02 with suggested changes to the updated version of Policy 7 and refers to the Board for a vote to post.

(1) The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy requires each licensed physical therapist and physical therapist assistant to participate in a minimum number of thirty (30) clock hours of experience per licensure period to promote continuing competence. **The Board has defined recommends the requirements for competence as planned learning experiences which have content beyond the licensee's present level of knowledge and competence which may be subject to audit by the board.** Content of the experience must relate to patient care in physical therapy whether the subject is research, treatment, documentation, education, management, or some other content area. The purpose of this requirement is to assist in assuring safe and effective practices in the provision of physical therapy services to the citizens of Georgia. In the event that a licensee does not meet this requirement, the license will not be renewed.

The thirty (30) hours of continuing competence requirements per biennium shall include a minimum of four (4) contact hours specifically in ethics and jurisprudence as defined in the Georgia Physical Therapy Act or by passage of the Georgia Jurisprudence Examination. Passage of the examination is equivalent to the four (4) hour requirement.

The following programs may be considered for ~~Class I~~ approval, but are not limited to:

- (a) Programs approved by the American Physical Therapy Association and its affiliate components; or
- (b) Programs approved by the Physical Therapy Association of Georgia or any other state chapters; or
- (c) Programs approved by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (**ProCert**); or
- (d) Programs provided at CAPTE-Accredited colleges and universities with programs in physical therapy when the continuing competency course is held under the auspices of the school of physical therapy; or
- (e) Programs offered by similar professional organizations offering experiences that meet the guidelines set forth in paragraph one**
- (f)** Fifteen (15) hours for undergoing a peer review; or
- (g)** Ten (10) hours for conducting a peer review when that activity is an adjunct responsibility and not the primary employment; or
- (h)** Participation as a presenter for continuing education courses, workshops, seminars or symposia ~~which have been approved by the approved list above;~~ Continuing competence credit is based on contact hours and may not exceed 10 hours per topic;
- (i)** Authorship of a presented scientific poster, scientific platform presentation or published article; Continuing competence credit is 10 hours per event and may not exceed 20 hours;
- (j)** Teaching a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant credit course when that teaching is an adjunct responsibility and not the primary employment; Continuing competence credit is based on contact hours not to exceed 20 hours;
- (k)** Certification of clinical specialization by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. Continuing competence credit is 30 hours and is recognized only in the biennium in which certification or recertification is awarded.

The following programs may be considered for ~~Class II~~ approval (limited to 10 hours):

- (l)** Self- instruction from reading professional literature; Continuing competence credit is limited to a maximum of ~~five (5) hours~~ **three (3) hours**; or

- (m) Attendance at a scientific poster session, lecture, panel, symposium or university course ~~that does not meet the criteria for Class I~~; Continuing competency credit is one hour per contact hour of activity; or
- (n) Acting as a clinical education instructor for an accredited physical therapist or physical therapist assistant educational program; Continuing competence credit is one (1) hour per eight (8) contact hours **(with a credit of 10 hours max)**; or
- (o) Acting as a clinical instructor or an intern for a formal, nonacademic, advanced clinical internship or as a mentor or a learner for a formal, nonacademic mentorship.
- (p) Donating time in the role of a Physical Therapist or Physical Therapy Assistant, within the scope of practice, to a charity event; continuing competence credit is one (1) hour per either (8) contact hours, limited to a maximum of five (5) hours(with a credit of 10 hours max);**
- (q)See Policy 13**
- (r) Post professional physical therapist educational programs that award academic credit are counted as one (1) university credit hour equaling ten (10) continuing competency hours. For example, a two (2) credit hour course in which a passing grade is achieved would equal twenty (20) continuing

(2) Unacceptable activities for continuing competence include, **but are not limited to:**

- (a) Orientation and in-service programs;
- (b) Meetings for purposes of policy decisions;
- (c) Non-educational meeting at annual association, chapter or organization meetings; (d) Entertainment or recreational meeting or activities;
- (e) Committee meetings, holdings of offices, serving as an organization delegate; (f) Visiting exhibits;
- (g) CPR.

(3)Continuing competence requirements shall apply within the first biennium that a physical therapist/physical therapist assistant is licensed in Georgia. However, licensees who have graduated during the current renewal biennium and who have passed the National Physical Therapy Examination are exempt from the continuing competence requirement during the biennium in which they have graduated and successfully passed the exam.

(4)Individuals licensed during the last six (6) months of a biennium renewal period will not be required to meet continuing competence requirements for that biennium.

(5)Individuals who have been reinstated within the last six (6) months of a biennium renewal period may use the continuing competence coursework used for reinstatement, thereby making them exempt from the requirement for that biennium renewal period.

(6)Those licensees selected for audit shall submit the Verification of Continuing Competence form and documentation of compliance upon receipt of notice. Acceptable documentation shall include:

- (a) An official program or outline of the course attended or taught or a copy of the publication which clearly shows that the objectives and content were related to patient care in physical therapy and shows the number of contact hours, as appropriate. The information also should clearly identify the licensee's responsibility in teaching or authorship; and
- (b) A certificate or verification of completion of home study which identifies the sponsoring entity or maintain a copy of the final grade report in the case of a University credit course(s), or specialization certificate, or proof of attendance with a copy of the program for the other acceptable activities, or documentation of self-instruction or reading professional literature; or
- (c) Verification of a peer review of practice with verification of acceptable practice by a recognized entity.

An example of a recognized entity is the American Physical Therapy Association Board Policy (See APTA Policy G03-05-15-40).

(7)Responsibilities of the Licensee:

- (a) To maintain the documents identified in number (5) above for no less than three (3) years from the beginning date of the licensure period. These records should be maintained in the licensee's personal files for no less than three (3) years from the beginning date of the licensure period through the even numbered year after the license is renewed.
- (b) To submit a properly completed and notarized "Verification of Competence Education" form to the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy, if audited.
- (c) To complete all steps necessary to meet the re-licensure requirements on or before December 31st of the odd numbered years.
- (d) To provide the Board with information requested during an audit.
- (e) To keep a current mailing address on file with the Licensing Board Office at all times.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-10, 43-33-11 and 43-33-16. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Revocation, Refusal to Renew" was filed and effective on June 30, 1965. **Amended:** Rule repealed and a new Rule of the same title adopted. Filed April 20, 1973; effective May 10, 1973. **Amended:** Rule repealed and a new Rule entitled "Disciplinary Sanctions" adopted. Filed December 15, 1982; effective January 4, 1983. **Amended:** Rule repealed and a new Rule of the same title adopted. Filed February 4, 1985; effective February 24, 1985. **Amended:** Filed February 28, 1986; effective March 20, 1986. **Amended:** Rule renumbered as Rule 490-4-.03 and a new Rule entitled "Continuing Education Requirements" adopted. Filed January 28, 1987; effective February 17, 1987. **Amended:** Filed June 26, 1987; effective July 16, 1987. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Mar. 22, 1989; eff. Apr. 11, 1989. **Amended:** F. Aug. 24, 1989; eff. Sept. 13, 1989. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Jul. 22, 1999; eff. Aug. 11, 1999. **Amended:** F. May 9, 2000; eff. May 29, 2000. **Amended:** F. May 19, 2004; eff. June 8, 2004. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. June 22, 2007; eff. July 12, 2007. **Repealed:** New Rule of the same title adopted. F. May 12, 2010; eff. June 1, 2010. **Amended:** F. May 17, 2011; eff. June 6, 2011. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 25, 2012; eff. Jun. 14, 2012. **Amended:** F. May 23, 2013; eff. Jun. 12, 2013.

2. **Telehealth Proposed Policy # 16** The Committee recommends the following proposed language for a Policy #14 and refers to the Board for adoption.

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the practice of tele-rehabilitation (telehealth) by the spectrum of technologies involving interactive telehealth.

Telehealth has been defined as the use of electronic communications to provide and deliver a host of health related information and health care services including, but not limited to physical therapy-related information and services, over large and small distances. Telehealth encompasses a variety of health care and health promotion activities including, but not limited to, education, advice, reminders, interventions, and monitoring of interventions.

- (a) All provisions of Physical Therapy utilizing telehealth mechanisms must conform to all statutes, rules and policies governing the practice of physical therapy in the State of Georgia.
- (b) With the exception of part(c), individuals providing physical therapy via telehealth to a patient/client in the State of Georgia must be licensed in the State of Georgia.
- (c) A physical therapist that is licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States may provide a consultation via telehealth to a physical therapist in the state of Georgia.

***Definition adapted with permission from APTA**

3. **Jurisprudence Exam Update** The Committee explained that the Federation does not want to open the Jurisprudence exam and Ms. Heidi Herbst-Paakkonen will attend the next Board Meeting by teleconference to address this issue. The timeframe for contact is open for negotiations.
4. **aPTitude** The Committee discussed aPTitude and recommends that the Board consider adding language in reference to aPTitude to Board Rule 490-4-.02

5. Review Board Policies 9-15 for Annual Review

Policy #9 – Peer Review The Committee recommends that the Board solicit a roster of peer reviewers.

Policy #10 - Mental Physical Evaluations The Committee recommends maintaining the policy as presented

Policy #11 – Meetings/Records The Committee recommends maintaining the policy as presented

Policy #12 – Position on Medication The Committee recommends maintaining the policy as presented

Policy #13 – Georgia Jurisprudence The Committee recommends the following language revision
The Board-approved Georgia Jurisprudence Continuing Competency Course must include a review of the Georgia General Provisions (Title 43 Chapter 1 -specifically 43-1-9 and 43-1-19 through 43-1-27), Georgia Physical Therapy Practice Act (Title 43 Chapter 33), Board Rules (Chapter 490), Board Policies and a general review of the Board’s website www.sos.ga.gov/plb/pt to include the FAQ’s. A review of the Jurisprudence exam will occur ~~when the laws and rules change~~ annually.

Policy #14 Foreign Credentialing The Committee recommends maintaining the policy as presented

Policy #15 Residency Programs The Committee recommends the following language revision
Pursuant to O.C.G.A.§43-33-1, the Board will consider for approval educational institutions for the purposes of offering programs to develop advanced physical therapy skills. All educational institutions that are providing such advanced training must petition the Board prior to allowing practice of residents/fellows **per applicant that is** unlicensed in Georgia and enrolled in said program.

6. **PT Staff Approval of Applications for Licensure and Renewal** The Committee discussed the creating a new policy to designate a Board Member to review any applicant that has checked misdemeanor violation on their application that is greater than five (5) years old. The Executive Director will present the chart at the next Board meeting for review and discussion.

No more business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 10:00am

Minutes recorded by: Tamara Elliott, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Wanda Jaffe, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: January 28, 2014

BO HAMIL
BOARD CHAIR

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR