

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
**Rules Committee Minutes**  
**Teleconference Meeting**  
**February 17, 2015 - 08:30AM**

**Board Members Present**

Dorothy Gaskin, PT- Committee Chair  
Monty Strickland, PT  
Reid Lawson, PT

**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

**OPEN SESSION**

**Call to Order** Ms. Gaskin called the committee meeting to order at 8:32 am

- 1) **Discussion - Board Rule 490-5-.02** – consider if the word “meet” should be further defined and further discuss the number of PTAs a PT could supervise. May consider adding the definition and changes to the policies to avoid revising the rules.

The committee recommends amending the policy as follows:

**Policy # 17 Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant Relationship**

Ultimately the responsibility for the quality of care provided by supportive personnel resides with the Physical Therapist. While technology allows for supervision in new and expanded methods, the PTAs, Trainees, and Students should know who and how to contact the supervising PT.

- (a) It is recommended that the PT supervise no more than three (3) other supportive clinicians at any given time. For the purposes of this policy, supportive clinicians are defined as PTAs, Trainees, and PT/PTA students.
  - (b) Care coordination discussions are expected in all settings. Such communication should be documented in the patients' medical record. The frequency of the communication should be based on the patient condition, progression and setting.
- 2) **Discussion – Board Rule 490-2-.09 Licensure: Endorsement & 490-3-.02 Re-examination** – The Board referred this matter to the Rules Committee to [determine if five \(5\) attempts at passing the NPTE is appropriate and consider the](#) possibility of adding a traineeship requirement to those who have multiple failures of the examination

The committee recommends amending the rule as follows:

**490-2-.09 Licensure: Endorsement.**

- (1) The Board may, in its discretion register a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant without an examination as set forth in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 43-33-15 upon payment of applicable fees. (Refer to fee schedule)
- (2) Any applicant applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-33-15 and who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) and approved by the Board, must provide:
  - (a) a list of all states where the applicant holds an active license; and
  - (b) verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has actively practiced in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and
  - (c) official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical

therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; and  
[\(d\) scores from the national licensing examination and/or cause a lawful licensing authority to provide evidence of passing scores on the national licensing examination.](#)

[\(e\) a passing score on the Georgia Jurisprudence Examination.](#)

(3) Any applicant applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-33-15 who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or approved by the Board, must provide:

(a) a list of all states where the applicant holds an active license; and

(b) verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has actively practiced in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and

(c) official evaluation and transcript from a credential evaluation organization approved by the State of Georgia; and

[\(d\) scores from the national licensing examination.](#)

(e) a passing score on the Georgia Jurisprudence Examination.

(4) Proper proof of licensure in good standing from the state(s) where the applicant practiced in the two years immediately preceding this application, proof of graduation from an accredited physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program or credential evaluations deemed substantially equivalent to the professional degree, and satisfactory completion of the licensing examination shall be deemed to be prima facie evidence of compliance with Code Section 43-33-15. The Board, however, may request further verification of any credential submitted if deemed necessary to evaluate the application.

[\(5\) Any applicant for licensure by endorsement who has not passed the national physical therapy examination by the third \(3rd\) attempt will be required to submit proof of satisfactory completion of a Board approved 480 hour traineeship upon passing the examination and prior to the issuance of a license.](#)

[\(a\) The traineeship must be completed within three \(3\) months of the issuance of the traineeship permit.](#)

[\(b\) This requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Board if the applicant has demonstrated clinical competency by submitting documentation which reflects a minimum of five \(5\) years of continuous active practice and a license in good standing in another state or jurisdiction.](#)

[\(6\) Any applicant for licensure by endorsement who has not passed the Georgia Jurisprudence Examination after the third \(3rd\) attempt will be required to complete a Board approved course on Georgia Jurisprudence prior to being granted approval to take the exam a fourth \(4th\) time.](#)

[\(7\) Any applicant for licensure by endorsement who has not passed the Georgia Jurisprudence Examination after the fourth \(4th\) attempt will not be allowed to sit for the examination for a fifth \(5th\) time without additional coursework as deemed necessary by the Board.](#)

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-33-15. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Examination Proctors" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973. **Amended:** New Rule entitled "Licensure: Endorsement" adopted. F. June 27, 1995; eff. July 17, 1995.

#### **490-3-.02 Re-examination.**

(1) An applicant who fails the [national physical therapy](#) examination on the first attempt may submit a reexamination application to the Board to be made eligible to test a second time.

(2) An applicant who fails the [national physical therapy](#) examination on the second attempt must submit the following before being made eligible to test a third time:

(a) A copy of his/her "Examination Performance Feedback Report" obtained from the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT), and pay all costs associated with acquiring the report.

(b) A remediation plan addressing each area of weakness/failure. Examination preparation courses will be considered provided that such course addresses the area(s) of weakness/failure. The remediation plan must be developed in consultation with an appropriately licensed physical therapist or physical therapy assistant, or by a faculty member of a CAPTE-accredited program.

(c) Proof of satisfactory completion of such remediation plan.

[\(3\) An applicant may be approved administratively to take the examination a third \(3rd\) time after the above outlined procedure has been completed and approved.](#)

(4) An applicant who fails the examination three (3) or more times must submit a [new](#) remediation plan as outlined above in 490-3-.02(2)(a) and (b). The remediation plan must be approved by the Board prior to the applicant's beginning or initiating the plan. An applicant may be approved to take the examination [a fourth \(4<sup>th</sup>\) time](#) only after proof of satisfactory [completion of such remediation plan](#).

(5) [Any applicant who has not passed the national physical therapy examination by the third \(3rd\) attempt will be required to complete a board approved 480 hour traineeship upon passing the examination and prior to the issuance of a license. The traineeship must be completed within three \(3\) months of the issuance of the traineeship permit.](#)

(6) [Any applicant for licensure who has not passed the Georgia Jurisprudence Examination by the third \(3rd\) attempt will be required to complete a Board approved course on Georgia Jurisprudence prior to being granted approval to take the exam a fourth \(4th\) time.](#)

(7) [Applicants for licensure who have not passed the national physical therapy examination and/or the Georgia Jurisprudence Examination by the fourth \(4th\) attempt will not be allowed to sit for either examination a fifth \(5th\) time without extensive further study, which may include completing a physical therapy educational program approved by CAPTE or additional coursework as deemed necessary by the Board.](#)

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-2, 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-12 to 43-33-14, 43-33-18.

**History.** Original Rule entitled "Re-examination" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Mar. 8, 1971; eff. Mar. 28, 1971. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Sept. 15, 1971; eff. Oct. 5, 1971. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 29, 1973; eff. May 10, 1973. **Amended:** F. Oct. 17, 1975; eff. Nov. 6, 1975. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Re-examinations" adopted. F. Mar. 19, 1982; eff. Apr. 8, 1982. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Re-examination" adopted. F. Nov. 27, 1984; eff. Dec. 17, 1984. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Mar. 22, 1989; eff. Apr. 11, 1989. **Amended:** F. May 13, 1991; eff. June 2, 1991. **Amended:** F. Jan. 24, 1995; eff. Feb. 13, 1995. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 26, 2005; eff. June 15, 2005.

- 3) **Discussion – Board Rules Chapter 490-9 - § 43-33-10(9)** - states that In carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the board shall, in addition to the other powers conferred upon it under this chapter, have the power to adopt a code of ethics. The chapter title is Code of Ethics. Board Chair desires the committee to consider if the title of each rule should be changed to "Code of Ethics for..."

The Committee recommends changing the title of each rule to "Code of Ethics" and schedule for a rules hearing if necessary.

- 4) **Discussion – Whether or not to limit the number of attempts on the Jurisprudence Examination** - if so, once that number is reached should the Board require a course in GA Law before the applicant can be made eligible to retake the Jurisprudence examination?

The Committee recommends [that the Board continue to require the GA Jurisprudence Examination and the number of attempts should mirror the number allowed for the NPTE. The committee also recommends that the Board require those who are applying for an initial license in the state of Georgia to take the FSBPT GA Jurisprudence Examination and allow applicants for renewal, reinstatement or remediation to take any available examination and/or course approved by the Board, keeping the FSBPT Jurisprudence for new graduates and endorsement applicants and offer the JAM as an option for renewal and reinstatement applicants. The Committee also recommends that the Board make it a priority to update the Jurisprudence Exam.](#)

## 5) **Miscellaneous**

The committee recommends s the following:

### **Policy #2 - Examination applications (Board Rule 490-2-.02)**

(A) Effective November 21, 2011, the Board will make eligible, applicants for licensure by examination upon receipt of proof from either the College / University Registrar, Dean, PT or PTA Program Director at the applicant's CAPTE-accredited PT / PTA program stating that the applicant has successfully completed the Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant program but is awaiting

degree conferment. The Board has provided, as part of the application, a form that must be completed by the appropriate school representative and submitted to the Board.

(B) The Board has designated a board member to review all non-CAPTE and all foreign educated examination applications for approval.

(C) An applicant that has not passed the national physical therapy examination [or the Georgia Jurisprudence examination](#) by the fourth (4th) time will not be allowed to sit for the examination for a 5th time without extensive further study, which may include completing a physical therapy educational program approved by CAPTE [or additional coursework as deemed necessary by the Board](#).

(D) Applicants for initial licensure by exam must take and pass the electronic Georgia Jurisprudence Exam the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT).

*Policy approved at the March 16, 2004 meeting.*

*Policy reaffirmed at the January 2009 meeting.*

*Policy amended at the November 15, 2011 meeting.*

*Policy revised at the September 18, 2012 meeting.*

(as recommended by the Rules Committee on February 17, 2015)

### **Policy #3 - Endorsement applications**

(A) The Board has designated a board member to review all non-CAPTE and all foreign educated examination applications for approval.

(B) Endorsement applicants who have passed the examination within one (1) year of graduation may apply by examination instead of endorsement and must submit verification of licensure from every state in which they have held a license.

(C) All endorsement applicants must take and pass the electronic Georgia Jurisprudence exam. Candidates must register for the exam through the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT). [An applicant who has not passed the Georgia Jurisprudence exam by the 4th time will not be allowed to sit for the exam a 5th time without evidence of completion of additional Jurisprudence coursework.](#)

*Policy approved at the September 18, 2007 meeting.*

*Policy reaffirmed at the January 2009 meeting.*

*Policy revised at June 19, 2010 meeting.*

*Policy revised at November 18, 2014 meeting.*

(as recommended by the Rules Committee February 17, 2015)

Ms. Gaskin reported to the committee that she will not be present at the next scheduled board meeting

**Adjournment** No more business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 9:05am

The next Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy meeting will be on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Tamara Elliott, Board Support Specialist  
**Minutes reviewed and edited by:** Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
**Minutes approved on:**

**DORORTHY GASKIN**  
**COMMITTEE CHAIR**

**ADRIENNE PRICE**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**