

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
Board Meeting Minutes
Professional Licensing Boards
237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA
Tuesday, November 5, 2019 - 9:00 a.m.

The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy met on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. The following members were present:

Board Members Present

Dorothy Gaskin, Board Chair
Anne Thompson, Vice Chair
Charles Bass, Board Member
Chad Whitefield, Board Member
Lauri Wallace, Board Member
Destiny Hebert, Board Member
Terry Burner, Board Member

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

Attorney General's Office

Kirsten Daughdril, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Board Members Absent

Dr. Norma Nunez-Cortes, EdD, Consumer Board Member

Visitors Present

Katherine Sylvester, PT, DPT, Physical Therapy Association of Georgia (PTAG)
Dr. Daniel Dale, PT, DPT, Physical Therapy Association of Georgia (PTAG), President
Dr. Sandra Eskew Capps, PT, DPT

Call to Order: Mrs. Gaskin established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

Mrs. Gaskin welcomed Dr. Burner to the Board. Dr. Burner provided a brief background of her experience and expressed that she is excited about serving on the Board.

Agenda Dr. Thompson motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the agenda as presented.

Open Session Minutes

1. September 24, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Bass motioned, Mr. Whitefield seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the September 3, 2019 open session Board meeting minutes as presented.

Licenses to Ratify September 17, 2019 – October 29, 2019

Dr. Thompson motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to ratify the licenses by application and by reinstatement that were issued in accordance with the Board Rules and Policies between Board meetings.

Discussion – Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT)

1. National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE)

- a) Q3 Survey Results
- b) July 2019 NPTE CBT Comments for Georgia

- c) Q3 2019 State Satisfaction Application Processing – Georgia

2. October News Brief

3. Physical Therapy Compact

- a) FSBPT and Compact Annual Meeting Report for State Board
Dr. Thompson provided the Board with an update on the following topics of interest covered at the Annual Meeting:
- CWT6
 - Board Member Orientation and Training
 - Compact
 - Continuing Competence
- b) FSBPT 2019 Delegate Handbook
c) 2019 Physical Therapy Compact Commission Annual Meeting Delegate Packet
d) PT Compact Map 10.17.19

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to FSBPT as information.

Discussion – Foreign Academic Credentialing Tools and Services (FACTS)

The Board accepts the correspondence in reference to FACTS as information.

Petition for Rule Waiver Requests

1. Rule Waiver – BR 490-2-.09(2)(c) – Turvey, Nicole

Mr. Whitefield motioned, Mr. Bass seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion grant the petition to waive BR 490-2-.09(2)(c) based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship if the petitioner submits the paperwork for a 480 hour traineeship and required continuing education prior to December 31, 2019.

2. Rule Waiver – BR 490-2-.04 – Linsangan, Rosalyn

Dr. Thompson motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition to waive BR 490-2-.04 based on sufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship.

3. Rule Waiver – BR 490-2-.03 – Jo, Eunyoung

Dr. Thompson motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition to waive BR 490-2-.03 based on insufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship and refer supervisor and applicant to Cognizant for possible unlicensed practice.

Discussion – Board Member Elections

1. Board Chairperson

Dr. Thompson motioned, Mr. Bass seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Mrs. Dorothy Gaskin as the Board's Chair.

2. Vice Chairperson

Mr. Bass motioned, Mr. Whitefield seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Dr. Anne Thompson as the Board's Vice Chairperson.

3. Complaints/Disciplinary Cognizant

Mr. Bass motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Mr. Chad Whitefield as the Board's Complaint/Disciplinary Cognizant.

4. Application Cognizant

Mrs. Gaskin motioned, Mr. Whitefield seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Dr. Anne Thompson as the Board's Application Cognizant.

5. Rules Committee Member

Dr. Thompson motioned, Mr. Whitefield seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to elect Dr. Terri Burner as a Rules Committee Member.

6. Special Projects Committee Member

Dr. Thompson motioned, Mr. Whitefield seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to elect Dr. Norma Nunez-Cortes as a Special Projects Committee Member.

Executive Director Report – A. Price

Executive Director's report presented the Board with statistical data relevant to the processing of applications, the number of licensees, renewal applications and complaints/compliance matters. Other Relevant Topics she discussed included the following:

- Upcoming Session of the Georgia General Assembly
- Supervised Clinical Practice Performance Evaluation Tool (SCP PET)

Dr. Thompson motioned, Mr. Whitefield seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to notify FSBPT that the Board courteously declines the offer to use the Supervised Clinical Practice Performance Evaluation Tool (SCP PET) at this time.

Ms. Gaskin entered a motion on record to formally acknowledge the dedication of the Board staff and expressed her sincere appreciation for their hard work. Ms. Thompson entered a second and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Whitefield motioned, Mr. Bass seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Executive Director's report as presented.

Board Chair's Report – D. Gaskin, PT

Mrs. Gaskin reviewed the Board's mission statement and goals established in January 2019. Dr. Thompson motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Board's mission statement as presented as well as to post the mission statement on the Board website.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy is to regulate the practice of Physical Therapy in the state of Georgia ensuring safe, quality care and outcomes by qualified practitioners.

Dr. Thompson motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to adopt the Board Mission Statement and post on the Board website.

Mrs. Gaskin also addressed the following topics of interest:

- Compact Preparedness
- Continued Competence
- FSBPT Contract & Data Sharing for ELDD

Dr. Thompson motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Board Chair's report and recommendation as presented.

Miscellaneous Discussion

1. Special Projects Committee Teleconference

Mr. Bass motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to schedule a Special Projects teleconference December 3, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

2. Motion Stretch Studio

Dr. Dale addressed the Board on behalf of PTAG regarding an issue that was brought to PTAG's attention by one of their members. Concerns were raised about treatment provided by a Georgia Company, Motion Stretch Studio, and the potential for harm to the public. Dr. Dale asked the Board if any concerns have been brought to them about the company utilizing massage therapists for manual therapy and stretching and/or their claim to identify movement dysfunction and provide evaluations with potential solutions to include stretching as a modality for treatment.

Ms. Price indicated that the Board would not be able to state if any concerns were brought to them concerning the company as it would be considered a complaint, which is confidential. Mr. Dale was encouraged to submit any information that he may have in writing to the Board to consider.

Adrienne Price left the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Mr. Whitefield motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-2 (k); 43-1-19 (h) and 50-14-2 (1) to receive and review information pertaining to applications, pending cases, investigative reports and enforcement matters and to receive the Assistant Attorney General's report. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Board members: Dorothy Gaskin, Anne Thompson, Chad Whitefield, Charles Bass, Destiny Hebert, Laurri Wallace and Terry Burner.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session of Tuesday, November 5, 2019, Mrs. Gaskin declared the meeting to be "open" pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

OPEN SESSION

Executive Session Minutes

1. September 24, 2019 Executive Board Minutes

Dr. Hebert motioned, Mr. Whitefield seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the September 3, 2019 executive session Board meeting minutes as presented.

Attorney General's Report – K. Daughdril

Dr. Wallace motioned, Mr. Whitefield seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Attorney General's Report as presented.

Miscellaneous Executive Discussion

1. PT200007 Records Request – Brigitte Cervone, Investigator for USDOJ

Mr. Whitefield, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer to Legal Services to release the requested records as permitted by law.

2. Board Rules

Mr. Whitefield motioned, Dr. Burner seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer Rule 490-9-.02. Principles of Conduct for Physical Therapists, Rule 490-9-.03. Principles of Conduct for Physical Therapist Assistants, Rule 490-9-.04. Disciplinary Sanctions, and Rule 490-2-.04. Training Permits, back to the Rules Committee for further review.

Mr. Whitefield motioned, Dr. Burner seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to post Rule 490-2-.01 Application for Licensure and Examination, Rule 490-2-.03. Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants, Rule 490-2-.09. Licensure: Reciprocity, Rule 490-2-.10. Licensure: Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members, Rule 490-13-.01. Licensure Compact, as amended today, per executive session discussion to use the alternative language that has been previously authorized, for a Public Rules Hearing.

Mr. Whitefield motioned, Dr. Burner seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to post Rule 490-4-.02. Continuing Competence Requirements, Rule 490-5-.01. Responsibility of the Licensed Physical Therapist in Supervision and Direction of the Physical Therapist Assistant, and Rule 490-9-.05. Dry Needling, for a Public Rules Hearing.

Mr. Whitefield motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to release the Memorandum of Authority on Rule 490-2-.01. Application for Licensure and Examination, Rule 490-2-.03. Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants, Rule 490-2-.09. Licensure: Reciprocity, Rule 490-2-.10. Licensure: Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members, Rule 490-4-.02. Continuing Competence Requirements, Rule 490-5-.01. Responsibility of the Licensed Physical Therapist in Supervision and Direction of the Physical Therapist Assistant, Rule 490-9-.05. Dry Needling, and Rule 490-13-.01. Licensure Compact, to the Governor's Office for final review, and in the referral, note which rules are housekeeping and which have new, substantive changes.

Mr. Whitefield motioned, Dr. Burner seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to table Rule 490-4-.01. Renewal and Reinstatement of License and Penalties, pending the amendments to the Joint Secretary rules.

a) Rule 490-2-.01. Application For Licensure And Examination

Rule 490-2-.01. Application For Licensure And Examination

- (1) A completed application for examination must be submitted and approved prior to taking the examination.
- (2) Any physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who plans to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in the State of Georgia must be licensed by the Board [or hold a Georgia Compact Privilege issued by the Physical Therapy Compact Commission](#) prior to beginning said practice.
- (3) Any applicant who does not submit required documentation within one year of initial filing date will not be given further consideration by the Board until submission of new application and payment of appropriate fees.
- (4) All applicants for licensure and examination are also subject to the provisions of O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-19](#) and [43-33-18](#).

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-2-.01

Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. [43-1-3](#), [43-1-19](#), [43-1-24](#), [43-1-25](#), [43-33-10](#) to [43-33-14](#), [43-33-18](#).

History. Original Rule entitled "Application for Registration and Examination" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965.

Repealed: New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973.

Repealed: New Rule entitled "Application for Licensure and Examination" adopted. F. June 6, 1983; eff. June 26, 1983.

Repealed: New Rule of same title adopted. F. Mar. 22, 1989; eff. Apr. 11, 1989.

Amended: F. July 17, 1989; eff. Aug. 6, 1989.

Amended: F. May 26, 1993; eff. June 15, 1993.

Amended: F. Jan. 24, 1995; eff. Feb. 13, 1995.

Repealed: New Rule of same title adopted. F. Aug. 20, 2004; eff. Sept. 9, 2004.

b) Rule 490-2-.03. Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants

Rule 490-2-.03. Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants

- (1) All applicants who are graduates of educational programs conducted in a foreign country that are not accredited by CAPTE and approved by the Board must submit credentials prescribed by the Board in order to be considered for approval to take the licensing examination.
 - (a) Transcripts must be evaluated by a credential evaluation agency approved by the Board to determine if the professional instruction is substantially equivalent to that of entry-level United States-educated therapists. The credentialing evaluation agency shall evaluate the transcripts and professional instruction using the most recent Coursework Tool (CWT) adopted by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy and send its evaluation and a copy of the official transcript directly to the Board. A list of credentialing agencies approved by the Board shall be included in each application packet. ~~Additional lists may be obtained from the Board office.~~
 - (b) Proof of licensure/certification/registration, that is current and in good standing, to practice physical therapy, or proof of appropriate eligibility to practice physical therapy, in the country of education must be submitted.
 - (c) Verification of licensure/certification/registration in all jurisdictions in which the candidate holds or has ever held a license/certification/registration must be submitted.
 - (d) Applicants educated in a non-English speaking physical therapy program must take and receive a passing score of 89 on the IBT TOEFL to include: a passing score of 2422 on the writing section, a passing score of 2422 on the reading section, a passing score of 1821 on the listening section and a passing score of 2624 on the speaking section before being allowed to sit for the licensure examination. Official score results must be submitted to the Board.
 - (e) Applicants educated in an English speaking physical therapy program must have a school official submit an official letter to the Board attesting that the physical therapy curriculum was taught in English.
 - (f) Once a completed application is on file and prior to initiation of a traineeship, all foreign educated applicants must take and pass the NPTE and the examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy.
 - (g) All foreign-educated applicants must complete a Board-approved traineeship consisting of a minimum of 480 hours, which must be completed within three (3) months of the issuance of the traineeship permit. *This requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Board if the applicant has demonstrated clinical competency with a minimum of 5 years of continuous active practice and license in good standing.* ~~The Pre Examination Traineeship hours may be used toward the satisfaction this requirement (See Board Rule 490-2-.04).~~
- (2) Applicants educated in a foreign physical therapy program that is accredited by CAPTE and approved by the Board, do not have to submit a credentials evaluation ~~and~~ but they must meet the conditions of Board Rule 490-2-.02.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-2-.03

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-12, 43-33-15, and 43-33-17.

History. Original Rule entitled "Board Action Upon Application for Registration" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965.

Repealed: New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973.

Repealed: New Rule entitled "Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants" adopted. F. Jan. 19, 2005; eff. Feb. 8, 2005.

Repealed: New Rule of the same title adopted. F. May 12, 2010; eff. June 1, 2010.

Amended: F. May 23, 2013; eff. Jun. 12, 2013.

Amended: F. Aug. 26, 2015; eff. Sep. 15, 2015.

c) Rule 490-2-.09. Licensure – Reciprocity

Rule 490-2-.09. Licensure: ~~Endorsement~~/Reciprocity

(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) Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board; and,

(b) A verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice; and,

(c) Verification of active practice in the two years immediately preceding the date of application; [or proof of completion of 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule 490-4-.02\(1\)\(2\)\(4\)\(7\) and \(8\)](#) and,

(d) Official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; and,

(e) [Passing S](#)cores from the national licensing examination; [and](#).

(f) Passing scores from the ~~examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy~~[Georgia Ethics and 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) Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board; and,

(b) A verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice; and,

(c) Verification of active practice in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and,

(d) Official evaluation and transcript from a credential evaluation organization approved by the State of Georgia which shall meet the standards of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Coursework Tool (CWT) that was in effect at the time the applicant graduated from their physical therapy or physical therapist assistant educational program; and

(e) [Passing S](#)cores from the national licensing examination; [and](#).

(f) Passing scores from the examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy.

(4) 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.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-2-.09

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-12, 43-33-13, 43-33-14, 43-33-15, 43-33-17.

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.

Amended: New title "Licensure: Endorsement/Reciprocity." F. Apr. 13, 2017; eff. May 3, 2017.

Amended: F. May 30, 2018; eff. June 19, 2018.

d) Rule 490-2-.10. Licensure – Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members

Rule 490-2-.10. Licensure – Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members

- (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 receipt of a complete application and payment of applicable fees. (Refer to fee schedule)
- (2) A military spouse or transitioning service member, as defined in O.C.G.A. § [43-1-34](#), is deemed eligible to apply for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. [43-33-15](#) if the applicant is a holder of a valid physical therapy or physical therapist assistant license in another State for which the training, experience and testing substantially meet or exceed the requirements under this state to obtain a license; and,
- (~~3~~) The military spouse or transitioning service member must be a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) approved by the Board, and must provide:
 - ~~1.(a)~~ Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board; and,
 - ~~2.(b)~~ Within six (6) months of the issuance of a license, submit a verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice; and,
 - ~~3.(c)~~ Verification of active continued competence in physical therapy in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application [which may include a verification of employment or 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule 490-4-.02\(1\)\(2\)\(4\)\(7\) and \(8\)](#); and,
 - ~~4.(d)~~ Official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; and,
 - ~~5.(e)~~ [Passing S](#)cores from the national licensing examination.

~~6.(f)~~ Passing scores from the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy ethics and jurisprudence examination.

(b4) Any military spouse or transitioning service member 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:

~~1.(a)~~ Verification of an active license in good standing from another state; and,

~~2.(b)~~ Within six (6) months of the issuance of a license, submit 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,

~~3.(c)~~ Verification of active continued competence in physical therapy in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application which may include a verification of employment or 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule 490-4-.02(1)(2)(4)(7) and (8); and,

~~4.(d)~~ Official evaluation and transcript from a credential evaluation organization approved by the ~~State of Georgia~~ Board which shall meet the standards of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Coursework Tool (CWT) that was in effect at the time the applicant graduated from their physical therapy or physical therapist assistant educational program; and,

~~5.(e)~~ Passing Scores from the national licensing examination.

~~6.(f)~~ Passing scores from the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy ethics and jurisprudence examination.

~~(35)~~ 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.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-2-.10

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-1-34, 43-33-2, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-11.

History. Original Rule entitled "Practical and Oral Examinations" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965.

Repealed: F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973.

Adopted: New Rule entitled "Licensure: Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members." F. Oct. 13, 2017; eff. Nov. 2, 2017.

e) Rule 490-4-.02. Continuing Competence Requirements

Rule 490-4-.02. Continuing Competence Requirements

(1) The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy requires each licensed physical therapist and physical therapist assistant to participate in thirty (30) clock hours of experience per licensure period which is not to exceed ten (10) credit hours per calendar day. 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.

- (a) The Board 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.
 - (b) 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.
 - (c) In the event that a licensee does not meet the continuing competence requirement, the license will not be renewed.
- (2) Effective July 1, 2018, (30) hours of continuing competence per biennium shall include a minimum of four (4) contact hours specifically in Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence as defined in the Georgia Physical Therapy Act or by passage of the Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence Examination.
- (a) A Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence course must be obtained from a Georgia college or university with an accredited physical therapy education program or a provider which holds a current Physical Therapy Association of Georgia (PTAG) Approval Certificate for the course.
 - (b) Passage of the Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence Examination is equivalent to the four (4) hour continuing competence requirement for Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence provided that the same test result has not been previously submitted to the Board as part of an application for licensure or to satisfy the requirements of an order of the Board.
- (3) The following programs and activities may be considered for 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 (Procet); 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 even 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.
 - (l) Self - instruction from reading professional literature; Continuing competence credit is limited to a maximum of three (3) hours; or
 - (m) Attendance at a scientific poster session, lecture, panel, symposium or university course Continuing competence 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 maximum credit of 10 hours; 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 with a maximum credit of 10 hours.
 - (p) Donating time in the role of a Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant, within the scope of practice, to a charity event; Continuing competence credit is one (1) hour per eight (8) contact hours, limited to a maximum of five (5) hours;
 - (q) Reference 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 competence hours. For example, a two (2) credit hour course in which a passing grade is achieved would equal twenty (20) continuing competence hours.
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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.
- (6) Beginning the January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016 biennium and thereafter, persons licensed to practice as a physical therapist or a physical therapy assistant or who shall file an application to practice as

such in this state are to maintain a record of completed continuing education courses and experiences by registering with an online recording and reporting system approved by the Board.

- (a) For the purposes of this requirement, the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy adopts the utilization of CE Broker ~~attitude offered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT).~~
 - (b) Licensees and applicants shall incur no additional costs from ~~the FSBPT~~ CE Broker for this service.
 - (c) Every licensee or applicant subject to the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy shall be deemed to have given such person's consent to the Board and its representatives to access their continuing competence record retained within the online database for the purposes of auditing and verifying completion of the Board's continuing competency requirements. Such person waives all objections to the admissibility of the record in any proceedings or hearings before the board.
- (7) 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.
- (8) 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.
- (9) Those licensees selected for audit shall submit 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).
- (10) Responsibilities of the Licensee:
- (a) To maintain the original continuing competence documents no less than ~~three (3)~~ five (5) years from ~~the beginning date of the licensure period~~ the date the Continuing Education credit was obtained. These records should be maintained in the licensee's personal files for no less than ~~three (3)~~ five (5) years ~~from the beginning date of the licensure period through the even numbered year after the license is renewed.~~
 - (b) To complete all steps necessary to meet the re-licensure requirements on or before December 31st of the odd numbered years.
 - (c) To provide the Board with information requested during an audit.
 - (d) To keep a current mailing address and email address on file with the Licensing Board Office at all times.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-4-.02

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-24](#), [43-1-25](#), [43-33-10](#), [43-33-11](#), [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.

Amended: F. Jan. 16, 2015; eff. Feb. 5, 2015.

Amended: F. Feb. 14, 2019; eff. Mar. 6, 2019.

f) Rule 490-4-.03 Continuing Competency Audit (Repeal)

Rule 490-4-.03 Continuing Competency Audit

- ~~(1) Each licensee is responsible for completing all steps necessary to meet the renewal application requirements on or before December 31st of the odd numbered years to include recording proof of completion of the continuing competency (CC) requirements, within the online recording and reporting system approved by the Board, prior to the expiration date of the license.~~
- ~~(2) A renewal applicant may be subject to audit if the applicant:
 - ~~(a) is randomly selected for CC audit BEFORE the license expiration date;~~
 - ~~(b) answers "no" to the continuing competency question;~~
 - ~~(c) has been disciplined by any state or regulatory board; and/or,~~
 - ~~(d) has been convicted, or entered a plea of guilty, nolo contendere, or been sentenced under the "First Offender Act" for any felony, misdemeanor or any offense other than a minor traffic violation? DWI a DUI are not minor traffic violations.~~~~
- ~~(3) Licensees whose renewal applications are randomly selected for CC audit must submit records of attendance and proof of completion in accordance with BR [490-4-.02](#) before the renewal application is considered complete. The license will not be renewed until satisfactory documentation of completion is submitted.~~

- (4) ~~If satisfactory documentation of completion of all CC requirements is not submitted before the end of the established late renewal period, the license will be administratively lapsed for failure to meet the CC requirements to renew the license.~~
- (5) ~~The Board may opt to conduct an audit of CC hours submitted in connection with a license renewal application AFTER a license is renewed.~~
- (6) ~~If an audit of CC hours for renewal shows that the CC hours or documentation was submitted into the online recording system before the end of the late renewal period AND the hours are deficient, incorrect, false, or fraudulent:~~
 - (a) ~~The Board may take disciplinary action against a licensee and may require, as a condition of granting renewal, that the licensee enter into an agreement with terms and conditions that include, but are not limited to, the following:~~
 - (1) ~~pay a fine of \$500.00 per violation; and,~~
 - (2) ~~submit proof satisfactory to the Board of completion of all deficient CC hours, none of which may be used to satisfy the CC requirement of any subsequent renewal cycle.~~

g) Rule 490-5-.01. Responsibility of the Licensed Physical Therapist in Supervision and Direction of the Physical Therapist Assistant

Rule 490-5-.01. Responsibility of the Licensed Physical Therapist in Supervision and Direction of the Physical Therapist Assistant

- (1) A licensed physical therapist shall at all times be responsible for providing adequate supervision of the [physical therapists](#) assistant ~~supervised by him~~, as defined in Rule 490- 5-.02.
- (2) The licensed physical therapist shall be present in the same institutional setting, as defined in paragraph (3) of this section, 25 percent of any work week, Monday through Friday, and shall be readily available to the assistant at all other times, including weekend coverage, for advice, assistance and instruction.
- (3) "Institutional setting" means any nursing home, acute hospital, convalescent hospital, rehabilitation center, other in-patient facility by any other name and out-patient clinic which would include private off-ice.
- (4) The licensed physical therapist in the home health setting responsible for the patient shall supervise the physical therapist assistant working with the patient and shall:
 - (a) perform the initial patient evaluation to establish a physical therapy diagnosis , treatment goals-, frequency, duration, and plan of care;
 - (b) meet with the assistant no less than once weekly to review all patients being treated;
 - (c) document all meetings with the assistant and subsequent decisions;
 - (d) be available to the assistant at all times for advice, assistance, and instructions.
- (5) A licensed physical therapist shall be designated as the physical therapist assistant's supervisor in the school setting and shall:
 - (a) perform all physical therapy evaluations to develop or amend physical therapy interventions stated on the student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) for the purpose of assisting with the achievement of educational goals and objective-s, including frequency and duration of physical therapy services.

- (b) make an on-site visit to each student scheduled for direct weekly services from the physical therapist assistant no less than every two (2) months, and no less than once every five (5) months for students who are scheduled with the physical therapist assistant once monthly or less. The on-site visit shall include, but not be limited to, a case review, reassessment of the program and physical therapy services and review of documentation prepared by the physical therapist assistant.
- (c) document the on-site visit including status of case(s), program or services status or change and indicate instructions given to the physical therapist assistant.
- (d) interact with the physical therapist assistant in appropriate ways specific to the goals and objectives stated in the IEP of the student who is scheduled for sessions with the physical therapist assistant.
- (e) be available to the physical therapist assistant at all times for advice, assistance and instructions.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-5-.01

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ [43-33-3\(6\)](#); [43-33-10\(9\)](#).

History. Original Rule entitled "Responsibility of the Licensed Physical Therapist in Supervision and Direction of the Physical Therapy Assistant" was filed on April 7, 1978; effective April 27, 1978.

Amended: Filed November 27, 1984; effective December 17, 1984.

Amended: F. May 26, 1993; eff. Jun. 15, 1993.

Amended: F. Nov. 22, 1996; eff. Dec. 12, 1996.

Amended: F. Feb. 27, 1998; eff. Mar. 19, 1998.

Amended: F. Feb. 25, 2015; eff. Mar. 17, 2015.

h) Rule 490-9-.05. Dry Needling

Rule 490-9-.05. Dry Needling

- (1) Dry needling is a skilled technique performed by a physical therapist using filiform needles to penetrate the skin and underlying tissues to affect change in body structures and functions for the evaluation and management of neuromusculoskeletal conditions, pain, movement impairments, and disability for preventative and therapeutic purposes.
- (2) Dry needling must be performed by a licensed physical therapist who:
 - (a) Has consulted with an individual licensed pursuant to Article 2 or 4 of Chapter 34 of Title 43; and,
 - (b) Is specifically trained and competent by virtue of education and training to perform dry needling.
Online study for dry needling instruction, with the exception of OSHA Blood Borne Pathogens Standards, will not be accepted as a demonstration of competence and training.
- (3) A physical therapist has demonstrated specific and competent education and training when the licensee has submitted the following documentation to the Board:
 - (a) Proof of education in the OSHA Blood Borne Pathogens Standard: and,
 - (b) At least one of the following:
 - 1. Proof of graduation from an entry-level physical therapy program that included dry needling instruction consisting of a minimum of 50 hours total and a competency assessment of achievement in its curriculum; or

2. Proof of graduation from a post-graduate credentialed residency or fellowship program of study that included dry needling instruction consisting of a minimum of 50 hours total and a competency assessment of achievement in its curriculum; or
 3. Proof of documented, successful completion of a didactic dry needling course of study consisting of a minimum of 50 hours total and a competency assessment of achievement in its curriculum.
- (4) Effective July 1, 2018, to perform dry needling in the state of Georgia licensed physical therapists and physical therapists applying for licensure must submit documentation of dry needling education and training into the online recording and reporting system approved by the Board.
- (a) For the purposes of this requirement, the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy adopts the utilization of ~~aPTitude offered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT).~~[CE Broker.](#)
 - (b) Licensees and applicants shall incur no additional costs from ~~the FSBPT~~[CE Broker](#) for this service.
 - (c) Every licensee or applicant subject to the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy shall be deemed to have given such person's consent to the Board and its representatives to access their record retained within the online database for the purposes of auditing and verifying completion of the requirements for dry needling. Such person waives all objections to the admissibility of the record in any proceedings or hearings before the board.
- (5) At the time of license renewal, each licensed physical therapist approved to perform dry needling shall attest that he or she is practicing dry needling in the state of Georgia in accordance to the rules and regulations of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy.
- (6) A violation of the provisions outlined in this Board rule or a false attestation on the renewal application is grounds for disciplinary action as determined by the Board.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-9-.05

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-19](#), [43-1-24](#), [43-1-25](#), [43-33-3](#), [43-33-10](#), [43-33-11](#), [43-33-18](#).

History. Original Rule entitled "Dry Needling" adopted. F. Mar. 21, 2012; eff. Apr. 10, 2012.

Amended: F. May 30, 2018; eff. June 19, 2018.

i) Rule 490-13-.01. Licensure Compact

Rule 490-13-.01. Licensure Compact

Pursuant to, the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy hereby adopts as rule the Physical Therapy Compact Commission Rules, with the following additions:

- (a) Individuals applying for a compact privilege to Georgia must pay the necessary fees and take and pass the Georgia Jurisprudence Assessment Module (GA-JAM) prior to issuance of the compact privilege;
- (b) A licensee from another member state who is providing physical therapy services in Georgia under a compact privilege must comply with the laws, rules and policies related to the practice of physical therapy in the state of Georgia;
- (c) A compact privilege holder must report to the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy **any encumbrance or adverse action** placed upon any physical therapist or physical therapist assistant license held by the compact privilege holder in a non-member state within thirty (30) business days of the effective date; **This requirement applies to both public and private actions that may be taken by a non-member state.**

- (d) Any violation of the laws, rules and policies of the Board may subject the compact privilege holder to disciplinary action by the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy and loss of the Compact Privilege.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-13-.01

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-33-10(12); 43-33-30; 43-33-31

Applications for Board Review

Mr. Whitefield motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session.

Applicant 2828397 Approve Verification of Employment form and issue license.

Applicant 2823602 Issue license with a Letter of Concern regarding criminal history.

Applicant 2810868 Issue license.

Applicant 240460 Renew license with a Letter of Concern regarding O.C.G.A. § 43-33-18(3) false attestation on renewal application.

Dr. Thompson motioned, Dr. Wallace seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendation made in Executive Session.

Applicant 2829545 Deny traineeship application and remind applicant that the traineeship must be completed within one year and to consider these circumstances when submitting the application for the traineeship. Dr. Hebert recused herself from the vote.

Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by: Adrienne Price, Executive Director

Minutes approved on: January 14, 2020

DOROTHY GASKIN
BOARD CHAIR

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR