

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
Rules Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 20, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.

The Rules Committee of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy met via Zoom meeting on Tuesday, July 20, 2021. The following Committee members were present:

Committee Members Present

Dorothy Gaskin, Board Chair
Destiny Hebert, Committee Chair
Terri Burner, Committee Member

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

Visitors Present

Dr. Sandra Eskew-Capps, PT, DPT
Tina Spears

Attorney General's Office

No Assistant Attorney General present.

Administrative Staff Absent

Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor
Meagan Doss, Complaints and Compliance Analyst

Call to Order: Dr. Hebert called the committee meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda The Committee accepts the agenda as presented.

Discussion – Board Rules

The Committee met to fulfill their annual requirement to review the Board Rules and Policy Statements in order to ensure all are in line with the statute. The review also brings Board Rules up to date with current statutory and regulatory requirements by removing repetitive language, ensuring consistency with the Joint Secretary Rules, diminishing the potential for any errors in judgement in regards to the application requirements. The review clarifies the information for constituents and protects the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Amendments made today will make the Board Rules and Policy Statements easier for applicants, licensees, and the public to understand.

The Committee stated that their recommendations have no economic impact and affect all physical therapists and physical therapy assistants equally. There are no new fees added or existing fees raised, and there are no additional or changed continuing education requirements.

The Committee discussed amendments to Board Rule 490-1-.02. Officers, Board Rule 490-2-.01. Application For Licensure And Examination, Board Rule 490-2-.05. Training Permits During A Declared Public Health State of Emergency, Board Rule 490-2-.09. Licensure / Reciprocity, Board Rule 490-2-.10. Licensure – Endorsement / Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members, Board Rule 490-4-.02. Continuing Competence Requirements, Board Rule 490-5-.01. Responsibility of the Licensed Physical Therapist in Supervision and Direction of the Physical Therapist Assistant, Board Rule 490-9-.05. Dry Needling. Board Rule 490-9-.06. Telehealth, and Board Rule 490-13-.01 Licensure Compact.

The Committee also discussed amendments to Policy 2 – Examination Applications, Policy 7 – Continuing Competence Policy, Policy 14 – Foreign Credentialing, and Policy 16 – Telehealth, for the purposes state above.

After careful consideration, the Committee recommended referring the following rules and policy statements, as amended, to the full Board for approval during the September 21, 2021 meeting.

The Committee recommended the date of May 24, 2022 for next year's annual Rules Committee review of Board Rules and Policy Statements. The 2022 Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy meeting dates, to include the Rules Committee meeting, will go before the full Board for approval September 21, 2021.

1. Rule 490-1-.02. Officers

- (1) The Board shall elect annually from its members a president and vice president, who shall have the privilege of re-election. Elections shall be held at the ~~regular December last~~ regularly scheduled meeting of the year, with officers to preside at the following meeting, unless otherwise determined by the Board.
- (2) The president shall call and preside at all meetings, except that four members may call a meeting, providing all members are adequately notified.
- (3) The vice president shall call and preside at all meetings in the absence of the president.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-1-.02

Authority: O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-1-2.

History. Original Rule entitled "Officers" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965.

Repealed: New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 20, 1973; eff. May 10, 1973.

Amended: F. Jan. 18, 1984; eff. Feb. 7, 1984.

2. Rule 490-2-.01. Application For Initial 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.
 - a) Any physical therapist who plans to perform dry needling in the state of Georgia must meet the requirements of Board Rule 490-9-.05 and must receive board approval prior to practicing dry needling in the state of Georgia.
 - b) On the application you must attest that you meet the requirements outlined in Board Rule 490-9-.05 and provide proof of education and training to perform dry needling to the Board.
 - c) If the education and training is determined to meet criteria, the dry needling designation will be reflected on the license upon issuance. If the education and training does not meet criteria, the applicant will be notified of the deficiency and given the opportunity to correct it in order to receive the designation at a later date.
- (3) Any applicant who does not submit required documentation within the timeframe indicated in the Joint Secretary rules and policies~~one year of initial filing date~~ will not be

given any further consideration by the Board until ~~submission of~~ a new application and ~~payment of~~ appropriate fees have been submitted.

- (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. §§ 43-1-25; 43-33-10(11), (12); 43-33-14; 43-33-31.

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.

Amended: F. Sep. 14, 2020; eff. Oct. 4, 2020.

Amended: F. Jan. 28, 1994; eff. Feb. 17, 1994.

3. Rule 490-2-.05 Training Permits During A Declared Public Health State of Emergency

1) During a declared public health state of emergency, graduates of CAPTE accredited entry level physical therapy or physical therapist assistant programs may be issued a training permit upon approval of the Board if the graduate:

(a) Submits an application on forms approved by the Board;

(b) Has acquired the education and training required for licensure;

(c) Has been approved by their educational program to take the national examination approved by the board;

(d) Is not disqualified to receive a license under the provisions of Code Section 43-33-18 or subsection (a) or (c) of Code Section 43-1-19; and,

(e) Has successfully passed a criminal history records check as determined by the board.

(2) The training permit shall allow the holder thereof to work:

(a) Only under the direct supervision of a physical therapist who has been approved by the board and has practiced for not less than one year prior to assuming the supervisory role; and,

(b) For the duration of the public health state of emergency and no more than 30 days thereafter.

(3) A training permit shall become invalid and must be immediately returned to the Board office by the trainee if:

(a) The trainee does not exhibit performance satisfactory to their board approved supervisor(s); or,

(b) The 30 day period after the expiration of the public health state of emergency has ended; or,

(c) The training permit holder is issued a license by the Board.

(4) Applicants may name both a primary and a secondary supervisor on the training permit application.

(a) The supervisors named on the training permit application hold full responsibility under their license for direct, continuous, on-site supervision of the trainee at all times. The named supervisors must assure that the trainee does not perform any patient care activities in his/her absence.

(b) The supervisors must hold a license in good standing under O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapter 33 and may not supervise more than two (2) training permit holders at one time.

(c) A named supervisor must regularly evaluate trainee performance in all areas as specified by the Board, to include cosigning any documentation provided by the trainee, and must notify the Board of unsatisfactory performance at which time the training permit becomes null and void.

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

4. Rule 490-2-.09. Licensure: 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 scores from the national licensing examination; and,
 - (f) Passing scores from the Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence Examination.
 - (g) [Has satisfactory results from a fingerprint record check report conducted by the Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as determined by the board.](#)
- (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 scores 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.
- (g) Has satisfactory results from a fingerprint record check report conducted by the Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as determined by the board.

- (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](#); [43-33-2](#), [43-33-10\(2\)](#); [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.

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

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

Amended: New title "Licensure: Reciprocity." F. Sep. 14, 2020; eff. Oct. 4, 2020.

5. 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,
 - (a) 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. Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board; and,
 2. 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. 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. Official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; and,
 5. Passing scores from the national licensing examination.
 6. Passing scores from the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy ethics and jurisprudence examination.
 7. [Has satisfactory results from a fingerprint record check report conducted by the Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as determined by the board.](#)
- (b) 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. Verification of an active license in good standing from another state; and,
 2. 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. 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. Official evaluation and transcript from a credential evaluation organization approved by the 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. Passing scores from the national licensing examination.
6. Passing scores from the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy ethics and jurisprudence examination.
7. [Has satisfactory results from a fingerprint record check report conducted by the Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as determined by the board.](#)

- (3) 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\(b\)](#), [43-33-2](#), [43-33-10\(1\)](#), [\(2\)](#), [\(3\)](#), [\(11\)](#); [43-33-14](#); [43-33-15](#).

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.

Amended: F. Sep. 14, 2020; eff. Oct. 4, 2020.

6. 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~~ [American Physical Therapy Association \(APTA-GA\)](#) 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 [American Physical Therapy Association](#) ~~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 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 **not** 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.
 - (b) Licensees and applicants shall incur no additional costs from 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.

(98) 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).

(109) Responsibilities of the Licensee:

- (a) To maintain the original continuing competence documents no less than five (5) years from the date the Continuing Education credit was obtained. These records should be maintained in the licensee's personal files for no less than five (5) years.
- (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\(11\)](#); [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.

Amended: F. Sep. 14, 2020; eff. Oct. 4, 2020.

7. 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, as defined in Rule [490-5-.02 and may meet, supervise and be readily available to the physical therapist assistant as required in person or via audio and video technology as appropriate.](#)
- (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 inpatient facility by any other name and outpatient clinic which would include private office.
- (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 objectives, 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. §§ [43-1-24](#); [43-1-25](#); [43-33-3\(6\)](#); [43-33-10\(11\)](#).

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.

Amended: F. Sep. 14, 2020; eff. Oct. 4, 2020.

8. 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.~~ Study for dry needling instruction, to include the OSHA Blood Borne Pathogens Standards, and the didactic portion of training may be completed online.
- (3) A physical therapist has demonstrated specific and competent education and training when the licensee or Georgia Compact Privilege holder has submitted the following documentation to the Board and received board approval to practice dry needling in the state of Georgia:
- (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 hands-on, in-person 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 hands-on, in-person 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 hands-on, in-person 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 CE Broker.
 - (b) Licensees and applicants shall incur no additional costs from 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. §§ O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-10(11), 43-33-12(2), 43-33-16, and 43-33-14.

9. Rule 490-9-.06. Telehealth

- (1) The purpose of this rule is to define and establish guidelines for the practice of telehealth by the spectrum of technologies involving interactive physical therapy services.
- (2) 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. All provisions of Physical Therapy utilizing telehealth mechanisms must:
 - (a) conform to all Federal and State statutes, rules, regulations and policies governing the practice of physical therapy in the State of Georgia.
 - (b) With the exception of practices and services identified in O.C.G.A. § [43-33-11\(d\)](#), individuals providing physical therapy via telehealth to a patient/client in the State of Georgia must be licensed or hold a Compact Privilege 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.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-9-.06

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-25](#), [43-33-2](#), [43-33-3](#), [43-33-10](#), [43-33-11](#).

History. Original Rule entitled "Telehealth" adopted. F. Mar. 5, 2018; eff. Mar. 25, 2018.

10. 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; [and](#),
- (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; [and](#),
- (c) [A compact privilege holder who plans to perform dry needling in the state of Georgia must:](#)
 - (1) [Meet the requirements of Board Rule 490-9-.05;](#)
 - (2) [Provide proof of education and training to perform dry needling as outlined in Board Rule 490-09-.05 directly to the Board by mail or electronic means; and,](#)
 - (3) [Receive board approval prior to practicing dry needling in the state of Georgia.](#)
- (d) 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.**
- (~~e~~) 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](#).

History. Original Rule entitled "Licensure Compact" adopted. F. Sep. 14, 2020; eff. Oct. 4, 2020.

Discussion – Policy Statements

1. 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).

~~(E)~~ After extensive further study, the Board may grant an applicant approval to take the national examination a sixth (6) time in accordance with the lifetime limit eligibility criteria established by 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. Policy amended at the July 21, 2015 meeting. Policy amended at the November 17, 2015 meeting.

2. Policy #7 - Continuing Competence Policy

(A) 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, not to exceed ten (10) credit hours per calendar day, to promote continuing competence (CC) per licensure period.

(B) 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. 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) 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 provided that the individual has not already received credit for the examination when licensure was obtained.

(D) Continuing competence hours obtained from, but not limited to, the following programs or organizations are generally accepted by the Board provided that the experience meets the requirements of Board Rule 490-4-.02 and is related to the practice of physical therapy:

- (a) The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and its affiliate components; (b) The ~~Physical Therapy Association of Georgia~~[American Physical Therapy Association of Georgia \(APTA-GA\)](#) ~~or any other state chapters;~~
- (c) The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) ~~(Procert);~~
- (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;
- (e) The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA); (f) The American Academy of Physical Therapy (AAPT)
- (g) Programs approved by another state board
- (h) JCAHO-accredited healthcare organizations
- (i) The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS) (j) The National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA)
- (k) The American Dental Association (ADA)
- (l) The American Association of Nurses (AAN)
- (m) The American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) (n) The Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards (FCLB)

Policy approved at October 31, 2007

meeting. Policy reaffirmed at the

January 2009 meeting. Policy revised

at June 19, 2010 meeting

Policy amended at the November 3, 2009 meeting (addressing on-line

courses). Policy amended at the March 2011 meeting (adding (s)).

Policy amended at the May 2011 meeting

(amended (s)). Policy revised at the September

18, 2012 meeting.

Policy amended at September 16, 2014 meeting (removing class

designation.) Policy amended at the November 18, 2014 meeting.

Policy amended at the March 17, 2015 meeting. Policy amended at the July 21, 2015 meeting.

3. Policy #14 - Foreign Credentialing

- (A) The Board requires sixty (60) hours of general education and ninety (90) hours of professional education for a total of 150 hours for foreign educated applicants. The Board further authorizes the use of the FSBPT Retro Tools for applicants educated prior to 1997.
- (B) The Board approved foreign credentialing agencies are ~~ICA~~, IERF and FCCPT.

Policy approved at the

May 20, 2008 meeting.

Policy revised at the

January 2009 meeting.

Policy revised at the July

2010 meeting.

4. Policy #16 - Telehealth

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the practice of telerehabilitation (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 [or hold a Compact Privilege](#) 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 Policy approved at the January 28,
2014 meeting.*

The Committee meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: August 18, 2021

DESTINY HEBERT
COMMITTEE CHAIR

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DOROTHY GASKIN
BOARD CHAIR