

**Physical Therapist Licensing Board
Administrative Rules Hearing
August 21, 2015**

MINUTES

Friday, August 21, 2015

Board Members Present: Richard Rutt, PT, Chair; Ruggie Canizares, PT, Vice Chair; Phil Haworth, PT Member; Aubree Benson, PT Member; Alan McAvoy, PT Member; Jennifer Julkowski, PTA Member

Staff: Jim Heider, Board Director and Hearing Officer; Rick Sullivan, PTA, Licensing Coordinator.

Legal Counsel: Carol Parks, AAG

Guests: Diana Godwin, Attorney at Law representing Oregon Physical Therapists in Private Practice (OPTIP) and Nancy Schuberg, Licensing Specialist, Occupational Therapy Board.

The Hearing was convened at 8:07 AM by Jim Heider, Hearing Officer.

Mr. Heider read the following into the record:

Proposed Adoption of New Telehealth Rules

A copy of the Notice was published in the August 1, 2015 Oregon Bulletin, the Notice was sent to the Legislature and, via the Summer 2015 Board Newsletter, to all Board Licensees. The Notice, Fiscal Impact Statement and the proposed rule text changes were also published on the Board's website at www.ptboard.state.or.us.

RULE SUMMARY

Adoption of new standards of practice for the delivery of physical therapy services by use of telehealth technologies. Including but not limited to assessment or consultation that can be safely and effectively provided using synchronous two-way interactive video conferencing, or asynchronous video communication, in accordance with generally accepted healthcare practices and standards. For purposes of these rules, "telehealth service" also means, or may be referred to, as "telepractice, teletherapy, or telerehab."

Proposed Change in the Renewal Cycle

A copy of the Notice was published in the August 1, 2015 Oregon Bulletin, the Notice was sent to the Legislature and, on July 28, 2015, emailed to all Board Licensees. The Notice, Fiscal Impact Statement and the proposed rule text changes were also published on the Board's website at www.ptboard.state.or.us.

RULE SUMMARY

Change the current renewal cycle from a one year renewal cycle to every two year renewal cycle effective April 1, 2016. This will put the renewal cycle in sync with the two year continuing competency cycle. Reduce the renewal fee by 15%. Eliminate the provision and fee of a

wall certificate. Add an administrative fee for the processing and tracking of the new early eligibility release forms. Cleanup obsolete language in 848-010-0026. Add a requirement for a jurisprudence exam prior to reinstatement of a lapsed license. Add cultural competency course work to the list of approved continuing competency activities in Division 35 and correct errors previously published in Appendix A and B.

Mr. Heider asked for testimony on the adoption of the proposed Telehealth rules. Ms. Godwin, representing OPTIP, testified in favor of the proposed rule. There was no other verbal testimony. The Board did receive a supportive letter in favor of the rule from the Center for Connected Health Policy part of The National Telehealth Policy Resource Center, along with a proposed amendment to the rule language. Also the Board received written testimony from Mike Billings, PT and Susan Bamberger, PT both in favor of adoption of the rule but both had proposed amendments to the rule language for the Board's consideration. That was the end of the testimony on the adoption of the proposed Telehealth rules.

Mr. Heider then asked for testimony on the adoption of the proposed change in the renewal cycle. Moving from an annual renewal to a two year renewal cycle. With no verbal testimony given, Mr. Heider read into the record the written testimony that was received. There were 12 emails from licensees all in favor of the proposed change. There was one letter from a licensee who asked the Board to consider making an exception, allowing her a one year renewal because she was close to retirement and did not need or want to pay for a two year license.

Mr. Heider asked for additional comments or testimony; hearing none, the Hearing was closed at 8:27 AM.