

Oregon Physical Therapist Licensing Board
NEWSLETTER
FALL 2007

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BOARD WEBSITE

www.ptboard.state.or.us

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
(Closed Holidays)

SPECIAL CONTINUING ED
and
DIRECT ACCESS EDITION

CE REQUIRED TO RENEW
YOUR LICENSE
FOR 2008-2009

All licensees must complete the required number of CE hours in order to renew their license on April 1, 2008. Renewal forms for your 2008-2009 license will be mailed to all current licensees during the first week of January. On the renewal form, you will have to answer a question as to whether you have completed the CE or plan to complete the CE by March 31, 2008. **You will not be able to renew your license if you do not complete the CE.** If you plan to complete the CE, but can not do so, you must contact the Board immediately. Frequently asked questions regarding CE can be found on pages 2, 3 & 4 of this newsletter and are also posted on the Board website.

NEW MANDATORY PAIN
MANAGEMENT CE
REQUIREMENT FOR
PHYSICAL THERAPISTS,
EFFECTIVE JAN 2, 2008

During the 2007 Legislative Session, the Oregon Pain Management Commission sponsored Senate Bill 879 adding physical therapists, occupational therapists and dentists to the existing list of health care professionals who must complete a one-time pain management CE requirement. **This requirement will not affect your 2008-2009 license renewal.** The CE must be completed by all licensed physical therapists by January 1, 2010. Frequently asked questions regarding this requirement can be found on page 5 of this newsletter and on the Board website.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON
A RULES ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

The Board is assembling a 15-20 member Rules Advisory Committee to meet and eventually propose rule language for the following areas of practice: use of mobilization and manipulation, screening and consultation services, PTA role in reassessments, aides role in exercise, and clarification of direct access rules. The Board desires for the committee to include licensees with varied skills and experience. We are hoping to schedule the first meeting for mid December at the Board office. If you are interested in serving on the committee, contact Sherri Paru, PT at 971-673-0204 or at sherri.paru@state.or.us

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CONTINUING ED

What period of time does this CE certification period cover?

The first continuing education certification period is January 1, 2006 through March 31, 2008; all qualifying courses completed during this timeframe will count toward the requirement. The second certification period will be from April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2010 and every subsequent two-year-period after that.

How Many CE credits does a PT have to complete?

All PTs must complete 24 contact hours of continuing education.

How many CE credits does a PTA have to complete?

All PTAs must complete 12 contact hours of continuing education.

The rule states contact hours. What is a continuing education contact hour?

CE measured in contact hours is equal to the actual hours spent in the course (minus breaks and lunch). One CE contact hour is equal to one CE credit, i.e. a program offering 3 hours of classroom work or lecture would be equal to 3 contact hours or 3 CE credits.

My CE course certificate says 1.5 CEUs. I spent two full days in the program. What's the difference between a CEU and a CE credit?

CEUs (continuing education units) is another way that some states measure continuing education credits. Oregon measures continuing education in actual contact hours. Simply, one CE unit is equal to 10 CE contact hours. In the question above, the 1.5 CEUs would count towards 15 CE contact hours (1.5 X 10).

I received a course brochure in the mail and Oregon is not listed as an approved state. How can I check to see if the course counts in Oregon, and how do I go about getting the course approved?

The Oregon Board does not pre-approve nor certify CE courses, so you will not see Oregon listed as an approved state. If the course is approved by another state, the course will count for CE credit in Oregon. Generally, any course related to the delivery or provision of physical therapy services will qualify for CE under Oregon Administrative Rule.

I am a course provider who wants to offer my course to therapists in Oregon. Do I have to get my course pre-approved before I offer it?

NO, there is no pre-approval of courses in Oregon. As long as the course relates to the practice of PT and a completion certificate is issued, the course will qualify for CE. If the course is approved by another state or recognized organization, it will automatically qualify for CE in Oregon. Course providers should provide attendees with an outline and/or syllabus of the course in case the licensee is audited by the Board.

I am licensed in Texas and have to have my CE pre-approved or certified before I can count it towards my CE for renewal; does Oregon pre-approve or certify CE courses?

NO, the Oregon Board does not pre-approve nor certify CE courses. If the course is approved by another state or recognized organization, it will automatically qualify for CE in Oregon.

MORE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CE

I want to take a course that is approved by the Ohio Board of PT. Will it count for CE credit?

YES, any course that is approved for CE by other states, which require continuing education, will count for CE credit. Several states list approved courses on their state Board professional organizations websites. If the course you wish to attend is listed, then it will qualify for CE in Oregon. Links to the websites can be found on our website.

I want to take a course that is sponsored by the APTA. Will it count for CE credit?

YES, any course that is sponsored or approved by a medical organization or professional organization, recognized by the Board, will count for CE credit.

I am completing coursework for my transitional DPT. Will that count for CE credit?

YES, any classes taken after the initial graduation from PT school will count for CE credit. In general, 1 semester credit equals 10 contact hours.

I am completing coursework for my MBA. Will that count for CE credit?

MAYBE, please contact Sherri Paru, PT, at the Board office, and the Board can review the coursework on an individual basis.

I work for a hospital or company that offers formal educational classes for staff in the evenings. Will these classes count for CE credit?

YES, if the content of the class relates to the practice of PT and a certificate of completion is issued.

Do I receive CE credit for mandatory in-service programs?

NO, employer sponsored in-service programs (i.e. hospital protocols, demo of new equipment, how to use the new computerized documentation system in the office) do not count towards CE.

I hold a current license, but I have stayed home for the past few years to raise my children. Do I still have to complete the CE requirements?

YES, if you want to hold a current license, you must complete all CE requirements, there are no exceptions to this rule.

I just recently obtained my license in Oregon, do I still have to complete CE by March 31, 2008?

If you were initially licensed between 04/01/06 and 03/31/07, you must complete the required CE by 03/31/08. If you were initially licensed between 04/01/07 and 03/31/08, you must complete 1/2 of the required CE by 03/31/08.

What if I have completed CE hours for another State prior to my initial licensure date in Oregon?

Any qualified CE completed between 01/01/06 through 03/31/08 will count towards your Oregon requirements regardless of your initial licensure date in Oregon.

EVEN MORE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CE

Do home-study and internet based courses count for CE?

YES. As long as the course requires an exam, issues a completion certificate, and is recognized by an institution of higher education, health-related organization, or professional organization recognized by the Board.

Do independent journal reviews count towards CE?

NO. Journal review does not qualify for CE at this time. However, courses in journals such as “Today in PT”, which require you to take an examination before issuing a course completion certificate, do qualify for CE credit.

Do I have to send all my course completion certificates with my license renewal?

NO. Do not submit any CE documentation with your renewal application.

What information is required to be on a course completion certificate?

Name of Licensee, title of course, provider’s name, date of course and number of contact hours or CEUs.

How will the Board know I’ve completed the CE requirement?

You will be asked a question regarding the completion of your required CE on your renewal form.

What happens if I’m selected for audit?

If randomly selected for audit, you will receive an Audit Request Letter from the Board asking you to complete a CE certification sheet and supply the Board with evidence that you did complete the listed CE.

What if I do not complete the required CE by the renewal date?

You will be unable to renew your license and your license status will change to LAPSED. **You can not treat patients with a lapsed license.** The license will remain lapsed until the required CE is completed, documented, and the lapsed license is renewed. All licenses renewed, after the expiration date, will be considered lapsed and subject to the lapse license fee upon renewal.

What if I tell the Board that I completed the required CE, renew my license and am selected for audit.

Upon receiving my audit letter I am unable to provide the necessary evidence to substantiate my CE?

The Board will open an investigation to determine if disciplinary action is warranted.

How long am I required to maintain my CE completion certificates?

By Board Rule, you must keep all certificates for 3 years following the date of the course.

THESE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, ALONG WITH LINKS TO OTHER STATE BOARD WEBSITES CAN BE FOUND ON THE BOARD’S WEBSITE WWW.PTBOARD.STATE.OR.US

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PAIN MANAGEMENT CE REQUIREMENTS

I heard that there is also a new mandatory requirement for completion of pain management CE?

During the 2007 Legislative Session, the Oregon Pain Management Commission sponsored Senate Bill 879 adding physical therapists to the list of health care professionals who must complete a one time pain management CE requirement. This requirement includes 6 CE hours of coursework dealing with pain and a free 1 hour on-line training course offered by the pain commission.

What is the timeframe for completing the pain management CE requirement?

The 6 hours of CE and 1 hour on-line course must be completed within 2 years of the effective date of the Statute (January 2, 2008). That means that the courses can be completed between Jan 2, 2006 and January 1, 2010. Any licensee initially licensed after January 2, 2008 will be required to complete the CE within 2 years of their date of initial licensure.

The Bill specifically addresses “physical therapists”. Do physical therapist assistants also need to complete the pain management CE?

NO. The Board and its Legal Counsel have determined that physical therapist assistants will not be held accountable to complete the pain management CE. PTAs are still accountable to complete their 12 hours of general CE as noted above.

Will the mandatory, one-time, 7 hours of CE for pain management count towards the general CE requirement?

YES. The one-time 7 hours of CE will count during the certification period in which you complete the coursework.

What courses will count for the requirement of CE for pain management?

Any course that deals with the treatment of pain will count. The course does not need to be specifically titled “pain management”. If you are interested in a specific “pain management” course, there are many listed on the website for the Oregon Pain Commission. <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/pain/events.shtml>

If I take a pain management course that offers greater than 7 hours of CE, do I still need to take the on-line course offered by the Oregon pain Commission?

YES. All physical therapists must complete the one-hour on-line course offered by the Oregon Pain Commission, regardless of the amount of time earned from another pain course. The website to directly access the on-line course is: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/pain/training.shtml>

OREGON PAIN COMMISSION WEBSITE
www.oregon.gov/DHS/pain

NEW LAWS AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING DIRECT ACCESS

What is the current law regarding direct access?

The current Statute allows for treatment of a direct access patient for 30 days. After 30 days, the patient must be referred to a medical practitioner prior to additional therapy being provided.

What is the new law regarding direct access and when will that take effect?

The new Statute takes effect January 2, 2008 and will allow a direct access patient to be treated for 60 days before a referral is necessary.

I am scheduled to evaluate a direct access patient on December 15, 2007. Under the new law, may this patient be treated until February 13th before a referral is required?

NO. The current Statute, ORS 688.132, says therapy can only continue for 30 days once “the initial physical therapy treatment has been administered.” Therefore, any treatment for a direct access patient that starts on or before December 31, 2007 is still subject to the 30-day limit.

I discharged a direct access patient two months ago. The patient’s symptoms have now returned and the patient wants to come back to PT for the same diagnosis. Can I evaluate and treat that patient without obtaining a referral?

The current Board interpretation of the Statutes and Rules is that if the patient was legitimately discharged from your care, the patient can return to PT without a referral, within a reasonable timeframe. You can not discharge a patient on day 30, and have them “start over” on day 35, just to avoid obtaining a referral. The next Rules Advisory Committee will explore further clarifying the Rules regarding direct access.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS REGARDING LICENSE RENEWAL

ADDRESS CHANGES: Make sure that the Board has your current contact information on file. Your license renewal application will be mailed, to your mailing address, during the first week of January, 2008. If you have moved, please completely fill out the change of address form, found under the heading “forms” on the Board website and FAX it to the Board office. Please do not send a change of address form until after the effective date of your move. State law requires you to notify the Board of any change in address or contact information within 30 days of the change. Each year, approximately 50 renewal applications are returned to the Board office as undeliverable. Failure to receive a renewal form is not a valid excuse for failing to renew your license. You can be disciplined for failing to provide current contact information. The State of California has recently imposed disciplinary actions and civil penalties to therapists who failed to provide the Board with their new address.

ARRESTS: If you have been arrested, charged or convicted of any crime, including DUII, since your last license renewal, you must report this to the Board and provide an explanation and associated documentation. Failure to provide all necessary information will delay the processing of your application. Failure to disclose may result in disciplinary action. If you are unsure if the offense is reportable, report it and let the Board decide. Each renewal period, the Board conducts random background checks and views failure to disclose as a serious issue.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

NAME & LICENSE NO.	DATE OF ACTION TAKEN	ACTION TAKEN	REASON FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION
Kristin Shimek, PT License # 3277	8/6/2007	STIPULATION AND FINAL ORDER One year license suspension with conditions \$5000 civil penalty	Boundary, practice and documentation violations & failure to cooperate with the Board
Erik Zamboni, PT License # 4226	6/26/2007	STIPULATION AND FINAL ORDER \$1000 civil penalty	Use of the title "doctor" in his physical therapy practice
Stanley Gorman, PT License # 2057	6/5/2007	STIPULATION AND FINAL ORDER One year license probation, \$5000 civil penalty, \$2500 stayed	Documentation violations
Brianne Grogan, PT License # 5221	5/14/2007	STIPULATION AND FINAL ORDER \$100 civil penalty	Practicing five days without a valid license
Jayne Wilson, PT License # 1268	5/11/2007	STIPULATION AND FINAL ORDER \$100 civil penalty	Practicing one day without a valid license
Jennifer Cross, PT License # 3452	5/15/2007	STIPULATION AND FINAL ORDER \$100 civil penalty	Practicing three days without a valid license
Carol Bakkensen, PT License # 0820	5/17/2007	STIPULATION AND FINAL ORDER \$1000 civil penalty	Practicing eleven months without a valid license
Andre Tate, PT License # 5285	10/18/2007	FINAL ORDER BY DEFAULT One year license probation with conditions, \$2000 civil penalty, \$1000 stayed	HIPAA, practice and documentation violations

**Outcome of cases investigated during fiscal year
July, 2006 through June, 2007**

31 total complaints were received. 5 cases were closed with disciplinary action, 13 cases were closed with a confidential advisory letter to licensee (this letter is not a public record), 7 cases were closed with no violations found, and 6 cases currently remain under investigation.



NEWSLETTER
Physical Therapist Licensing Board
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AVAILABLE ON THE BOARD WEBSITE: www.ptboard.state.or.us

- *THIS NEWSLETTER AND PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS*
- *COMPLAINT, ADDRESS, NAME CHANGE & WRITTEN VERIFICATION FORMS*
- *ON-LINE LICENSE VERIFICATION*
- *COPIES OF THE PHYSICAL THERAPY STATUTES AND RULES*
- *FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES*
- *RECENTLY ADOPTED RULE CHANGES AND PENDING RULE CHANGES*