

Oregon Physical Therapist Licensing Board
NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2008

BOARD MEMBERS

Joana Freedman, PT
Board Chair

Steve Alstot, PT
Board Vice Chair

Jason Fiske, PT
PT Member

Daiva A. Banaitis, PT, PhD
PT Member

Burke Selbst, PT
PT Member

Nancy Wilson, PTA
PTA Member

Cindy Cunningham, MPA
Public Member

BOARD STAFF

James Heider
Executive Director

Sherri Paru, PT
Clinical Advisor/Investigator

Dot Danovich
Licensing Coordinator

Mindy Tucker
Contract Investigator

ADDRESS/PHONE/FAX

800 NE Oregon Street
Suite 407
Portland, OR 97232-2187

Phone: 971-673-0200
Fax: 971-673-0226

E-MAIL

james.heider@state.or.us
sherri.paru@state.or.us
dorothy.danovich@state.or.us
physical.therapy@state.or.us

BOARD WEBSITE

www.ptboard.state.or.us

OFFICE HOURS

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

**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR
LICENSE?**

LICENSE RENEWALS ARE DUE MARCH 31, 2008

RENEWAL UPDATE

You will not be able to practice on or after April 1, 2008 if you do not complete the required CE and renew your license by March 31, 2008. *See exceptions in box below and see page 2 for lapsed license options.**

If you need more time to complete the CE and you are not practicing, you may allow your license to lapse and reinstate it at a later date. If you choose this option, you must submit the renewal form, along with a late fee, and provide proof of your CE completion before your license can be reinstated. Any courses taken after April 1, 2008 to satisfy the CE requirement for the current certification period, may not be used for CE credit in the next certification period.

The Board will conduct random audits of CE completion and if you are found to be in violation, you may be subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

**DUE DATE FOR
COMPLETION OF THE
MANDATORY PAIN
MANAGEMENT CE FOR
PHYSICAL THERAPISTS**

In the fall 2007 Newsletter, the due date for completion of the mandatory pain CE for PTs was incorrectly listed as January 1, 2010. The correct completion date is March 31, 2010. Specific rules regarding this new law will be drafted in the upcoming months and will be communicated to all licensees in the next Newsletter. For now, any course 6 hours or greater listed as "approved" by the Oregon Pain Commission, will satisfy this requirement. All PTs will also have to complete the free one-hour online-training offered by the Pain Commission by MARCH 31, 2010. Frequently asked questions regarding this requirement can be found on the Board website.

COMPLETION OF CE HOURS – NEW LICENSEES

- ⇒ If you received your initial Oregon license on or after April 1, 2007, you are only required to complete 1/2 of the CE requirement for this certification period (1/1/06-3/31/08). Qualifying courses may have been taken anytime during the certification period, even if you were not yet licensed in Oregon.
- ⇒ If you received your initial Oregon license on or after January 1, 2008, you are exempt from completing CE for this certification period. You are required to obtain the full amount of CE in the next certification period (4/1/08-3/31/10).

QUESTIONS ABOUT LAPSED LICENSES

If I choose to let my license lapse because I am not practicing and/or I can not complete the required CE, can I reinstate it at a later date?

YES. In Oregon a therapist may reinstate a lapsed license anytime during the five years following the lapsed date. If your license is lapsed for greater than 5 years, you must reapply for a license. The requirements to obtain a license at that time will depend on whether you hold a license to practice in another state and what the Oregon Rules regarding licensure are at that time.

What do I have to do to reinstate a lapsed license?

To reinstate a lapsed license you must contact the Board office and request a renewal form. You must complete the renewal form and pay the renewal fee plus a late charge for each year the license has been lapsed. (i.e. If a PT were to reinstate a license that has been lapsed for 3 years, the total cost to reinstate would be \$450 (3 years renewal fee @ \$100/year and 3 years late charge @ \$50/year). *** Note: If the late fee increases, you would need to pay whatever the fee is at the time of the reinstatement.

If I want to reinstate my lapsed license anytime this year, before March 31, 2009, what do I do about the mandatory CE?

If you choose to allow your license to lapse and subsequently reinstate it anytime this year (between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009), you must complete a renewal form, pay the renewal fee and late fee, and provide evidence, to the Board, that you completed the entire amount of required CE for the prior CE certification period. If renewing a lapsed license, CE taken to fulfill the requirement may be taken before or after your license has lapsed.

If I am renewing a lapsed license and I take CE classes after my license lapses in order to fulfill the CE requirement, can I use those same CE credit hours to satisfy the CE requirement for the next certification period?

NO. CE taken to make up for or satisfy the CE requirement for a prior certification period can not be used as credit for CE during the current certification period.

If I allow my license to lapse for greater than one year and reinstate my license, between April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010, what will be required of me?

Current Rules state that, if you reinstate your license on or after April 1, 2009, you must complete a renewal form, and pay the applicable renewal fees and late fees. You will not be required to provide evidence of CE completion for the previous certification period (January 1, 2006 through March 31, 2008). However, to maintain (renew) your reinstated license, you will be required to complete 1/2 of the required CE for the certification period of April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2010.

What will be the CE requirements if I reinstate my lapsed license after April 1, 2010?

It depends on what the Rules are at the time of reinstatement. Rules can change at anytime and it is difficult to project what the rules will be, especially since this certification period marked the first time CE was mandatory. You should continue to read the Board Newsletters and website regarding CE Rule changes.

I would like to let my license lapse and I do not intend to practice for at least 5 years, what should I do?

If you know that you will not practice, for at least 5 years, and you hold a current license in another state, you will be allowed to reapply via endorsement. If you do not hold a license in another state at that time, current Rules require you to prove competence to the Board. You may be required to take a refresher course, complete an internship or retake the national examination.

ONGOING QUESTIONS ABOUT CE

If I take greater than the required number of hours this certification period, is it possible to carry over the CE hours to be counted in the next certification period?

NO. By Rule, CE can only be counted for the period in which it is completed. The only exception is if you fail to complete the required CE on time and allow your license to lapse. In that case, you must take CE courses to satisfy the requirement for the previous certification period before you can reinstate your lapsed license. Those courses taken will only count for the previous certification period, not the current one.

I need to complete some more CE hours, by the end of March, and I keep getting information in the mail from on-line course providers, do these courses count for CE?

YES. The Board has received the most questions about the following on-line courses:

1. Cheap CEUs: www.cheapceus.com
2. Wild Iris Medical: www.therapyceu.com.

Both are acceptable providers of CE courses. In addition, World Wide Learn: www.worldwidelearn.com is an organized site with links to many on-line CE providers (including the APTA). If a course on any of these websites is listed as approved in any other state, it will be accepted for CE in Oregon.

I had surgery this year and am unable to complete the CE requirements for this certification period. Are there any exceptions to the CE requirements?

NO. The current rules do not allow for any exceptions to the CE requirements. If you can not complete the CE, you must allow your license to lapse. You will not be permitted to practice until the CE requirement is met.

On my renewal form I stated that I would complete the required CE by March 31, 2008. I have already received my license for 2008-2009. A course that I am signed up for has been cancelled, so now I can not complete the CE on time. What should I do?

You must call the Board to inform us that you will not complete the CE. You will need to return your 2008-2009 license to the Board. Your license will lapse on March 31, 2008, and you will not be permitted to practice until the CE is completed. The Board will retain your license renewal fee and, when you complete the CE, you can reinstate your lapsed license by paying the late renewal fee and showing proof of CE completion.

FREQUENTLY REQUESTED WEBSITES CONTAINING CE INFORMATION

American Physical Therapy Association: www.apta.org

Oregon Physical Therapy Association: www.opta.org

Oregon Pain Commission: www.oregon.gov/DHS/pain/

Advance for Physical Therapists: www.ptadvanceweb.com

North American Seminars: www.healthclick.com

North American Institute of Orthopedic Manual Therapy: www.naiomt.com

QUESTIONS ABOUT PTA SCOPE OF PRACTICE

PERFORMANCE & DOCUMENTATION OF REASSESSMENTS BY A PTA

- The Board has received several complaints and has imposed disciplinary action upon licensees for violations of Board Rules regarding the performance of reassessments by PTAs. Current Rules require a reassessment to be performed, by a PT, at least every 30 days. The PT must personally examine the patient on the day the reassessment is performed. Co-signing a reassessment note written by a PTA does not satisfy this requirement. The PTA may play a role in the documentation of the reassessment; however, the PT must personally perform and document that the reassessment has been completed. In addition, any therapist (PT or PTA), who continues to treat a patient beyond the 30 days, when the required reassessment has not been conducted, is subject to disciplinary action from the Board. These rules supersede any less restrictive requirements of third party payors.
 - Board rules do not require you to send any documentation to the referring provider. If a reassessment is performed and documented by a PT, a PTA can write a separate status or summary report to be sent to the provider. Although this is not required by the Board, third party payors may have other requirements.
- *** A Rules Advisory Committee is currently looking at several Rules relating to the scope of practice of a PTA (including a PTA's role in reassessments), and there may be proposed rule changes in the future. Any proposed rule changes will be communicated to all licensees and all licensees will have the opportunity to provide input prior to the Board's adoption of any rules.

PERFORMANCE OF HOME VISITS & HOME ASSESSMENTS BY A PTA

- The Board has received many questions about the ability of a PTA to perform a home visit, home assessment or home evaluation with a patient. The Board solicited input from many licensees and determined that a home visit with the patient, for the purpose of determining if a patient can safely access their home environment, is an evaluation and must be performed by a physical therapist. It is acceptable for a PTA to go to the patient's home and gather data to later be interpreted by the PT. For example, a PTA can go to the home, without the patient, and take photographs or measurements of the home.

SET UP OF A CPM MACHINE BY A PTA

- The Board has received many questions about the ability of a PTA to set up a CPM machine the first time it is placed on a patient. If the PTA is sufficiently trained and the order for the CPM specifically states the parameters for use (ROM, settings, on/off time, etc), the PTA can set it up for the patient prior to the PT evaluating that patient. No treatment can be provided until a PT evaluation has been performed. If the parameters have not been specifically ordered, by the physician, the PTA can not evaluate the patient and determine the settings of the CPM machine. A PT must do so.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

NAME & LICENSE NO.	DATE OF ACTION TAKEN	ACTION TAKEN	REASON FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION
Richard Kreider, PTA License # 7037	12/27/07	STIPULATION AND FINAL ORDER: \$250 Civil Penalty	PTA performed and documented reassessments, required to be completed by a PT
Kathleen Thelander, PT License # 2428	01/07/08	STIPULATION AND FINAL ORDER: \$1000 Civil Penalty	Failed to perform a required reassessment and allowed a PTA to perform a reassessment

IMPORTANT REMINDER REGARDING ADDRESS CHANGES

During the license renewal process, the Board received many returned renewal forms due to insufficient or incorrect addresses. Board staff then took the time to contact these licensees to obtain their correct address. At its meeting on February 1, 2008, the Board determined that, by Rule, it is the licensee's responsibility to keep the Board informed of any changes in contact information, including address. With only 3 employees, the Board does not have enough staff resources to allocate time to locate licensees. In the future, Board staff will not be contacting licensees to obtain a valid address when their renewal form is returned as undeliverable. It will be up to the licensee to contact the Board if they fail to receive a renewal application.

In addition, beginning April 1, 2008, any licensee who fails to notify the Board of a change in contact information, within 30 days will receive a written warning (advisory letter) from the Board. Any subsequent failure to report changes in contact information may subject the licensee to disciplinary action by the Board. Several states, including California, impose large civil penalties (fines) upon licensees for failing to provide the Board with current contact information. Address change forms can be found on the Board website: www.ptboard.state.or.us under "Forms".

Why does the Board need your address and contact information?

- ⇒ So you can receive your license renewal forms
- ⇒ So you can receive Board mailings such as this Newsletter
- ⇒ So you can receive information on proposed rule changes and have the ability to provide input
- ⇒ So the Board can contact you if a complaint is filed against you
- ⇒ So the Board can contact you if a complaint is filed against another licensee and you may be a witness
- ⇒ ORS 688.100(4) and OAR 848-005-0030 requires licensees to provide the Board with all contact information and to report all changes within 30 days



NEWSLETTER
Physical Therapist Licensing Board
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 407
Portland, OR 97232-2187

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*