

Oregon Physical Therapist Licensing Board

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2009

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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)

CHANGES FOR LICENSE RENEWAL IN 2010

On-line Renewals

If everything goes according to plan, you will have the option to renew your physical therapist license on-line this year. By using the on-line system you may pay via credit card, debit card or electronic check. There will be an additional convenience fee charged for anyone choosing to use the on-line system. Paper renewals will still be an option with no extra charge. Paper renewal forms, along with instructions for use of the on-line system will be mailed to all licensees during the first two weeks of January, 2010.

Mandatory Demographics Survey

Oregon Laws HB 2009 mandates that most medical professionals (including PTs and PTAs) must complete an on-line demographics survey upon renewal of their professional license. The Physical Therapist Licensing Board can not issue your license until you provide evidence of completion of the survey. The survey data, which will be de-identified, will become the property of the Oregon Health Policy & Research Group. The purpose of the information is for the State to analyze the data and look at work force trends across the state. The actual costs relative to the collection and analysis of the data will be tracked, and filtered back to licensees in subsequent renewal periods. As the survey questions, process and procedure have yet to be finalized, make sure you carefully read your renewal form for detailed instructions and requirements.

CE Required to Renew for 2010-2011

All licensees must complete the required number of CE hours in order to renew their license for 2010-2011. The timeframe for course completion is 4/1/2008 - 3/31/2010. In addition, CE completed by physical therapists initially licensed before April 1, 2008, must include 7 hours of CE relating to the management of pain. (6 hr + 1 hr free on-line course offered by the Oregon Pain Commission). On your license renewal form, you must attest as to whether you have already completed the CE or plan to complete the CE by March 31, 2010.

You may not renew your license if you do not complete the CE.

Frequently asked questions regarding CE and a link to the free 1 hour on-line course can be found on the Board website. Prior Board Newsletters (published on the website) also contain a great deal of information regarding CE.

*****INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER*****

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- ◆ Notice of Rulemaking Hearing (page 3)
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PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

with impact to your career & practice

With the help of a volunteer Rules Advisory Committee made up primarily of Licensees from around the state, the following Administrative Rule changes are being proposed at this time. Prior to adoption of these proposed Rules, there will be a hearing allowing public comment (see page 4 of this newsletter for detailed information regarding the Hearing). Once adopted, the new Rules will take effect on March 1, 2010; however, many of the proposed Rule changes are a result of new statutes passed during the 2009 legislation and these statutes have an effective date of January 1, 2010 (noted below).

- **Physical therapists have been added to the list of mandatory reporters of child abuse. Statute relating to medical professionals, in general, has changed. No new PT Board Rules have been added. (effective Jan 1, 2010)**
- **Licensees must report any arrest for a felony, or conviction of a misdemeanor or felony to the Board within 10 days of the arrest or conviction. Statute relating to medical professionals, in general, has been changed and new PT Board Rules have been added. (effective Jan 1, 2010)**
- **Physical therapists with a DPT degree will be allowed to use the title “doctor”. Statute relating to medical professionals, in general, has been changed. Rule prohibiting the use of the title “doctor” has been removed from PT Board Rules. (effective Jan 1, 2010)**
- **Licensees must report another licensed medical provider to the Board that licenses that provider, if you have “reasonable cause to believe that the person has engaged in prohibited or unprofessional conduct”. You must report the suspected licensee “without undue delay” but no later than 10 working days after you learn of the conduct. Statute relating to medical professionals, in general, has been changed and new PT Board Rules have been added. (effective Jan 1, 2010)**
- **Licensing Boards will continue to have jurisdiction over a person who is the subject of an investigation or disciplinary proceeding relating to acts or omissions that occurred while the person was licensed by the Board regardless of whether the person has relinquished or not renewed their license to practice. Statute relating to medical professionals, in general, has been changed and new PT Board rules were added. (effective Jan 1, 2010)**
- **Changes in Rules regarding temporary permits. Temporary permits will now be valid for 60 days, rather than 90 days and proof of a passing score on the National PT Examination (for endorsement applicants) will be required prior to the issuance of a temporary permit.**
- **Licensees, who are newly licensed between January 1st and March 31st of an even numbered year, will be exempt from the CE requirement for that certification period.**
- **Removal of Rule restricting the number of times an applicant may take the National PT examination (limit had been 5 times).**
- **Board will withhold the personal email address, home address and personal telephone number of licensees, unless in emergency circumstances or when otherwise required by law.**
- **New Rule added which allows the Board to charge a convenience fee for online license renewals.**
- **Licensees, who have received a Proposed Notice of Disciplinary Action from the Board, will now have 30 days (changed from 21 days) to request a contested case hearing.**
- **Repeal of Division 50 regarding the Board’s substance abuse diversion program. The Board will begin to participate in a new state-wide diversion program for health care practitioners.**

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

NONE !!!	Please read entire newsletter for very important information regarding mandatory changes in the process of license renewals, CE requirements and newly proposed rules
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BOARD STATEMENT REGARDING DRY NEEDLING

After the Board issued its initial opinion that dry needling was in the PT scope of practice, the Oregon Medical Board met and determined that dry needling constitutes the practice of acupuncture in the State of Oregon. This determination prompted additional research and consideration on the part of the Board and its legal counsel.

At its Board meeting on November 20, 2009, the Board received input from licensees and representatives of the Oregon Medical Board. Upon further discussion and consideration, the Physical Therapist Licensing Board believes that the dry needling of trigger points is likely within the physical therapist scope of practice (excluding PTAs). The Board acknowledges that the dry needling of trigger points is an advanced intervention requiring post physical therapy graduate training and education.

Further, the Board recommends that the Medical Board, including the Acupuncture Committee, the Physical Therapy Board, the OPTA and the Oregon Medical Association, work in partnership to define a minimum competency by which a physical therapist can safely practice the intervention of dry needling of trigger points.

In the interest of public safety, until specific training and education parameters can be determined, the Board strongly advises its licensees to not perform dry needling of trigger points at this time.

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING HEARING

A Public Hearing, regarding the Board's proposed Administrative Rule changes, will be held at 8:30 am on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2010 in Room 1-C of the Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland, Oregon, 97232

At the Hearing, the Board will welcome public testimony and comments on the proposed Rule changes. If you would like to make comments, but are unable to attend the meeting, you may submit written testimony or comments to the Board. For consideration, all written comments must be presented at the Hearing or received in the Board office by noon, Thursday, February, 4, 2010. The Board appreciates and encourages all comments and suggestions from licensees.

Copies of the Notice Of Proposed Rule Making Hearing, The Statement of Fiscal Impact, and the actual proposed Rule language can be found on the Board website at www.ptboard.state.or.us



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THANK YOU TO THE 2009 RULES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For several months, the volunteer members of the Rules Advisory Committee from across the state have met to assist the Board in clarifying, updating and/or adding proposed Administrative Rule language. The Board expresses its sincere thanks to the following PT and PTA committee members who donated their valuable time, input and expertise:

Brooke Collins, David Komeji, Dode Jackson, Donna Maebori, Dylan Hogan, Jaime Dutra, Jennifer Wood, Karen Gurske, Lisa Protsman, Maura Gabriel, Steve Alstot, Joana Freedman, Suzanne Maresh, Tim Esau, Lars Kellow. The Board is also grateful to Diana Godwin, Attorney at Law, for her extensive work on this (and every preceding) committee.

BOARD OFFICE SCHEDULED CLOSURES

The State of Oregon has mandated 14 unpaid closure (furlough) days for state employees over the next two years. On these days, the Board office will be closed to the public. Dates for 2009-2010 are:

- Thursday, December 24, 2009
- Friday, March 19, 2010
- Friday, April 16, 2010
- Friday, June 18, 2010
- Friday, August 20, 2010
- Friday, September 17, 2010
- Friday, November 26, 2010

Additional closure dates will be posted on the Board website, as they are determined. Please call ahead if you have a need to come to the Board office.