



Communiqué

Board and TPTA Revise CE Approval Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

After a major revision of rule sections §341.2 and §341.3, which deal specifically with continuing education, Dr. Mary Thompson, PT, PhD, Chair of the Education Committee, worked closely with TPTA (Tim Weitz, Executive Director and Fernando Rodriguez, Coordinator of the CE Approval Program) to revise the MOU between TPTA and the Board.

The MOU is the document that describes in detail the Continuing Education Approval Program developed and administered by TPTA. The amendments to the original MOU reflect the Board’s changes to CE rules, give TPTA more muscle in dealing with CE providers who do not abide by Board requirements, and are more specific about the procedures involved in approval.

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The Board approved the amended MOU at the January meeting. It also commended TPTA for the job it has done with the program, and for the diligence and cooperation of TPTA staff. Currently, there are roughly 3,000 classes with approved status (a class is course or program offered in one location on a particular day, so one course can be counted more than once), and 138 volunteer reviewers. Those volunteer peer review panels reviewed 1,680 applications last year. In the last two years, more than a handful of states have contacted TPTA to discuss the CE Approval Program, among them being Hawaii, Alaska, New Jersey, Ohio, Alabama, and Tennessee.

National Exam Changes Go into Effect

In January of this year, the fee for the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) for PTs and PTAs increased to \$350. On March 1st, the final phase of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Examiners’ overhaul of the NPTE took effect. These changes, a result of exam security issues that arose several years ago, reflect the Federation’s focus on increasing the validity and security of the exam. The following is a brief overview of the changes.

Increased number of Items, and additional time allowed for the exam – PTs and PTAs will answer 50 (up from 25) “pre-test” questions. Pre-test questions have been part of the exam for a long time. Pre-testing determines whether new questions meet the standards necessary to be included on the exam, and a larger bank of pre-tested exam questions will mean less exposure for each question in the NPTE question bank. These questions are not scored, and so do not affect the candidate’s score. The exam will now be up to 5 hours long for PTs, and 4.5 hours for PTAs, to accommodate the extra questions.

Decreased number of attempts in a year – Candidates will only be able to take the exam 3 times in any 12 month period. It's rare that a candidate takes the exam 4 times; even rarer that he/she takes it 4 times in 1 year. However, this measure ensures that a candidate does not have a question on the exam more than once in a 12 month period.

Sectioned Exam – The exam will be divided into 50-question sections or blocks. After the examinee finishes a section, they will review and then close the section. Once the section is “closed”, the candidate cannot go back to that block of questions. This change addresses security concerns, but also enables the candidate to be offered regular breaks from the exam.

Scheduled break – After a candidate completes 2 sections of the exam, they will be allowed up to 15 minutes for a break. This time is addition to the time allowed for the exam.



Disciplinary Action Taken by the Board On January 28, 2005

- (1) **Nicole Lovell, PT #1143857 (Hawaii)** – failed to properly renew her license. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended her license for sixty (60) days and required CE.***
- (2) **Theo Wilson, PT #1143394 (Wichita Falls)** – failed to properly renew his license. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended his license for sixty (60) days.***
- (3) **Phyllis Jackson, PTA #2014676 (San Antonio)** – practiced with an expired license. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required that she “cease and desist” from practice until such time as she re-applies, is re-examined, and secures re-licensure from the Board. Current license is no longer valid.***
- (4) **Raul Torres, PT #1057768 (Houston)** – failed to properly supervise the provision of and accurately record physical therapy services rendered. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended his license for thirty (30) days.***
- (5) **Edith Olewe, PT #1147169 (Houston)** – practiced with an expired license. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.***
- (6) **Sandra Tomko, PTA #2010237 (Houston)** – abandoned her position and patients without providing sufficient prior notice. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended her license for thirty (30) days.***
- (7) **Torrance Earle, PT #1145043 (Houston)** – failed to properly renew his license. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required completion of board-approved ethics course.***

(8) **Traci Wallis, PT #1077204 (Longview)** – failed to properly renew her license. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board Rules. **Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service and CE.**

(9) **Ana Herrera, PT #1008951 (San Antonio)** - provided physical therapy services in a facility not properly registered. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board rules. **Board Order required sixty (60) hours of community service.**

(10) **Robert Quinn, PTA #2033660 (Harlingen)** - failed to properly renew his license. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board rules. **Board Order suspended his license for forty-five (45) days.**

PT RULE UPDATE

2004 PT Rules available online

The most recent full edition of the Board's rules is the **January 2004** issue at www.ecptote.state.tx.us. This issue includes all adopted rules and amendments through January 2004.

The **April 2005** issue should be available on the website by May. Check back for the latest version, or sign up for the free, voluntary eNews distribution list: <http://www.ecptote.state.tx.us/lists/subscribe.php>

Since January 2004, the Board has adopted changes to the following rules. The full text of these amendments can be found at www.ecptote.state.tx.us/pt/rules. These changes will be included in the April 2005 issue.

§341.2, Continuing Education Requirements and §341.3, Qualifying Continuing Education

§323.4, Application Review Committee (repealed)

§346.1, Educational Settings

§346.3, Early Childhood (ECI) Setting

§329.5, Licensing Procedures for Foreign-trained Applicants

§322.2, Role Delineation

Chapter 347, Registration of PT Facilities – *a summary of the changes to this chapter can be found in the April 2004 newsletter.*

§329.6, Licensure by Endorsement

§329.1, General Licensure Requirements and Procedures