

Agency 5-Year Plan

Issue 1 1.Establish the mechanisms for assessing continuing professional competence of physical therapists to engage in the practice of physical therapy and the competence of physical therapist assistants to work in the field of physical therapy.

Description: a.The Board of physical therapy currently requires licensed physical therapist to complete 20 contact hours of continuing competence activities during each compliance period. The compliance period is two years in length, beginning September 1 of an even numbered year and ending August 31 of the next even numbered year.
b.Certified physical therapist assistants currently have 10 contact hour continuing competence activity requirement.

Solutions:

The first audit of continuing competency for the Physical Therapist Assistant was conducted for the 2018-2020 compliance period.

Issue 2 2.Regulate the practice of physical therapy by interpreting and enforcing this chapter.

Description: a.The Board received between 50 and 70 complaints per year.
b.The Board currently maintains a .5 FTE to investigate all complaints received against physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and business entities.
C.The Board has seen an increase in the complexity of the cases. We will be tracking these figures and monitoring the numbers. The Board believes its efforts at education of students, licensees and certificate holders is contributing tomore public awareness of laws and rules resulting in steady leveling of complaints filed.

Solutions:

2.The Board has seen marked improvement in investigations completeness time frames. In 2020, of the 49 complaints filed, 34 were investigated and adjudicated within the 180 day recommended time frame.

Issue 3 3.Evaluate the qualifications of applicants for licensure and certification; and provide for national examinations for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants and adopt passing scores for these examinations.

Description: a.The Board has seen an increase in the number of application filed in any calendar year from 956 in 2019 to 1311 in 2020. In addition, in FY 2021 the number of physical therapists renewing licenses increased to 7552. Number of physical therapist assistants renewing active certificates increased to 2396.
b.The national examinations for physical therapist and physical therapist assistants have been changed from tests given on a continuous basis on almost every day of the year to tests provided only five times each per year.

Solutions:

3.The Board physical therapy is currently addressing the need for improved processes for the increased number of applicants and the change in their availability of national tests.

A. On March 15, 2012, changes in the timing of allowing applicants to attempt passage of their national examinations were signed into law. A.R.S. §32-2024 was modified to allow applicants to test for their national examinations before completing their full educational programs, which allows increased options in taking one or more of the four tests allowed per year. The average time awaiting licensure from the time it is administratively complete dropped to 1 days in FY 2017.

C. The Board acquired e-Licensing software solution to better increase consumer access to Board services online, receive payments online, and process services such as applications online.

D. In August 2019, the Board voted to enable the Executive Director to approve applications that are complete without issue requiring Board review and approval. The result has been a substantive improvement to decrease the number of days from submission to approval of license or certificate.

Issue 4 Demographic Analysis Report

Description: For renewal period 2018-2020 the Board of Physical Therapy collected demographic information on all licensee and certificate holders. This information will be analysed into a comprehensive report that will be distributed to all stakeholders, licensee, certificate holders and the public.

Solutions:

A. To identify regions of the state with decrease in access to physical therapy resources and services.

B. Identify geographic distribution of physcial therapist and physical therapist assistants.

C. Identify educational level of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants

D. Identify workforce by age

E.Determine entnicty of licensed physical therapists and certified physcial therapist assistants.

F. Determine work environemnt distribution

Issue 5 New SI

Description:

Solutions:

Issue 6 New SI

Description:

Solutions:

Resource Assumptions

	FY2024 Estimate	FY2025 Estimate	FY2026 Estimate
Full-Time Equivalent Positions	4.5	5.0	5.0
General Fund	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Appropriated Funds	530,000.0	550,000.0	550,000.0
Non-Appropriated Funds	0.0	0.0	0.0
Federal Funds	0.0	0.0	0.0