

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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It has been an interesting legislative session. Although the State's budget problems as well as other legislative issues have received a great deal of attention as well as criticism, the proposed changes to the Physical Therapy Practice Act by the Board of Physical Therapy seemed to just sail through without any problem. House Bill 2149 was recently passed by both houses and signed into law by Governor Brewer. These changes will take effect July 29, 2010. Although the changes made by this legislation are not dramatic, they are significant. They include:

First, it closed a loophole that created a significant obstacle for foreign trained individuals to become licensed to practice physical therapy in Arizona. Because we previously required individuals to be authorized to practice physical therapy in the country where they were educated, it inadvertently prevented individuals from being licensed in Arizona because they could not meet the citizenship requirements in the country where they received their education. A.R.S. §32-2022 (B-4) corrects this problem by allowing the Board to waive the requirement of legal authorization to practice in the country where they were educated. This should make it possible for more foreign trained therapists to become licensed in Arizona. Since the passage of this bill, the Board Staff has received a number of inquiries about the change and what they need to do now to become licensed.

A second accomplishment of House Bill 2149 is that the Board will "administratively suspend" a license or certificate if the holder does not renew on time. See A.R.S. §32-2027 (B). Although an individual who fails to renew their license or certificate on time still can not practice in Arizona, it is hoped that such a provision will help to deal with the large number of licenses and certificates that are let to expire each year. Further, the change will prevent a licensee or certificate holder from fleeing Arizona to another state when an investigation may be looming for that individual in Arizona.

Third, the legislative changes allow the Board to establish committees. See A.R.S. §32-2003 (B). These committees would be created for a specific amount of time and have a specific task to accomplish. This should give the Board greater flexibility to accomplish the large number of tasks that it is charged to do.

Finally, the changes clarify when the Board may deny a license or certificate to an applicant. See A.R.S. §32-2023 (B). These include such things as when an applicant has committed a fraud, felony or misdemeanor or who has attempted to engage in any activity that undermines the integrity of the National Physical Therapy licensure examination.

Given the financial and legislative situation, we are very pleased that we were able to accomplish as much as we have. There is still very much that can and should be done. These include such things as a license or certificate classification for those therapists and therapist assistants who are retired or inactive as well as how best to ensure public safety while at the same time helping therapists re-enter practice after a prolonged period of absence.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark W. Cornwall, P.T., PhD

President, Arizona Board of Physical Therapy

Board Members

Mark Cornwall, P.T., PhD

President

Physical Therapist
Flagstaff
Term Expires: 01/19/2013

Lisa Akers, P.T.

Vice President

Physical Therapist
Maricopa
Term Expires: 01/17/2011

Kris Ohlendorf, P.T.A.

Secretary

Physical Therapist Assistant
Litchfield Park
Term Expires: 01/17/2011

James Sieveke, P.T., OCS

Physical Therapist

Tucson
Term Expires: 01/17/2011

Randy Robbins

Public Member

Casa Grande
Term Expires: 01/21/2012

Melinda Richardson, P.T.

Physical Therapist

Tempe
Term Expires: 01/18/2014

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year since the Board's last Newsletter in June of 2009 has been interesting from many perspectives. The Board has seen a wide array of challenges from implementing new laws regarding lawful practice and foreign educated applicants, to pushing for support to update the Physical Therapy Practice Act, responding to a constantly changing budgeting environment and preparing for a new renewal season. However, I am encouraged to report that the Board of Physical Therapy and their staff have done well to weather all challenges this past year.

In October of 2009, the Governor's Regulatory Review Council approved changes to Board of Physical Therapy Arizona Administrative Code (Rules) Title 4. Professions and Occupations Chapter 24, Articles 1, 2 and 3 which took effect on December 7, 2009. The changes include an updated incorporation of reference for the course evaluation tool used to review education of foreign educated physical therapist applicants, adding a time frame for processing license and certificate renewals to the Board's Time-frames table, and changes to the Lawful Practice rules. I encourage every member of the profession to visit the Board website www.ptboard.az.gov and review the changes to the law.

Changes to statute will be in two forms. First is HB 2149, which was sponsored by Representative Steve Court, District 18, and run at the request of the Board of Physical Therapy. The changes to the Physical Therapy Practice Act in HB 2149 are numerous, which Dr. Cornwall has explained well in his message on the cover of this Newsletter. Second is HB 2123, which was proposed and run at the request of the Arizona Physical Therapy Association. HB 2123 will require any business entity that provides physical therapy services to register with the Board of Physical Therapy beginning in August 2011. This new law will not impact most business entities if they are either owned by a licensed health care provider or regulated in some other capacity. The law ensures that businesses not currently required to be registered will have a record keeping protocol that compares to those protocols already required of licensed health care providers.

I am sure that many of you have heard of the difficult budget shortfalls faced by our State and local governments. These scenarios have not escaped the attention of your Board of Physical Therapy, which constricted its own spending for much of the 2010 fiscal year to ensure funds are available to serve the requirements of the profession and the needs of the public. The impact that may have been seen the most by the profession is the six furlough days the Board will see over the next year, which will require the closure of the Board Office. These days are the same for all State Agencies. Please see the list of days in the back pages of this Newsletter. While some Board funds, such as those saved from the furloughs, will ultimately be transferred to the State's General Fund, the impact on Board operations will be minimal. You can still expect to see normal Board functions continue such as a normal renewal period this summer and a random audit of continuing competence activities after September 1, 2010.

When preparing for your renewal, one of your top priorities will be to ensure you have completed all continuing competence activities for the September 1, 2008 thru August 31, 2010 compliance period. Physical therapists are required to have 20 contact hours of continuing competence activities. Physical Therapist Assistants do not have any continuing competence requirements. Your continuing competence activities must be complete before you complete and submit you renewal application. Remember these facts as the Board conducts an audit every renewal year and this may be the year your license number is selected. A new law, A.R.S. §32-2044(24) taking effect July 29, 2010, will make it a violation of statute and grounds for disciplinary action to not complete your continuing competence activities. When evaluating or planning your continuing competence activities remember assistance is available at the Board website. Board staff will also assist you if you contact the Board office.

The Board's staff is available every State working day to assist you with Board related activities and help identify the proper contact if you questions are not within the Board's operations. Please take time to visit the Board website www.ptboard.az.gov or call (602) 274-0236 if you have any questions related to Board activities.

In October of 2009, the Governor's Regulatory Review Council approved changes to Board of Physical Therapy Arizona Administrative Code



Front Row: James Sieveke, Kris Ohlendorf

Back Row: Randy Robbins, Lisa Akers, Mark Cornwall, Melinda Richardson

TOP 10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RENEWAL



- 1) **Be On Time!** - All licenses and certificates will expire at midnight on August 31st no matter when the license or certificate was issued. Any paper application with a postmark date on or after September 1st will not be accepted for renewal.
- 2) **Citizenship Information** - Pursuant to the new statute A.R.S. §41-1080
 - A. After September 30, 2008 and subject to subsections C and D, an agency or political subdivision of this state shall not issue a license to an individual if the individual does not provide documentation of citizenship or alien status
 - C. If, pursuant to subsection A, an individual has affirmatively established citizenship of the United States or a form of non-expiring work authorization issued by the federal government, the individual, on renewal or reinstatement of a license, is not required to provide subsequent documentation of that status.
 - D. If, on renewal or reinstatement of a license, an individual holds a limited form of work authorization issued by the federal government that has expired, the individual shall provide documentation of that status.
- 3) **Online renewal** - will be available June 21st through 11:59 p.m. on August 31st to those who have current citizenship information on file with the Board. You can access the online renewal application at the Board's website <http://www.ptboard.az.gov>
- 4) **Fees** - PT renewal fee is \$160, PTA renewal fee is \$55 and for the online renewal application there is an additional \$3 convenience fee
- 5) **Methods of Payment** - If renewing online you can use either a Visa or Master Card credit card. If submitting a paper application your payment must come in the form of a check (i.e. personal check, business check, money order or cashier's check). Payment must be submitted with application.
- 6) **How can you verify receipt of your renewal?** - Board staff recommends utilization of the online renewal application or sending a paper application by registered or certified mail to provide confirmation of receipt as the Board CANNOT confirm receipt of the application via e-mail or telephone.
- 7) **Change of Name** - If you are submitting a change of name, you must complete a paper application and include the notarized change of name form along with a copy of the legal documentation describing the change (i.e. a copy of a marriage license or divorce decree)
- 8) **What happens if you miss the deadline?** - You will be required to reinstate and renew your license or certificate, which requires a different form and an additional fee. PTs will also have to submit documentation of continuing competence with their reinstatement and renewal application.
- 9) **Can you practice if you miss the deadline?** - Pursuant to A.R.S. §32-2027 you may not practice as a physical therapist or work as a physical therapist assistant until your license or certificated has been reinstated. Practicing with an administratively suspended license or working with an administratively suspended certificate may result in disciplinary action by the Board.
- 10) **RENEW ON TIME!**

---SUPERVISED CLINICAL PRACTICE---

ARIZONA NEEDS MORE GREAT LICENSED PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

In order for most foreign trained physical therapists to become licensed in Arizona they must participate in a Supervised Clinical Practice Period (SCPP) under the on-site supervision of a licensed physical therapist. Recently we have heard from our applicants that the number of P.T.s available to supervise is mighty slim. Some of the foreign trained applicants have waited months to find someone willing to help them.

So, what would this mean to you should you entertain the idea? It means some paperwork to set up the experience (a one page form and your resume), approval by the Board at one of our monthly Board meetings, and then 90-days of supervising your interim permit holder (IPH).

On-site supervision means that you must be on site and present in the facility or on the campus where your IPH is performing services, be immediately available to assist the person in the services being performed and maintain continued involvement in appropriate aspects of each treatment session in which a component of treatment is delegated. There is also a bit of paperwork to do along the way that will give the Board information to assist them in the determination of licensure at the end of the SCPP.

Arizona is a grand place to practice physical therapy and many foreign trained individuals desire to be licensed here. Do you wish to help? Please call us if you need more information.

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CONTINUING COMPETENCE REQUIREMENT

The Statutes and Rules of the Arizona State Board of Physical Therapy mandate that all physical therapists licensed by the State of Arizona accrue twenty (20) contact hours of acceptable continuing competence for each licensing period. The renewal period for the 2008-2010 licensing period will conclude on August 31, 2010.

The Board's administrative rules (R4-24-401 thru 403) define the criteria for what is acceptable continuing education and divides that education into several categories.

R4-24-402. Continuing Competence Activities

A. **Category A** continuing competence activities shall be approved by:

1. An accredited medical, health care, or physical therapy program;
2. A state or national medical, health care, or physical therapy association, or a component of the association; or
3. A national medical, health care, or physical therapy specialty society.

B. **Category A** continuing competence activities include:

1. A physical therapy continuing education course designed to provide necessary understanding of current research, clinical skills, administration, or education related to the practice of physical therapy. Calculation of contact hours shall be determined by dividing the total minutes of instruction by 60. Breaks shall not be included as part of instructional time;
2. Coursework towards granting or renewal of a physical therapy clinical specialty certification approved by the Board. Each 60 minutes of instruction equals one contact hour;
3. Coursework in a physical therapy clinical residency program. Each 60 minutes of instruction equals one contact hour; and
4. Coursework in a postgraduate physical therapy education from an accredited college or university. Each 60 minutes of instruction equals one contact hour.

C. **Category B** continuing competence activities include:

1. Study Group, maximum five contact hours.
 - a. A study group is a structured meeting designed for the study of a clinical physical therapy topic dealing with current research, clinical skills, procedures or treatment related to the practice of physical therapy.
 - b. A study group shall have a minimum of three participants and two hours of participation to equal one contact hour.
2. Self-Instruction, maximum five contact hours.
 - a. Self-instruction is a structured course of study relating to one clinical physical therapy topic dealing with current research, clinical skills, procedures, or treatment related to the practice of physical therapy. Self-instruction may be directed by a correspondence course, video, internet, or satellite program.
 - b. Each 60 minutes of self-instruction equals one contact hour.
3. Inservice Education, maximum five contact hours.
 - a. Inservice education is attendance at a presentation pertaining to current research, clinical skills, procedures, or treatment related to the practice of physical therapy or relating to patient welfare or safety, including CPR certification.
 - b. Each 60 minutes of inservice education equals one contact hour.

D. **Category C** modes of continuing competence include:

1. Physical therapy practice management coursework, maximum of five contact hours.
 - a. Physical therapy practice management course work is course work concerning physical therapy administration, professional responsibility, ethical obligations, or legal requirements applicable to physical therapy practice settings.
 - b. If the course is graded, a licensee shall receive a "pass" in a pass/fail course or a minimum of a C in a graded course to receive credit.
 - c. 60 minutes of practice management coursework equals one contact hour.
2. Teaching or lecturing, maximum five contact hours.
 - a. Teaching or lecturing is the presentation of an original educational program dealing with current research, clinical skills, procedures, treatment, or practice management related to the practice of physical therapy principally for health care professionals. Credit may be earned for teaching when the presentation is accompanied by written materials prepared, augmented, or updated by the presenter including course objectives and program content.
 - b. One 60 minute instructional period equals 2.5 contact hours.
 - c. Credit shall be given only once for a presentation within a compliance period.
3. Publication, maximum five contact hours.
 - a. Publication includes writing for professional publication, platform, or poster presentation abstracts that have direct application to the practice of physical therapy. Credit may be earned for publication of material that is a minimum of 1500 words in length and published by a recognized third-party publisher of physical therapy material.
 - b. Each article published in a refereed journal, book chapter or book equals 10 contact hours. Articles published in non-refereed journals, magazines, newsletters, or periodicals equal five contact hours.

In addition, there are several factors that should be considered when determining the categories and hours obtained for continuing competency activities. Assure that any course that might be considered for Category A has been approved by an acceptable agency/organization. Assure that the certificate of completion has identified your name, the providing organization, the date(s) the course was presented, what organization approved the course and how many continuing competence hours were awarded. Keep possession of those documents in the event that you are randomly selected for audit by the Board.

Now is a good time to start to gather your continuing competence certificates as the Board approaches the renewal period. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact Karen Donahue P.T. at the Board office: (602) 274-0236 or by email: karen.donahue@ptboard.az.gov.



DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD SINCE MAY 2009

CASE #	Name	License #	Type of Action	Date Action Taken	Statute or Rule Violated
#09-02	Carole Binswanger	1660	Order of Probation	5/26/2009	A.R.S. §32-2044 (3)(14)
#09-11	Ann Lee Burch	4589	Order of Probation	6/29/2009	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1), A.R.S. §32-2042 (C) A.R.S. §32-2048 (A)
#09-03	Margarett Smith	973	Suspension	7/13/2009	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1) A.A.C. R4-24-401 (C&D)
#09-14	Robin Christie	8130A	Order of Probation	7/22/2009	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1), A.R.S. §32-2027 A.R.S. §32-2051 (G), A.R.S. §32-2042 (E)
#09-16	Caleb Lionberger	7528A	Order of Probation	8/4/2009	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1), A.R.S. §32-2027 A.R.S. §32-20451 (G), A.R.S. §32-2042 (E)
#08-25	David Guy	490	Order of Probation	9/4/2009	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1)(4)(13)(20) A.R.S. §32-2041(A), A.A.C. R4-24-304
#08-23	Gary Smith	3899	Order of Probation	9/4/2009	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1)(4)(13)(20) A.R.S. §32-2043
#09-08	Paulette Olson	7128	Civil Penalty	9/16/2009	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1), A.A.C. R4-24-401 to 403
#09-12	Sarah Nemec	7424	Order of Probation	9/30/2009	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1), A.A.C. R4-24-401 to 403
#09-06	Jeri Lincoln	6400	Decree of Censure	10/8/2009	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1), A.A.C. R4-24-401 (G)(2)
#09-15	Amanda Albert	6574	Order of Probation	11/10/2009	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1)(3)(12)(14)
#09-10	Lisa Alexander	6911	Order of Probation	11/20/2009	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1)(20), A.A.C. R4-24-201
#09-28	Lonny Nenadovich	5865	Censure	2/2/2010	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1)(12)
#09-23	Heath Jobs	6313	Order of Probation	3/18/2010	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1)(8)(12), A.A.C. R4-24-312
#09-29 &30	William Perry	4408	Probation, and Stayed Revokation	3/26/2010	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1)(13)(14)(18) A.R.S. §32-2048
#09-32	Patricia Dunn	3069	Order of Probation	4/1/2010	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1)(4)(12)(13)
#09-40	Alana Yerman	8064	Order of Probation	4/1/2010	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1)(14)
#09-26	Mark Barnes	2869	Order of Probation	4/28/2010	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1)(3)(14) A.A.C. R4-24-401 (G)(2)
#09-13	Louis Rivera	5517	Surrender	4/28/2010	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1)(12)(13)(20)
cc-08-02	Jennifer Johnson	2061	Revocation	01/04/2010	A.R.S. §32-2044 (1)(3)(14) A.A.C. R4-24-401 (G)(2)

A new law A.R.S. §32-2044(24) will make it a violation of statute and grounds for disciplinary action to not complete your continuing competence activities



DENIALS OF LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION SINCE MAY 2009

CASE #	Name	License #	Type of Action	Date Action Taken
NA	Otume Okoye	NA	Denial of Licensure	7/28/2009
NA	Allison Moller	NA	Denial of Licensure	8/29/2009
NA	Margareli Rodriguez	NA	Denial of Certification	9/22/2009



The Board and Board Staff would like to take a moment to thank Joni Kalis for her eight years of service to the Board and wish her good luck with her future endeavors.



STATE CLOSURES

Due to mandatory state-wide furlough days the Board office will be closed on the following days:

Friday, July 23, 2010

Friday, August 20, 2010

Friday, September 17, 2010

Friday, November 26, 2010

Friday, December 23, 2010

Friday, June 10, 2011

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Kirsten Berdahl, P.T.

Donna Borden, P.T.

Randy Case, P.T.

Peggy Hiller, P.T.

Nushka Remec, P.T.

Sheila Rogan, P.T.

Russell Jaffe, P.T.

Melinda Richardson, P.T.

(Board Member as of March 2010)



CHANGING ADDRESS? CHANGING NAME? DID YOU NOTIFY THE BOARD?

As a reminder, when a licensee or certificate holder has a new business or home address, the change must be made within 30 days of the move to the new location, please do not send a change of address prior to moving or changing jobs. For home and/or business address, the required information includes address and phone number. It is helpful to include the new facility name as well. The change of address form can be downloaded from our website at www.ptboard.az.gov > Publications > Forms.

A change of name requires a copy of the document that changed the name (e.g. marriage license / divorce decree) and the name change form that must be notarized. The name change document is also on our website under Forms.

Confidential information includes home address or home telephone number unless the address or telephone number is the only address or telephone number of record. Also included with public information is an email address. It has been suggested that an individual may wish to have two email accounts, one is private for friends and family, and one is kept on our database as public information.

CONTACT BOARD STAFF

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