NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS

SPRING 2009

Items of Interest

- On-Line License Renewals
- Routine Inspections
- Contacting the Board
- Advertising

Nevada State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

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◆LICENSE RENEWAL 2009 VIA ON-LINE◆

Yes, the Board has implemented on-line renewals! Please refer to the page 4 in this newsletter for the details.

◆MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ◆

The past few months have been quite exciting for the Board! We have relocated to a new office, made great strides to "go green", and we now offer licensure renewal on-line. Although some things have changed, many things stay the same. The Board office takes this opportunity to highlight a few issues for the licensees.

Reporting Changes of Address.
Despite reminders in newsletters, some licensees are not complying with the address change requirement cited in Nevada Administrative Code 640.061. Professional and residential address changes must be made in writing to the Board within 30 days after the change. There are forms available on the Board's website to report your changes in address. Don't delay! A violation of NAC 640.061 results in a fine and costs to the licensee.

Display of Licenses.
Current original licenses (aka renewal certificates) must be displayed at your primary professional address. On August 1, 2009, you are required to post your license with the expiration date of July 31, 2010. Renew early to ensure you have your license to post on August 1, 2009. Failure to do so violates Nevada Revised Statute 640.110.

Contacting the Board Members.
Contact with the Board members must be made through the Board office. It is never appropriate to contact a Board member at work or at home. Although you may know a Board member, contacting that Board member directly can result in the Board member inadvertently violating the Nevada Open Meeting Law. Additionally, the licensee may communicate information to the Board member that will cause the Board member to be removed from hearing a matter before the Board. All licensees and the public are guaranteed equal access to the Board. All communication must be made through the Board office.

Routine Inspections.
Board Inspectors perform routine inspections annually. The inspections may include verifying that the primary professional address of record is accurate, licenses are displayed appropriately, supervision ratios are adhered to, treatments are being made in the medical records within 72 hours, etc. Inspectors are required to report any alleged violation of the Practice Act.

How do I select continuing education courses? Visit the Board at www.ptboard.nv.gov and select the Continuing Ed tab. Licensees are reminded that they must complete Board-approved courses for the annual renewal of their license.

Advertising Guidelines.
Please visit the Board's website for the guidelines in advertising. The Advertising Guidelines tab can be found on the left side of the main page.

Any questions? Please call the Board office or send us an email. We will be happy to help you!

Allison Tresca
Executive Director

◆USE OF PHYSICAL THERAPIST'S ASSISTANTS◆

This topic is one that demands repeating. The Board office receives a high volume of calls on the use of PTAs. ***Reminder: Evaluations and re-evaluations are to be performed only by licensed physical therapists.***

NRS 640.0213 "Physical therapist's assistant" defined. "Physical therapist's assistant" means a person who assists in the practice of physical therapy under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist and who is licensed under the provisions of this chapter. The term is synonymous with "physical therapist assistant."

In this regard, a physical therapist's assistant (PTA) may only use the title PTA when he is working under the supervision of a physical therapist (PT). A PT may only supervise two PTAs, irrespective of the employment status of the PTA (full-time, part-time or per diem). A PTA is considered to be supervised by a PT only when the PT and the PTA complete the Supervision of a Physical Therapist's Assistant form and provide the completed form to the Board office. Upon receipt of the form, Board staff reviews the record of the PT to verify that he can accept the PTA under his license. If he can, the record of the PT and the record of the PTA are updated. If he already has 2 PTA's under his license, Board staff will call the licensees immediately. The supervision form will not be processed unless the PT removes one or more of the PTA's under his license.

If a PTA works in a facility in which he is supervised on a regular basis by more than one PT, it is required that a supervision form be completed by each PT.

If a PT is out due to illness, meeting, appointment or emergency, or a vacation lasting less than 30 days, another staff PT can assume supervision responsibilities without a formal supervision form as long as the PT does not exceed the supervision ratios.

Physical Therapists shall provide for case management and dissemination of any written and oral reports. In that regard, Physical Therapist's Assistants are prohibited from doing so.

NAC 640.592 Supervision of physical therapist's assistant.

1. A physical therapist who supervises a physical therapist's assistant who provides treatment to a patient:

(a) Shall contact the patient initially to evaluate the patient and write a plan of care for that patient.

(b) Shall formulate and document, on the medical record of the patient, the treatment goals and plan of care for the patient based upon the evaluation. This information must be communicated verbally or in writing by the supervising physical therapist to the physical therapist's assistant before initiation of treatment by the physical therapist's assistant.

(c) Must be accessible for communication by telephone during the time that the physical therapist's assistant is treating the patient, if the physical therapist's assistant has at least 2,000 hours of experience as a physical therapist's assistant.

(d) Shall provide the required treatment and reevaluate the patient not less than every seventh day of treatment or within 21 days, whichever occurs first.

(e) Shall provide an evaluation before the patient is discharged, based upon the availability of the patient.

2. A physical therapist who supervises a physical therapist's assistant pursuant to subsection 1 shall make a record of each reevaluation of the patient conducted by the physical therapist in accordance with paragraph (d) of subsection 1. The record must include, but not be limited to:

(a) A functional assessment of the patient;

(b) A review of the daily activities performed by the patient;

(c) A reassessment of the plan of care, including short-term and long-term goals; and

(d) A reassessment of the resources used by the physical therapist's assistant.

◆WEBSITE INFORMATION◆

Have you visited the Board's website lately? The website contains all of the forms needed by licensees, including change of primary professional address form, change of residential address form, verification of supervision of a PTA form, name change, and license verification form. The website also provides Board meeting agendas, Board meeting minutes and the approved courses listing. You can also view information on the meetings held by the Advisory Committee on Continuing Education. Stay informed – visit the website often!

If you have a question about the website, please call the Board office and we will point you in the right direction.

◆BOARD MEETINGS◆

Are you interested in what the Board does? Attend a meeting of the Board. They are open to the public and the Board encourages all licensees to attend. Visit the Board's website or call the Board office for meeting information.

◆REPORTING MALPRACTICE CLAIMS◆

Chapter 690B.250 of Nevada Revised Statutes provides that licensees are required to report to their licensing Board any malpractice settlements in excess of $5,000 within 45 days. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action. Are you in compliance?

◆ETHICS ARE ESSENTIAL◆

Healthcare ethics are unique because licensees deal with people who are vulnerable, many who have been injured. Most of the time they do not know very much about physical therapy until they actually need it, so they are unable to determine good practice. Certainly people have an expectation that healthcare providers are going to rise to a higher level of ethical decision making than the normal public. The consequences of making a bad decision can have life altering, direct consequences.

The *Code of Ethics* of the American Physical Therapy Association sets forth principles for the ethical practice of physical therapy. All physical therapists are responsible for maintaining and promoting ethical practice. To this end, the physical therapist shall act in the best interest of the patient/client.

PRINCIPLE 1
A physical therapist shall respect the rights and dignity of all individuals and shall provide compassionate care.
PRINCIPLE 2
A physical therapist shall act in a trustworthy manner towards patients/clients, and in all other aspects of physical therapy practice.
PRINCIPLE 3
A physical therapist shall comply with laws and regulations governing physical therapy and shall strive to effect changes that benefit patients/clients.
PRINCIPLE 4
A physical therapist shall exercise sound professional judgment.
PRINCIPLE 5
A physical therapist shall achieve and maintain professional competence.
PRINCIPLE 6
A physical therapist shall maintain and promote high standards for physical therapy practice, education, and research.
PRINCIPLE 7
A physical therapist shall seek only such remuneration as is deserved and reasonable for physical therapy services.
PRINCIPLE 8
A physical therapist shall provide and make available accurate and relevant information to patients/clients about their care and to the public about physical therapy services.
PRINCIPLE 9
A physical therapist shall protect the public and the profession from unethical, incompetent, and illegal acts.
PRINCIPLE 10
A physical therapist shall endeavor to address the health needs of society.
PRINCIPLE 11
A physical therapist shall respect the rights, knowledge, and skills of colleagues and other health care professionals.

◆NAME TAGS/BADGES ◆

The Practice Act does not require licensees to wear name tags. However, it is the Board's opinion that clearly identifying yourself via the use of a name tag, badge or embroidered lab coat is in the best interest of your patients and those that may accompany them. The Board suggests the use of your first and last names and your licensure designation. For example: John Smith, Physical Therapist. Unlicensed personnel should also be clearly identifiable.

◆DISCIPLINES◆

The individuals who executed Consent Decrees do not admit that they committed the cited violations. The licensees have entered into agreements to pay a fine plus investigative costs as noted.

Chad Backus, PT #1599
Failure to report unlicensed practice of physical therapist's assistant applicant.
Consent Decree: $500 costs, $1,500 fine
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Andrew Fox, PT #2146
Practicing as Graduate of Physical Therapy at non-approved location; practicing as Graduate of Physical Therapy with non-approved supervisor; practicing as physical therapist without being licensed.
Consent Decree: $500 costs, $250 fine
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Berne Leavitt, PT #0444
Supervised Graduate of Physical Therapy without Board approval.
Consent Decree: $500 costs, $250 fine
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Joseph Morian, PT, #1710
Failure to timely complete notes.
Consent Decree: $500 costs, $250 fine
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Andrew Newren, PT #2113
Failure to timely notify Board of change in residential and Professional addresses.
Consent Decree: $450 costs, $50 fine
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Ronald Smith, PT #1834
Failure to provide supervision to Graduate of Physical Therapy.
Consent Decree: $400 costs, $100 fine
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Judson Underwood, PTA #A-0436
Failure to disclose disciplinary action taken by other licensing jurisdiction on annual renewal form.
Consent Decree: $325 costs, $75 fine
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Jared Jex Woodhouse, PTA #A-0438
Represented self as PTA prior to licensure.
Consent Decree: $500 costs, $1,000 fine

The following individuals failed to timely notify the Board of a change in their professional address. Each licensee entered into a Consent Decree with a fine of $25, costs of $325.

Craig Neal Berman, PT #2048
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Nancy Giovanni, PT #2123
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Michelle Gay Lim, PT #1689
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Joshua Lovato, PT #2163
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Nathan Martinez, PT #2153
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Laurie Nemes, PT #0506

◆ON-LINE LICENSURE RENEWAL ◆

In response to your request for the on-line renewal of licenses, we are pleased to offer on-line renewals this year! The process is simple, fast and secure.

Beginning June 1, 2009, you may visit the Board's website and click on the "2009 Licensure Renewal" tab or go directly to:

https://www.ptboard.nv.gov/renewal/epaylogin.aspx

In order to access your individual renewal form, you will need to enter your license number, last four digits of your social security number and date of birth.

Once you have gained access, you simply follow the provided instructions. (1) Verify your residential and professional addresses, making changes if necessary. (2) Answer the renewal questions. (3) Enter your continuing education courses. (4) Pay via your checking account. Once completed, your information will be processed to the Board. Your current license (aka renewal certificate) will be mailed to your residential address of record in 2-4 business days.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Can multiple licenses renew via one transaction?
No. Due to the fact that you are entering personal information to access your individual licensure record, only one license can be renewed per transaction.

Many employers pay the renewal fees for their employees. This is typically performed by sending in multiple renewal forms with one check covering all of the employees. If your renewal fee is paid for by your employer, it is suggested that the employer directly reimburse you.

Can I pay with my credit card or debit card?
No. At this time, the Board will only accept electronic checks. You enter the routing number and checking account number and the renewal fee will be automatically debited from your checking account.

Is it safe to renew on-line?
Yes. The web site uses industry-standard (Secure Sockets Layer) SSL encryption to protect your privacy online. Secure pages are marked by the lock symbol on your screen. We will not store you checking account information on our database. All personal data is encrypted using industry standards.

Will I receive a receipt?
Yes. Once you have completed the process, you may choose to print a receipt. The Board office will not have access to your personal receipt, so please print a receipt for your records. If your employer reimburses your annual renewal fee or if your accountant requires a receipt, you may use this receipt for these purposes.

I am a PTA working in Nevada and must submit a supervision form to renew. What do I do?
Fax or mail a completed supervision form AFTER you have renewed your license on-line. We will not mail your current license until we receive a supervision form. *Do not send in the supervision form before you renew.*

Will the Board be mailing paper renewal forms?
No. The Board prefers that all licensees take advantage of the on-line renewal system. This system has been created to make renewal easy and secure.

Are paper renewal forms available?
Yes. Upon *written* request, a licensee may obtain a paper renewal form. Please fax or mail in your written request for a paper renewal form. Be sure your request contains your complete name printed legibly, as well as your signature. *The Board office will not accept phone call or email requests for paper forms.* We will mail your renewal form to your residential address of record in 1-3 business days.

I want to renew on-line, but I am not comfortable using a computer. What can I do?
Ask a relative or co-worker to help you. Be certain to ask someone you trust, as you will be entering private information.

How many continuing education units do I need to renew?
The vast majority of licensees require 1.5 units (15 hours) of Board-approved continuing education to renew. No more than .8 units can be obtained from non-clinical courses. Please visit the Board's website to ensure you take only Board-approved courses. Non-approved courses do not count toward your annual requirement.

Can the Board office assist me in the on-line renewal process?
We can certainly answer general questions, however we cannot perform the on-line renewal for you.

What if I don't want to renew my license?
The on-line system allows you to report that you do not intend to renew your license. After entering the system, simply select *"I do not intend to renew my license."* When prompted *"Are you sure?"* click *"OK"*. We would appreciate that information so we can update your record accordingly.

If you were licensed during the past year,
your continuing education requirement was calculated for you and provided with your initial licensure information. We have enclosed a special notice within this mailer specifically for licensees who have a pro-rated amount of units due or were waived based on their graduation date. Please refer to the enclosed document.