

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010

Nevada State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

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BOARD MEMBERS

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Board Inspector

BOARD COUNSEL

Richard I. Dreitzer
Admitted in Nevada and Missouri



◆LICENSE RENEWAL 2010 VIA ON-LINE◆

Yes, you can renew your license on-line! The process was well-received last year with nearly 97% of licensees utilizing the on-line system. Please refer to the page 4 in this newsletter for the details on renewing your license.

◆MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ◆

We at the Board office are grateful to serve the licensees and the public-at-large. As your Executive Director, I am proud to be entering my eleventh year of working for the Board. The Board's licensing assistant, Muriel Morin, has been with Board for almost 3 years. We are happy to answer your questions, direct you to language in the practice act, help you navigate the Board's website or assist in any matter under the purview of this Board. In most instances, if we cannot answer your question, we can direct you to the entity that can. Please, let us know how we can help you!

The Board office takes this opportunity to highlight a few issues for the licensees.

Display of Licenses.

Current original licenses (aka renewal certificates) must be displayed at your primary professional address, accessible to the public. On August 1, 2010, you are required to post your license with the expiration date of July 31, 2011. Renew early to ensure you have your license to post. 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, at home or during a conference, etc. 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.

Board Finances.

Many licensees are concerned about the Board finances due to the budget crisis facing the State of Nevada. We are pleased to report that your Board is financially stable. The Board is independent of the state budget, does not receive taxpayer money, and operates solely on income received from application and renewal fees. These fees have not increased in over 15 years.

Board staff has taken steps to decrease spending and increase productivity wherever possible. These continuous changes have prevented the need to increase our staff or increase fees.

The Board operates on a budget and is required to have financial audits performed to ensure we are following all laws. Financial records are provided and discussed at every meeting of the Board. Come to a Board meeting to learn more.

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

Allison Tresca
Executive Director

◆USE OF PHYSICAL THERAPIST'S ASSISTANTS◆

The Board office receives a high volume of calls regarding the legal use of PTAs. Additionally, many complaints that are filed with the Board allege improper use of a PTA. Ensure your compliance!

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.

When a reevaluation is performed by the physical therapist as required by (1)(d) above, this does not mean the therapist merely counter-signs the documentation recorded by the physical therapist's assistant when the assistant performed the treatment. *The physical therapist must treat the patient as part of his reevaluation of the patient.* A PTA may not perform the reevaluation or treat the patient. The Board inspectors review thousands of patient records as part of the annual inspections. Many of those records reflect the PTA documenting the treatment for a reevaluation, in their handwriting, however the PT co-signed the note and billed for his services. According to Nevada law, this is illegal. A patient scheduled for a reevaluation must be placed on the schedule of the PT, not the PTA. The PT is solely responsible for the care when a reevaluation is required/performed.

◆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? Want to know what really happens? Attend a meeting of the Board. They are open to the public and the Board encourages all licensees to attend and participate. All matters on the agenda allow for public input, so your voice can be heard. 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?

◆REVIEW OF CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES◆

As required by NAC 640.450, courses are reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Continuing Education (ACCE). The ACCE makes recommendations to the Board to grant a specific number of units or to deny the courses. The ACCE is comprised of 7 members and the members meet approximately every 6 - 8 weeks. The meetings are posted to the Board's website and noticed in accordance with Nevada Open Meeting Law. We welcome your attendance and input at these meetings. Please join them and see for yourself how important their role is.

◆PATIENT BILL OF RIGHTS◆

The next page contains a Patient Bill of Rights that was developed based on the calls and complaints the Board office receives. We would appreciate your feedback! Please send us your comments.

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR PERSONS RECEIVING PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES

As the recipient of physical therapy services, you have legal rights to the care you receive. The following are several important provisions concerning the physical therapy services you receive.

- 1) On your first visit, you will be seen by a licensed physical therapist. The therapist must perform an evaluation and develop a plan of care. *You may ask the therapist to view his license, which he is required to post.*
- 2) On further visits, you may be seen by the therapist, a physical therapist's assistant and/or a technician. Physical therapist's assistants are licensed and regulated. *You may ask the assistant to view his license, which he is required to post.*
- 3) Technicians may perform certain limited activities related to physical therapy which have been directed by the physical therapist. The therapist must be immediately available within the treatment area when treatments are performed. *Technicians are not licensed by the Board.*
- 4) You have the right to physical therapy services regardless of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, mental or physical disability or sexual orientation.
- 5) When a physical therapist's assistant is involved in your care, the supervising physical therapist must perform a reevaluation and provide the required treatment not less than every seventh day of treatment or within 21 days, whichever comes first. *You have the right to know who is providing services – ask!*
- 6) Technicians and physical therapist's assistants cannot perform evaluations or reevaluations, nor can they plan the treatment program. These activities must be performed by a licensed physical therapist.
- 7) You have the right to be informed of any risk that may be associated with the proposed treatment of physical therapy.
- 8) Licensees must maintain your records in a secure and confidential manner. Additionally, a licensee must make a record of your treatment within 72 hours of your visit.
- 9) When medical records are requested, the licensee must provide those to you within 5 business days of your written request.
- 10) You have the right to seek care from the therapist of your choice! You are not required to utilize the physical therapist or facility referred to by your physician. Always check with your insurance provider to verify coverage.

Any questions about your physical therapist or physical therapist's assistant?
Visit the Board's website at www.ptboard.nv.gov or call the Board office at 702-876-5535.

◆ON-LINE LICENSURE RENEWAL◆

We are pleased to offer on-line renewals again this year! The process is simple, fast and secure.

Beginning June 1, 2010, you may visit the Board's website and click on the "2010 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 your 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. Please refer to that information for your requirement. If you have misplaced that information, you may make a written request via fax or mail, with signature, and we will call you with 1-3 business days with the information.