

## Licensee Fact Sheet

### PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD

The Physical Therapy Board is appointed by the Governor to act on issues regarding physical therapist licensure standards, enforcement of laws and complaint review. The Board is composed of five physical therapists, one licensed physician, two physical therapist assistants, and three public members.

### TITLE PROTECTION

Nonlicensed individuals are prohibited from using the title "Physical Therapist," "Physiotherapist," "Physical Therapy Technician," "Registered Physical Therapist," "Licensed Physical Therapist," "P.T.," "P.T.T.," "R.P.T.," "L.P.T." or any other words, letters, abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying that the individual is licensed by the state. Nonlicensed individuals holding themselves out as a physical therapist shall be subject to criminal prosecution for the unauthorized practice.

### LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

**US/Canadian Graduates.** To establish eligibility for licensure, an applicant must have successfully completed an accredited physical therapy educational program and have passed an approved licensing exam.

### DIRECTION OF DUTIES

The PT is responsible for all procedures or tasks directed to a PTA or PT Aide.

**PT Assistant.** The PT may direct patient treatment procedures to a qualified PT Assistant (PTA). The PT may not direct the following activities to a PTA or other supportive personnel: initial patient examination and evaluation, development and modification of the plan of care, and initial or final documentation. The PT must observe the treatment by the PTA and document the continued appropriateness of the plan of care at least every six treatment sessions. A PT may supervise no more than two PTAs at any time. The PT is not required to be on site, but must be easily available by telecommunications.

**PT Aide.** A PT may assign selected treatment procedures to a PT Aide. The PT must observe the patient's status before and after the treatment. All tasks must be performed under the direct supervision of a PT who is readily available for advice, instruction, or immediate assistance.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

Each licensed physical therapist and physical therapist assistant must complete at least 20 contact hours of continuing education credit every two years as a condition of licensure renewal. A minimum of 2 of the 20 hours of CE each cycle shall be on professional ethics directly related to the practice of physical therapy. Newly licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants commence their two year cycle on January 1 immediately following the date licensure was granted, and continuing education credits may be accrued during the first partial year in addition to the two full years of licensure. Licensees are required to attest to completion of continuing education by reporting to the Board at renewal time. Continuing education documentation must be retained by each licensee in the event they are selected for an audit.

### PRACTICE REQUIREMENT

Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants must practice 320 hours during the past five years in order to be issued a license, renew, reinstate following a lapse in licensure, or return to active licensure status from inactive status. Alternatively, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants may choose to retake and pass the National Physical

Therapy Exam or complete no less than 320 hours of Board approved supervised clinical practice. The supervised clinical practice length and site must be preapproved by the Board.

#### **RENEWAL CYCLE**

All Minnesota physical therapy (PT & PTA) licenses expire on December 31 of each year. Licensure must be renewed annually before **January 1** of each year. Renewal reminders are sent approximately 45 days prior to expiration. The Board will email the renewal reminder to the sent address on file. Failure to receive the renewal reminder does not relieve the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant of their renewal obligation. It is the licensee's responsibility to keep the Board advised of their current address with written notification within 30 days of any address change.

#### **Address all written correspondence to:**

MN Board of Physical Therapy  
335 Randolph Avenue, Suite 285  
St. Paul, MN 55102

#### **NOTE:**

- All physical therapists practicing in Minnesota have a legal responsibility to comply with the Minnesota Physical Therapy Practice Act:

- o Minnesota Statutes 148.65-148.78
- o Minnesota Rules 5601.0100-5601.3200

The Minnesota Physical Therapy Practice Act can be viewed online at: <https://mn.gov/boards/physical-therapy/board-info/statutes-rules/practice-act/>

#### **Questions**

If you have questions, please contact the Board at: 612-627-5406 (phone) or email the Board at: [physical.therapy@state.mn.us](mailto:physical.therapy@state.mn.us)