



Communiqué

February 2021

333 Guadalupe, Suite 2-510
Austin, Texas 78701

512-305-6900
www.ptot.texas.gov

Inside This Issue

- 1 Display of License/Consumer Info Sign
- 3 Disciplinary Action
- 4 New Qualifying Continuing Competence Activity
- 4 Upcoming PT Board Meetings
- 5 Proposed/Adopted Rules
- 6 Frequently Asked Questions

Physical Therapy Board

Harvey Aikman, PT, Chair
Barbara Sanders, PT, Vice Chair
Liesl Olson, PT, Secretary
Manuel "Tony" Domenech, PT
Melissa Skillern, PT
Kathryn "Kate" Roby, PT
Donivan Hodge, Public Member
Jacob Delgado, Public Member
Glenda Clausell, Public
Member

Next Board Meeting

April 9, 2021
Time and location TBD

Display of License/Consumer Info Sign

With the increased utilization of telehealth, home visits, and other non-traditional modes for the provision of physical therapy services, questions have arisen regarding compliance with PT Rules §337.1. Display of License and §337.2. Consumer Information Sign. In response, the PT Board adopted amendments to the display of license and consumer information sign rules at its January 15, 2021 meeting. The changes to these rules will become effective March 1, 2021.

Display of License - The intent of license display is assurance to the consumer public that individuals who are providing physical therapy are licensed by the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (PT Board). The current rule requires that a licensee display their original license in their principal place of practice, and that reproduction of the original license is authorized for institutional file purpose only.

So how does a licensee who provides physical therapy through telehealth, home visits, or other non-traditional modes make sure they are compliant with the display of license intent?

The amendment requires that licensees who are providing physical therapy services through telehealth, home visits, or other nontraditional modes, provide their patients with information on accessing the board's online license verification system so they can confirm the licensee's legitimacy. At a minimum, an explanation of the intent and furnishing the website address, <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/look-up-a-license>, will meet the requirement.

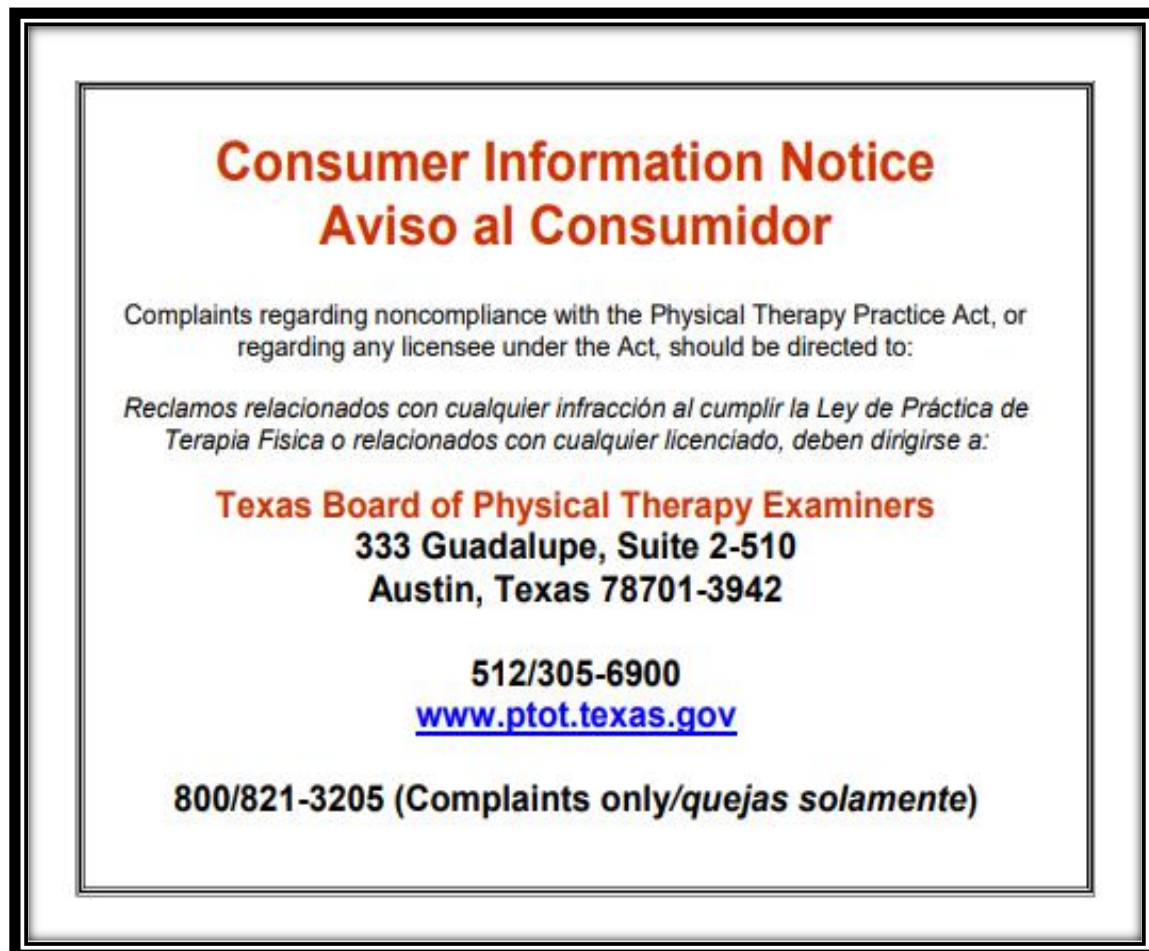
Cont. on pg. 2

Display of License/Consumer Info Sign, cont. from pg. 1

How to accomplish this is up to the discretion of the physical therapist or patient intake coordinator, but the information should be a part of the intake process prior to the physical therapy initial evaluation. Patients already receiving physical therapy treatment should receive the information at their earliest visit on or after March 1, 2021.

A wallet card that can be printed from the Board's online verification system can still be used when making visits where a license cannot be displayed, but because it is not an official document issued directly from the Board and can be easily modified; the licensee still needs to provide information on where to verify an individual's license status.

Consumer Information Sign - Similarly, the intent of displaying the Consumer Information Sign is to provide the consumer public with information as to where complaints for non-compliance with the PT Practice Act/Rules by PTs or PTAs can be directed. The amendment requires that licensees who are not providing physical therapy services in a traditional "brick and mortar" facility where the sign can be prominently displayed for consumer viewing provide information on filing a complaint as described in the sign below.



More information on the adopted amendments from the Board's 1/15/2021 meeting on page 5.

Disciplinary Actions

The following disciplinary actions were ratified at the January 15, 2021 Board Meeting:

- (1) **Riley Quan, PT #1298471 (El Paso)** - practiced with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. **Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.**
- (2) **Todd Piatt, PTA #2036176 (Victoria)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing beyond the scope of PTA license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.**
- (3) **Gabriele Rose, PT #1018067 (Austin)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing beyond the scope of PT license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended license to practice for ninety (90) days.**
- (4) **Elijah St John, PTA #2098353 (Temple)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing beyond the scope of PTA license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. **Board accepted the surrender of license to practice.**
- (5) **Robin George, PTA #2081198 (Richmond)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to supervise and maintain the supervision of supportive personnel. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.**
- (6) **Megan Cox, PTA #2071185 (Hope, AR)** – failed to properly renew license by not meeting the fingerprint requirement. Violation of Section 453.255 of the Act and chapter 341.1 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.**
- (7) **Lee Ann Johnson, PT #1031987 (Tyler)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable prevailing practice by practicing under the influence of alcohol. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended license to practice for forty-five (45) days.**
- (8) **Peter Wayne, PT #1160150 (Houston)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by fraudulently documenting and inaccurately billing for treatment not rendered. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.**
- (9) **Roel Bondoc, PT #1250653 (Victoria)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by fraudulently documenting and inaccurately billing for treatment not rendered. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.**
- (10) **Craig Sanders, PT #1100303 (Dallas)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by fraudulently documenting and inaccurately billing for treatment not rendered. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.**

Disciplinary Action, cont. from pg. 3

- (11) **Brandi Richardson, PTA #2128269 (Seagonville)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by fraudulently documenting and inaccurately billing for treatment not rendered. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.***
- (12) **Victoria Lyons, PT #1301090 (San Antonio)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by fraudulently documenting and inaccurately billing for treatment not rendered. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.***

PT Board Administrative Actions Taken

- (13) **Earl Rice, PT #1132041 (Garland)** - failed to complete the fingerprint requirement pursuant to Section 453.255 of the Act and chapter 341.1 of the board rules. ***Board administratively suspended license to practice.***
- (14) **LariAnne Bowlin, PTA #2095891 (Hot Springs, AR)** - failed to complete the fingerprint requirement pursuant to Section 453.255 of the Act and chapter 341.1 of the board rules. ***Board administratively suspended license to practice.***
- (15) **John Braxton, PTA #2094020 (Rosharon)** - failed to complete the fingerprint requirement pursuant to Section 453.255 of the Act and chapter 341.1 of the board rules. ***Board administratively suspended license to practice.***



New Qualifying Continuing Competence Category

The PT Board adopted an amendment to **§341.3. Qualifying Continuing Competence Activities** that adds **Voluntary Charity Care** as a new category effective March 1, 2021. A licensee will be able to claim CCU credit for providing physical therapy services for no compensation as a volunteer of a charitable organization as defined in §84.003 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

This activity type will be automatically approved and will be assigned a standard approval number. The voluntary charity care must be non-work-related, and proof of voluntary charity care can count toward up to one-half (1/2) of the continuing competence requirement with ten (10) hours of voluntary charity care equal to 1 CCU.

Additional amendments to §341.3 are listed under Adopted Rules on page 5.



Upcoming PT Board Meetings

The following dates have been set for the Board's upcoming quarterly meetings (subject to change):

- April 9, 2021
- July 16, 2021
- October 8, 2021

Whether or not to hold an in-person meeting or a telephonic conference will be determined closer to the meeting date with time and location available online at <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/meeting-dates>.

Proposed/Adopted Rules

The Board took the following rulemaking actions at the January 15, 2021 Board meeting.

Adopted Rules:

§337.1. Display of License - the amendment as adopted requires licensees who provide physical therapy services through telehealth, home visits, or other non-traditional modes to provide information on accessing the board's online license verification system.

§337.2. Consumer Information Sign - the amendment as adopted requires licensees who provide physical therapy services through telehealth, home visits, or other non-traditional modes to provide information on directing complaints regarding non-compliance with the Texas Physical Therapy Practice Act/Rules to the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

§341.3. Qualifying Continuing Competence Activities - the amendments as adopted clarify the documentation required for continuing competence approval of college or university courses in paragraph (2); update language for completion of a residency or fellowship and required hours for mentorship of a resident or fellow to align with the standards set forth by the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education (ABPTRFE) in paragraph (5)(C) and (D); and add paragraph (7) which provides a means for licensees to claim continuing competence credit for engaging in non-work related voluntary charity care.

The text of the amendments is available online at <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/act-and-rules> under PT Adopted Rules.

An updated pdf of the PT Rules that will include the recently adopted rules amendments will be available March 1, 2021 at the above cited web address.

Proposed Rules:

§329.1. General Licensure Requirements - the amendment is proposed to add reference to the definitions of an accredited PT and PTA program; to differentiate between the school transcript requirement for an applicant by exam and an applicant by endorsement; to allow for digital submission of a letter of completion for applicants by exam; and to eliminate the requirement of a letter of completion for an applicant by endorsement if the transcript indicates the date the degree was conferred. The amendment will remove existing barriers to licensure and will improve the efficiency of issuing licenses.

The proposed rules amendment is available at <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/act-and-rules> and will appear in an upcoming edition of the *Texas Register*.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do you have a question regarding the practice of physical therapy in Texas?

The PT Board maintains several sections on its website to help you search out the answer. A pdf of both the current PT Practice Act and PT Rules along with recently proposed and adopted amendments to the Rules are available online at <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/act-and-rules>.

Additionally, the PT Board has compiled answers to frequently asked general and practice questions which are posted at <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/faq>. Categories recently added under the PT Practice FAQs deal with Health, Wellness, & Fitness; Telehealth; and Treatment w/o Referral.

Before picking up your phone and calling with your questions, check the Act/Rules and FAQs pages of the website for the answer.

PT FAQs Process

