



Communiqué

www.ecptote.state.tx.us

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CC Changes Effective July 21, 2010

The Legislature enacted changes to the PT Practice during the last legislative session that allow the Board to take a broader view of how it can encourage licensees to maintain professional competence and what it can allow or require them to do for that purpose. The initial effect of the law change was to require the Board to amend existing rules to reflect terminology changes. Eight rules have been amended to reflect the change from a narrow CE focus to the broader vision of continuing competence (CC) activities. You can find the full text of these rules on the Board's website, in the new full July 2010 issue of the rules.

§323.3, *Powers and Duties of the Board*

§341.1, *Requirements for Renewal*

§341.2, *Continuing Education Requirements (Now Continuing Competence Requirements)*

§341.3, *Qualifying Continuing Education (Now Qualifying Continuing Competence Activities)*

§341.5, *Waiver of Continuing Education Units (Now Waiver of Continuing Competence Units)*

§341.8, *Inactive Status*

§341.9, *Retired Status*

§341.20, *Licensees Called to Active Military Service*

CE – Now a Subset of CC

When you review the changes to §341.3, Qualifying Continuing Competence Activities, you will see that one of the changes the Board made was to establish different categories of activities. The first category of CC activity is Continuing Education (CE). CE includes traditional onsite programs, paper or web-based home-study programs, in-services, and conferences. So when you see a reference to "CE" in the rules, or in other board publications, it is a reference to this particular category of CC activity. The change to the law allows the Board to distinguish between those traditional forms of continuing competence activities and other types of activities that the Board had already recognized but could not appropriately categorize, such as college courses, research articles, internships, fellowships, and specialty exams, and newer types of competence activities such as the Federation of State Board of Physical Therapy's practice review tools.

Hours to Units – No More Conversion

A second important change to the rules affects how CC activity credits are counted. As of July 21, 2010, adding up your CC/CE credits no longer requires multiplying or dividing to turn hours into units or vice versa. Traditionally, the health professions have counted 10 hours as 1 CEU - a 10:1 ratio. Licensees were required to have 3 CEUs (PT) or 2 CEUs (PTA) in a 2-year renewal cycle. The ratio is now 1:1, so that 1 hour equals 1 unit. For example, an 8-hour approved course is worth 8 CCUs. A PT is required to have 30 CCUs for renewal purposes, and PTA is required to have 20 CCUs for renewal. This change was made to simplify the way people refer to the credit given for an activity, but it is also the first step toward a new way of assigning value to the activities you complete.

One thing to keep in mind, however, is that many states and many professions continue to use the 10:1 ratio and use the term CEU when awarding credit. This means that many of the completion certificates issued by national course providers will continue to state that you have completed a course worth a certain number of CEUs. The Board will continue to accept certificates that use the old terminology. To avoid any confusion about what a course is "worth," make sure you pay attention to how the provider expresses the credit awarded. If the certificate grants a certain number of CEUs, multiply that number by 10 for the number of CCUs. If it says your attendance was worth

a specific number of hours, that is exactly the number of CCUs that course is worth. And remember, as always, that verifying a course on the TPTA website is the best and easiest way to know that the course you are taking is approved, and how many CCUs it is worth.

Licensees Ask: License Renewal

Q: How can I tell that the Board has processed my renewal and mailed my renewal card?

A: During the renewal process, you can verify that we have processed your renewal application by checking the expiration date of your license on the license verification page of the Board's website, at http://ecptote.state.tx.us/license/verify_physical_therapist.php. If you renew online, we will receive your transaction from the state's payment center on the next business day, review the information you have submitted, and put your renewal card in the mail - if you have met all of the requirements. On the following day your expiration date will be updated on the website. If your expiration date has not changed on the website within 3 business days of your online renewal, you should contact the Board.

Q: What if I don't get the Board's postcard? Can I renew early?

Don't wait for the postcard – it is a courtesy only. You are responsible for knowing when your license expires, for planning your continuing competency activities accordingly, and for renewing your license in time so that you can practice without missing a beat. Your license expires every two years, at the end of the month in which it was issued. And yes, you can renew your license up to three months early. There is no penalty for renewing early, your expiration date will not change, and that gives you plenty of time to get that renewal certificate up on the wall.

Q: What will keep my renewal from being processed?

A: One fairly common mistake licensees make when renewing is entering a PO Box as the Home Address. If you have a PO Box for mailing purposes, enter it in the optional mailing address fields and we will mail your renewal certificate to that box. But as it now very clearly states in the online instructions, you must have a home address with a physical street location on file with the Board for your renewal to be processed. Even if you pay for your renewal online and receive a transaction receipt, if we do not have a physical address on file you have not completed your renewal and the Board will not complete the processing of your renewal or mail your renewal certificate. Once your license expires, you may not practice until you have completed the renewal process.

Q: Can I renew my license on the basis of continuing competency activities or a continuing education course (CC/CE) I have signed up for but not yet completed?

A: Licensees call the Board occasionally to say that they are planning to take a course that occurs at the very end of their renewal period. They want to know whether they can renew their license before they complete that course. Unfortunately, the requirement is that you COMPLETE all board-approved CC/CE prior to renewing your license. The good news is that you may use a course or activity completed in the last month of your renewal period for the next renewal period. So in two years, you can use that approved CC/CE to meet the requirements.

Q: Can I use my tDPT courses to meet the CC/CE requirements?

A: Yes. However, you must submit a transcript showing that you passed the course you wish to use to the TPTA for approval just as you would any other course or activity. The TPTA will send you an approval letter. If you are audited, send a copy of this letter in with your proof of 2 hours of ethics/professional responsibility coursework or activities. You must do the 2 hours of ethics in addition to the 30 hours of credit you will get for a college course.

Q: Does the jurisprudence exam count toward the ethics/professional responsibility hours I need each time I renew?

A: Absolutely not. The jurisprudence exam is a 20 question, open-book test over the Board's rules. Its purpose is to help you become (and stay) familiar with the rules of practice in Texas. You must take a board-approved ethics and professional responsibility course as part of your continuing competence requirements IN ADDITION to the jurisprudence exam. You can find courses that are already approved at www.tpta.org.



Disciplinary Action Taken by the Board On February 19, 2010, and June 25, 2010

BOARD ACTION FEB. 19, 2010

Practiced with an Expired License

Susan Shryock, PT #1152029 (Arlington) – practiced with an expired license. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board rules. **Board Order required eight (8) hours of community service.**

Marlena Hinojosa, PTA #2051712 (Harlingen) – practiced with an expired license. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board rules. **Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.**

Kendall Darlene Woodall, PTA #2056070 (Sulphur Springs) – practiced with an expired license. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board rules. **Board Order required sixty (60) hours of community service**

Patricia Schwartz, PT #1023968 (Plano) – practiced with an expired license. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board rules. **Board Order suspended her license for forty-five (45) days.**

Failed the CE Audit

Sylvia Benedict, PT #1041333 (Fort Worth) – failed the CE audit; insufficient board-approved hours taken during renewal period. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board rules. **Board Order suspended her license for thirty (30) days.**

Everist Lindsey Ware, PTA #2054783 (Pearland) – failed the CE audit; insufficient board-approved hours taken during renewal period. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board rules. **Board Order suspended her license for thirty (30) days and required she provide the lacking CEUs.**

Inaccurate Documentation

Mary Jane Palasciano, PT #1009819 (Flower Mound) – practiced in a manner detrimental to the public health and welfare by failing to accurately record treatment notes. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board rules. **Board Order suspended her license for thirty (30) days.**

Tanya Trahan-Thornton, PTA #2062981 (Magnolia) – practiced in a manner detrimental to the public health and welfare by failing to accurately record treatment notes. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board rules. **Board**

Order suspended her license for thirty (30) days.

Practiced in an Unregistered Facility

Leonardo Carlito, PT #1139400 (McAllen) – practiced in a manner detrimental to the public health and welfare by providing physical therapy services in a facility that was not properly registered with the board. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board rules. **Board Order required seventy-five (75) hours of community service.**

Drug-related Detrimental Practice

Edward Frenzel, PTA #2038461 (Orange) – practiced in a manner detrimental to the public health and welfare by taking medication from a patient's home without their consent or permission. Violation of §453.351 of the Act. **Board Order suspended his license for thirty (30) days.**

BOARD ACTION JUNE 25, 2010

Practiced with an Expired License

John Reneau, PT #1068286 (Wichita Falls) – practiced with an expired license. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board rules. **Board Order required eight (8) hours of community service.**

Christie Powell, PT #1142511 (Austin) – practiced with an expired license. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board rules. **Board Order suspended her license for thirty (30) days.**

Kimberly Wright, PT #1074318 (Pearland) – practiced with an expired license. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board rules. **Board Order suspended her license for thirty (30) days.**

Julie Torres, PTA #2064590 (Austin) – practiced with an expired license. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board rules. **Board Order suspended her license for forty-five (45) days.**

Failed the CE Audit

Gustavo Negrete, PTA #2051190 (Fort Worth) – failed the CE audit; insufficient board-approved hours taken during renewal period. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board rules. **Board Order required eight (8) hours of community**

service.

Deborah Morris, PT #1032753 (Odessa) – failed the CE audit; insufficient board-approved hours taken during renewal period. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board rules. **Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.**

Carol Bludau, PTA #2031144 (Hallettsville) – failed the CE audit; insufficient board-approved hours taken during renewal period. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board rules. **Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.**

Jose Bernal, PTA #2050969 (Corpus Christi) – failed the CE audit; insufficient board-approved hours taken during renewal period. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board rules. **Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.**

Tina Davis, PTA #2044493 (Montgomery) – failed the CE audit; insufficient board-approved hours taken during renewal period. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board rules. **Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service and the lacking CE hours.**

Donna Salas, PT #1161263 (Spring Branch) – failed the CE audit; insufficient board-approved hours taken during renewal period. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board rules. **Board Order required sixty (60) hours of community service and the lacking CE hours.**

Jessica Thurman, PTA #2055493 (Royse City) – failed the CE audit; insufficient board-approved hours taken during renewal period. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board rules. **Board Order required sixty (60) hours of community service.**

Gloria O’Neal, PTA #2000832 (Houston) – failed the CE audit; insufficient board-approved hours taken during renewal period. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board rules. **Board Order suspended her license for thirty (30) days.**

Angela Lleshi, PTA #2038479 (McKinney) – failed the CE audit; insufficient board-approved hours taken

during renewal period. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board rules. **Board Order suspended her license for forty-five (45) days.**

Boundary Violation

Ruben Martinez, PTA #2032142 (El Paso) – practiced in a manner detrimental to the public health and welfare by engaging in inappropriate conversations with the patient during treatment (conversation unrelated to the plan-of-care); therefore practicing beyond the scope of his license. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board rules. **Board Order suspended his license for thirty (30) days.**

Inaccurate Documentation

Jason Grant, PT #1171959 (Houston) – practiced in a manner detrimental to the public health and welfare by failing to accurately record treatment notes. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board rules. **Board Order suspended his license for forty-five (45) days.**

Practiced in an Unregistered Facility

Ruth Cepak, PT #1019040 (Clifton) – practiced in a facility that was not properly registered with the board. Violation of §453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322 of the Board rules. **Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.**

Melanie Davis George, PT #1026037 (Dallas) – practiced in a manner detrimental to the public health and welfare by using drugs or intoxicating liquors to an extent that affected her professional competence. Violation of §453.351 of the Act. **Board Order suspended her license for thirty (30) days**

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with others who may not have signed
up for eNews!***

If you see something, say something...

Did you know that as a licensee, you are obliged to report violations of the act and rules to the Board or risk being in violation yourself? Call 512/305-6900 or 800/821-3205, or submit an electronic complaint using the form on our website.