



Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board

77 South High Street, 16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108

Governor
Mike DeWine
Executive Director
Missy Anthony

April 17, 2019

Dear Program Directors:

This letter is a follow-up to a communication from the OTPTAT Board that went out in early March regarding a change to the PT and PTA examination application process. The Board has successfully made a transition to the new process, and the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) is now conducting approvals and issuing authorizations to test.

Not surprisingly, we have encountered a few hitches in the process, including a technology glitch with the FSPBT system. These minor issues have been addressed, but they may have resulted in a slight delay in processing testing requests received prior to March 27. If you have any students who believe they should have received an authorization to test but are still waiting, please have them contact us at Board@otptat.ohio.gov to check their status.

One additional note that has been of confusion to students. Under the Board approval process (prior to March 27), we are required to receive a student's Certification of Entry Level Education form in order to give approval to take the Ohio jurisprudence exam. Under the FSBPT alternate approval process, this form is not required. As a result, some students (who registered before March 27) have to wait until their education is complete in order to take the jurisprudence exam, while other students (who registered after March 27) have already received approval. This may be frustrating to students who need to wait. However, this wait will not impact the time it takes to receive a license to practice. Regardless of when the student takes the exam, we still need to receive certification of their education and review the application for processing.

Separately, please note that the Board has promulgated a rule change that will go into effect on May 15, 2019 that sets a minimum age of 18 to be licensed as a PT or PTA. The rules also require, effective January 1, 2020, a student physical therapist and a student physical therapist assistant to be at least 18-years old. This may require a change in your program admission process. These rules were sent out several times for feedback, and the response was largely positive. The change is being made to address liability concerns.

Feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns at 614-466-3474 or missy.anthony@otptat.ohio.gov. You may also contact the Board staff at 614-466-3774 or Board@otptat.ohio.gov. Thank you for your assistance as we work through these policy and process changes.

Sincerely,

Missy Anthony
Executive Director

4755-23-01 **Applications for initial license.**

(A) ~~To receive a license to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant, an applicant shall be at least eighteen years of age.~~

~~(A)~~(B) All applications for initial licensure as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant shall be submitted to the physical therapy section on forms provided by the section. All applications, fees, statements, and other documents so submitted shall be retained by the section.

~~(B)~~(C) Applications shall be:

- (1) ~~Typewritten or printed in ink or Submitted~~ submitted electronically via the Ohio e-license system;
- (2) ~~Signed by the applicant or electronically~~ Electronically signed ~~if applying electronically~~ via the Ohio e-license system;
- (3) Accompanied by the fee prescribed by rule 4755-24-03 of the Administrative Code; and
- (4) Accompanied by such evidence, statements, or documents as specified on the application ~~form and in the instructions from the section.~~

~~(C)~~(D) For the purposes of filing an electronic application via the Ohio e-license system, ~~the board shall supply~~ the applicant will create with a "UserID" and password. The use of the "UserID" and password ~~provided by the board~~ is solely the responsibility of the individual person to whom it is issued ~~and shall be limited to filing an electronic application for initial licensure.~~ The "UserID" and password shall constitute the legally recognized signature for the purposes of this rule and may not be transferred, distributed, or shared with any other person.

~~(D)~~(E) Any application received in accordance with this rule that remains incomplete one year after the initial application filing shall be considered to be abandoned and no further processing shall be undertaken with respect to that application.

- (1) If the application process extends for a period longer than one year, the board may require updated information as it deems necessary.
- (2) No application for licensure may be withdrawn without approval of the board.
- (3) Submitted fees shall be neither refundable nor transferable.

Effective: 5/15/2019

Five Year Review (FYR) Dates: 4/1/2020

CERTIFIED ELECTRONICALLY

Certification

04/04/2019

Date

Promulgated Under: 119.03
Statutory Authority: 4755.411
Rule Amplifies: 4755.42, 4755.421
Prior Effective Dates: 05/26/1978, 09/01/1982, 02/01/1992, 03/20/1998,
05/25/2003, 05/01/2005, 03/20/2008, 05/01/2011

4755-27-01 **Physical therapy practice defined.**

- (A) In accordance with section 4755.48 of the Revised Code, only ~~individuals~~persons licensed by the physical therapy section of the board may imply or claim to be able to practice physical therapy or provide physical therapy services.
- (1) Only ~~individuals~~persons licensed by the physical therapy section may use the words physical therapist, physical therapy, physical therapy services, physiotherapist, physiotherapy, physiotherapy services, physical therapy assistant, physical therapist assistant, physical therapy technician, or other words or insignia indicating or implying that the person is a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.
 - (2) Only ~~individuals~~persons licensed by the physical therapy section may use the letters PT, PhT, PTT, RPT, LPT, MPT, DPT, MSPT, CPT, cPT, PTA, or any other letters or insignia to indicate or imply that the person is licensed to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.
- (B) The practice of physical therapy, as used in Chapter 4755. of the Revised Code, means engaging in physical therapy, as defined in division (A) of section 4755.40 of the Revised Code, including providing consultative services.
- (C) For the purpose of Chapters 4755-21 to 4755-29 of the Administrative Code, the following definitions shall apply:
- (1) "Physical therapist" means an ~~individual~~person who performs the initial examination unless that physical therapist has transferred the responsibility for the management of the patient's care to another physical therapist and that physical therapist agrees to the transfer.
 - (2) "Physical therapist assistant" means an ~~individual~~person holding a valid license under sections 4755.40 to 4755.56 to assist in the provision of physical therapy treatments, including the provision of patient education and instruction under the supervision of a physical therapist.
 - (3) "Other licensed personnel" means any person holding an Ohio license to practice as a health care practitioner in a profession other than physical therapy, and not holding a valid license under sections 4755.40 to 4755.56 of the Revised Code, who is working under the direct supervision of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant, as delegated by the physical therapist, and is performing tasks and duties related to the delivery of physical therapy.
 - (4) "Unlicensed personnel" means any person who is on the job trained and supports the delivery of physical therapy services by personally assisting the physical

therapist, physical therapist assistant, student physical therapist and/or student physical therapist assistant while the physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, student physical therapist, and/or student physical therapist assistant is concurrently providing services to the same patient.

- (5) "Student physical therapist" means a student enrolled in an accredited or candidacy status entry level physical therapist education program who is completing a required clinical education course. Effective January 1, 2020, a student physical therapist shall be at least 18 years old.
- (6) "Student physical therapist assistant" means a student enrolled in an accredited or candidacy status entry level physical therapist assistant education program who is completing a required clinical education course. Effective January 1, 2020, a student physical therapist assistant shall be at least 18 years old.
- (7) "Supervising physical therapist" means the physical therapist who is available to supervise the physical therapist assistant, the student physical therapist or student physical therapist assistant, other licensed personnel, or unlicensed personnel. The supervising physical therapist may be the physical therapist who performed the initial examination or another physical therapist with whom that physical therapist has a formal or informal agreement.
- (8) "Supervising physical therapist assistant" means the physical therapist assistant who is appropriately available to supervise the student physical therapist assistant, other licensed personnel, or unlicensed personnel.
- (9) "Direct supervision" means the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant is in the same building and available to immediately respond to the needs of the patient. The physical therapist or physical therapist assistant shall have direct contact with the patient during each visit.
- (10) "Telehealth" means the use of electronic communications to provide and deliver a host of health-related information and healthcare services, including, but not limited to physical therapy related information and services, over large and small distances.
 - (a) Telehealth encompasses a variety of healthcare and health promotion activities, including, but not limited to, education, advice, reminders, interventions, and monitoring of interventions.
 - (b) If a physical therapy patient is located in Ohio, the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant providing physical therapy services via

telehealth ~~must~~shall hold a valid license under sections 4755.40 to 4755.56 of the Revised Code.

Effective: 5/15/2019
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Prior Effective Dates: 05/26/1978, 08/14/2000, 05/01/2008, 05/01/2013

4755-27-04 **Supervision.**

- (A) The supervising physical therapist is accountable and responsible at all times for the direction of the actions of the persons supervised, including the:
- (1) Physical therapist assistant;
 - (2) Student physical therapist;
 - (3) Student physical therapist assistant;
 - (4) Other licensed personnel; and
 - (5) Unlicensed personnel.
- (B) The supervising physical therapist assistant is accountable and responsible at all times for the direction of the actions of the persons supervised, including the:
- (1) Student physical therapist assistant;
 - (2) Other licensed personnel; and
 - (3) Unlicensed personnel.
- (C) Supervision of the physical therapist assistant.
- (1) In accordance with division (C) of section 4755.40 of the Revised Code, a physical therapist assistant may only be supervised by a physical therapist and may not be supervised by any other person, including those persons licensed to practice in any other profession.
 - (2) Supervision for a physical therapist assistant does not require the supervising physical therapist to be on-site or on location. The supervising physical therapist must be available by telecommunication at all times and able to respond appropriately to the needs of the patient.
- (D) Supervision of the student physical therapist.
- (1) A student physical therapist may only be supervised by a physical therapist licensed pursuant to Chapter 4755. of the Revised Code.
 - (2) A student physical therapist shall be at least eighteen years old to be supervised by a physical therapist licensed pursuant to Chapter 4755 of the Revised Code, effective January 1, 2020.

~~(2)~~(3) The supervising physical therapist is required to be on-site and available to immediately respond to the needs of the patient whenever the student physical therapist is performing patient examinations, evaluations, and interventions.

(E) Supervision of the student physical therapist assistant.

(1) A student physical therapist assistant may only be supervised by a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant licensed pursuant to Chapter 4755. of the Revised Code.

(2) A student physical therapist assistant shall be at least eighteen years old to be supervised by a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant licensed pursuant to Chapter 4755 of the Revised Code, effective January 1, 2020.

~~(2)~~(3) The supervising physical therapist or supervising physical therapist assistant is required to be on-site and available to immediately respond to the needs of the patient whenever the student physical therapist assistant is performing patient interventions.

(F) Supervision of other licensed personnel.

Direct supervision from the supervising physical therapist or supervising physical therapist assistant is required whenever the other licensed personnel is performing patient interventions.

(G) Supervision of unlicensed personnel.

Unlicensed personnel may be supervised by the student physical therapist or student physical therapist assistant who are being supervised in accordance with the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy.

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