

The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy is pleased to announce an adopted rule change to The Administrative Code that will become effective February 4, 2010. This rule is printed in its entirety below.

(The amended portions of this rule are highlighted in yellow.)

1. 700-X-2-.09 Renewal Of License.

(1) Annual Renewal Required. Each license expires on October 1 of the year following its issuance.

(2) Renewal Fee Required. A renewal fee of not to exceed \$100.00 shall be required for annual renewal of license. The renewal fees shall be set from time to time by resolution of the Board.

(3) Continuing Education Required. Successful completion of continuing education shall be a requirement for the renewal of licenses. Licensees will provide documentation of successful completion of continuing education units with license renewals.

(a) General Guidelines

1. Continuing education courses seeking Board approval are courses which:

(i) Maintain, improve or expand skills or knowledge of the practice of physical therapy

(ii) Contribute to the professional competency of the licensee by means of an organized program

(iii) Pertain to common subjects related to the practice of physical therapy

(iv) Are conducted by experts in the subject matter - individuals with special education, training, and experience, and are accompanied by a paper, CD, manual or outline

(v) Have stated program goals/objectives.

2. One contact hour constitutes one fifty-minute clock hour or one-tenth CEU and ten contact hours are equal to one CEU in an organized continuing education experience under responsible sponsorship, capable direction and qualified educators.

3. Components of APTA shall include sections, chapters and accredited school programs. The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy and CLEAR conference programs will be recognized for those involved with licensure.

(b) Requirements

1. Each physical therapist and physical therapist assistant licensed to practice by this Board shall complete for each compliance period, a minimum of ten (10) contact hours from

courses approved by the Board. October 1 through September 30 of the next year shall constitute a compliance period.

2. Continuing education credit may be granted for:

(i) Courses, seminars and workshops which are sponsored by the APTA and/or its components,

(ii) Certificate courses for an advanced specialty,

(iii) APTA individual self-directed studies. Please note that other self-directed studies taught by qualified individuals may be considered.

(iv) University/college courses which apply to the field of physical therapy. Ten contact hours will be awarded for each college semester credit earned with a grade of "B" or above, seven contact hours for each quarter hour.

(v) Courses which are of two or more consecutive contact hours in duration on the same subject matter.

(vi) Practicing licensees who teach continuing education courses that are pre-approved by the Alabama Board for at least two-hours in duration shall be awarded one contact hour for each hour taught.

3. Applicants who are approved for initial licensure between October 1 and December 31 are not required to accrue hours the first licensure period. New graduates will not be required to meet the continuing education requirement for their first renewal.

4. Licensees will be responsible for supplying copies of certificates of completion for approved continuing education courses upon request, in addition to renewal applications and fees.

5. Hours earned by a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in excess of ten (10) hours during a compliance period, may be carried forward into the next compliance period; but, no more than ten (10) hours may be carried forward.

(c) Approval of courses

1. Any individual or organization seeking approval of a course should apply to the Board for approval in advance of the commencement of the activity.

2. An application shall include:

(i) dates of course

(ii) subjects offered

(iii) course outline and objectives

(iv) total hours of instruction

(v) names and qualifications of speakers and instructors

(vi) sponsoring organization or institution

(d) Unacceptable activities for continuing education:

1. Orientation and in-service

2. Courses that are less than two hours in length

3. Meetings for purposes of policy decisions
 4. Non-educational meetings at annual conferences, chapter or organizational meetings
 5. Entertainment or recreational meetings or activities
 6. Committee meetings, holding office, serving as an organizational delegate
 7. Visiting exhibits, poster presentations
- (e) Review of Programs. The Board may monitor or review any continuing education program already approved and, upon evidence of significant variation in the program presented from the program approved, may revoke all or any part of the hours approved.
- (f) Failure to Meet Requirement
1. No license will be renewed in the absence of satisfactory evidence that the required hours have been earned.
 2. The Board may consider exceptions in extenuating circumstances.

Authors: James R. Hobbs, Jr.; Anne H. Harrison; Robert L. Shoemake; Donald L. Hiltz; Janice M. Goodwin; Herbert R. Caillouet; Bernard Harris; Andy Gustafson, John Cormier, Ron Bass, Jay Segal, Mitzi Tuttle, Sonja Enfinger, Vince Molyneux.

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-24-193, 34-24-216.

History: Filed September 30, 1982. **Amended:** Filed November 29, 1989; January 3, 1990; July 7, 1991. **Amended:** Filed June 8, 1994; Effective July 13, 1994. **Amended:** Filed November 2, 2001; effective December 7, 2001. **Amended:** Filed February 4, 2003; effective March 11, 2003. **Amended:** Filed February 2, 2004; effective March 10, 2005. **Amended:** Filed September 6, 2005; effective October 11, 2005.

Amended: Filed December 31, 2009; effective February 4, 2010.

The **Administrative Code** can be located on our website www.pt.alabama.gov under RULES & REGS.

Nettie Katharin Horner
Executive Director
Alabama Board of Physical Therapy
100 N. Union Street, Ste. 724
Montgomery AL 36130-5040
www.pt.alabama.gov
334-242-4064 (phone)
334-242-3288 (fax)