



News Brief

In this brief...

- **Message from the Board President**
- **Continuing Education Updates**
- **Pending Regulatory Actions**
- **Guidance Document Updates**
- **Updates from the Department of Health Professions**
 - **Healthcare Occupational Roadmap**
 - **Virginia Board of Medicine's Emergency Regulations for Opioid Prescribing**
- **Upcoming Board Meetings**

Message from the Board President

William Shakespeare said, " We know what we are, but know not what we may be." As physical therapists, we have the ability to improve and change the lives of others. During that process, we must be sure to fortify ourselves through relaxation, proper nutrition, and exercise so we can continue to provide the best care for our patients. On behalf of my fellow board members and the wonderful staff that supports us, we wish you a very relaxing and productive summer.

Allen R. Jones, Jr. PT, DPT, Board President

Continuing Education Updates

Continuing Education Credit Hours for Volunteer Services – New Regulation Effective May 5, 2017

18VAC112-20-131(B)(2). Continued Competency Requirements for Renewal of an Active License.

B. 2. No more than 10 of the contact hours required for physical therapists and 15 of the contact hours required for physical therapist assistants may be Type 2 activities or courses, which may or may not be offered by an approved organization but which shall be related to the clinical practice of physical therapy. Type 2 activities may include but not be limited to consultation with colleagues, independent study, and research or writing on subjects related to practice. *Up to two of the Type 2 continuing education hours may be satisfied through delivery of physical therapy services, without compensation, to low-income individuals receiving services through a local health department or a free clinic organized in whole or primarily for the delivery of health services.*

Track Continuing Education Hours Using Free aPTitude Program

aPTitude is a free continuing competence resource developed by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT). It is used by physical therapist (PT) and physical therapist assistant (PTA) licensees, providers of continuing competence and continuing education (CC/CE) activities, and state licensing boards.

- **Licensees** can use aPTitude to maintain a record of their continuing education (CE) activities in one place; track their CE requirements and deadlines and completion progress; and search for available CE programs and activities.
- **CE Providers** can use aPTitude to market and list their available CE offerings and receive feedback from PTs and PTAs who participate in their courses or activities.
- **State licensing boards** can use aPTitude to provide information to licensees about CE requirements.

For more information about aPTitude or to register for an account, visit the [aPTitude website](#), or the aPTitude/Continuing Competence page on the [FSBPT website](#).

Pending Regulatory Actions

Practice of Dry Needling

Stage: Proposed

Summary: The intent of the regulatory action is to incorporate into regulation the guidance on dry needling currently found in Guidance Document 112-9, including the additional hours of training, the requirement for a medical referral, and the disclosure to patients on the difference between acupuncture and dry needling.

Status: Public comment period ended February 24, 2017.

Recognition of the oPTion Assessment Tool

Stage: Proposed

Summary: FSBPT has informed member boards that, as of November 30, 2016, it will no longer offer the Performance Review Tool (PRT) and has replaced it with a different assessment tool called oPTion. With the shift to oPTion, the FSBPT has also eliminated the “standard” and replaced it with an assessment report that categorizes the therapist’s performance into level 1-4. The Board will decide whether to replace the PRT with oPTion and, if so, it will need to determine if a specific level of performance will be required for the purpose of licensing therapists who have not been engaged in active practice or for granting credit to licensees for continuing education.

Status: Governor’s Office review in progress.

For more information or updates on these pending regulatory actions, please visit **The Virginia Regulatory Townhall Website** at <http://townhall.virginia.gov>.

Guidance Document Updates

In March, 2017, the Board revised two Guidance Documents:

[112-2 - Board Guidance on the Use of Confidential Consent Agreements](#) (revised March 29, 2017)

[112-22 - Procedures for Auditing Continued Competency Requirements](#) (revised March 29, 2017)

For a complete listing of the Board's Guidance Documents, please visit the Board's website at: http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/PhysicalTherapy/physther_guidelines.htm, or the Virginia Regulatory Townhall website at: <http://townhall.virginia.gov>.

Updates from the Department of Health Professions

Virginia's Healthcare Workforce Data Center Issues Digital Healthcare Occupational Road Map – Featuring the Physical Therapist Assistant

To assist Virginians considering careers to meet the healthcare needs of Virginia's 8 million residents, the Virginia Department of Health Professions' (DHP) Healthcare Workforce Data Center (HWDC) released its [Healthcare Occupational Roadmap](#) to support students

and others with their decision-making process. This digital tool includes overviews of more than ten career paths with modest educational requirements; projected yearly median income ranges of \$30,000 - \$60,000 or more and high job satisfaction rates.

The DHP HWDC Healthcare Occupational Roadmap contains key information about health care careers, including educational requirements, levels of job satisfaction and median income. The Roadmap includes video clips of licensed practitioners, charts and career overviews that support Executive Order 23 to advance regional and statewide information regarding workforce credentialing and educational requirements to meet the demands of Virginia's labor market.

Careers featured include **Physical Therapist Assistant**, as well as Assisted Living Facility Administrator; Nursing Home Administrator; Certified Nurse Aide; Licensed Practical Nurse; Registered Nurse; Dental Hygienist; Pharmacy Technician; Occupational Therapy Assistant; Licensed Radiological Technologist; and Respiratory Therapist.

To read the full news release, click [here](#).



The Virginia Board of Medicine Promulgates Emergency Regulations for Opioid Prescribing - Effective March 15, 2017

In response to the escalating opioid crisis in Virginia – and recently passed [legislation](#) – the Board of Medicine has promulgated regulations on the prescribing of opioids for pain and buprenorphine for treatment of substance abuse. The emergency regulations will remain in effect from March 15, 2017 to March 19, 2018 and will be replaced by permanent regulations during that time. A letter from Dr. William Harp, Executive Director of the Board [summarizes the intent and content of these new regulations](#).

[View Regulations Governing the Prescribing of Opioids and Buprenorphine](#)

[FAQs about the Prescribing of Buprenorphine for Addiction and Opioids for Pain](#)

Upcoming Board Meetings

- **June 29, 2017 (1:00 p.m.)** - Legislative/Regulatory Committee
- **June 29, 2017 (2:00 p.m.)** - Regulatory Advisory Panel – Proposed Dry Needling Regulations
- **August 22, 2017 (9:30 a.m.)** - Board Meeting
- **November 17, 2017 (9:30 a.m.)** - Board Meeting

Be sure to check the Board's website often for updated news and information.

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