

Direct Access



The Board was mandated by the 2006 General Assembly to establish regulations for "direct access". This bill removes the referral and supervision requirements for the practice of physical therapy except in specific instances, such as during invasive procedures. The bill also restricts the practice of "physical therapy" to those licensed by the Board of Physical Therapy. The regulations for

"direct access" have been approved and are effective November 1, 2007; however, the law does not go into effect until April 29, 2008.

You may obtain a copy of the regulations online at www.dhp.virginia.gov

The regulations stipulate an applicant for certification to provide services to patients without a referral shall hold an active, unrestricted license as a physical therapist in Virginia and shall submit evidence satisfactory to the board, that he has one of the following qualifications:

(1.) Completion of a doctor of physical therapy program approved by the American Physical Therapy Association;

or
(2.) Completion of a transitional program in physi-

cal therapy as recognized by the board;

or
(3.) At least three years of post-licensure, active practice with evidence of 15 contact hours of continuing education in medical screening or differential diagnosis, including passage of a post-course examination.

The required continuing education shall be offered by a provider or sponsor listed as approved by the board in the Virginia Board of Physical Therapy regulations and may be face-to-face or on-line education courses. If you would like to apply for the certification you may download the application and checklist from our website and begin applying after November 1, 2007. The effective date of the certification will be April 29, 2008.

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Practicing with an Expired License

Remember it is unlawful to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in Virginia unless you hold a current/active license. The holder of an inactive license or expired license is not entitled to perform any act requiring a license to practice physical therapy in Virginia. A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who holds an inactive license may reactivate the license by paying the difference between the renewal fee for an inactive license and that of an ac-

tive license for the biennium in which the license is being reactivated and provide proof of active practice hours in another jurisdiction equal to those required for renewal of an active license in Virginia.

If the inactive licensee does not meet the requirement for active practice hours the licensee may reactivate the license by completing a 480-hour traineeship under a Virginia licensed physical therapist. A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant whose license expired may renew the

license by paying the late fee along with the renewal fee. A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant seeking reinstatement shall verify active practice of at least 320 hours within the four years immediately preceding applying for reinstatement or successfully complete a 480-hour traineeship under and complete the number of continuing competency hours required for the renewal period in which the license has been expired, not to exceed 60 contact hours.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Board Regulations</i>	2
<i>Continued Education</i>	2
<i>Board Meetings</i>	2
<i>Disciplinary Actions</i>	3
<i>How to file a Complaint</i>	3
<i>HPIP</i>	3
<i>Licensure Renewal</i>	4
<i>Ask the Board</i>	4

Board Regulations

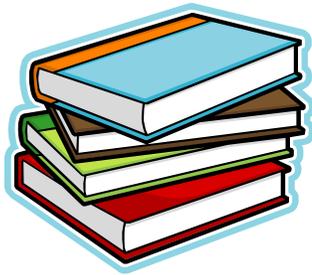


The Board of Physical Therapy is just beginning a regulatory review process. The Board will consider changes to its current regulations. A few proposed revisions are adding new definitions, revising current definitions, amending the requirements for non-American trained applicants and traineeships, amending the requirements for licensure by ex-

amination and by endorsement for American trained applicants, amending reinstatement requirements, inactive licensure, and the general responsibilities for physical therapists. A significant addition to the regulations are requirements for patient records, confidentiality and practitioner-patient communi-

cation, practitioner responsibility, and advertising ethics. The Board reviews its regulations at least every two years to ensure that the regulations are current with changes in the profession and with the needs of the population it serves. We invite you to participate in the regulatory review process.

Continued Competency Requirements



The Board of Physical Therapy regulations state in order to renew an active license biennially a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant must complete at least 30 contact hours of continuing learning activities within two years immediately preceding renewal. In choosing continuing learning activities or courses, the licensee must consider the following: (i) the need to promote ethical practice, (ii) an appropriate standard of care, (iii) patient safety, (iv) application of new medical technology, (v) appropriate communication with patients, and (vi) knowledge of the changing health care system. A minimum of 15 contact hours are required for physical therapists and

10 of the contact hours are required for physical therapist assistants must be in Type 1 course; for the purpose of this section "course" means an organized program of study, classroom experience or similar educational experience that is directly related to the clinical practice of physical therapy. No more than 15 of the contact hours required for physical therapists and 20 of the contact hours required for physical therapist assistants may be in Type 2 activities or courses. "Type 1" means face-to-face continuing activities offered by an approved organization. "Type 2" means continuing learning activities

which may or may not be offered by an approved organization but must be activities considered by the learner to be beneficial to practice or to continuing learning. Approved providers are listed in the regulation 18VAC 112-20-131. The license must retain continuing competency hours with all supporting documentation for a period of four years following the renewal of an active license. The licensee that is selected in a random audit must provide the completed Continued Competency Activity & Assessment Form provided by the board and copies of hours within 30 days of receiving notification of the audit.

Upcoming Board Meetings

"LOOK AT WHAT
THE BOARD IS
DOING"

The Board of Physical Therapy convenes to discuss general business matters including consideration of regulatory issues as may be presented on the agenda. All meetings, including committee meetings are open to the public; however, a portion of the Board's business may be discussed in Closed Session. Public comment is usually heard at the beginning of each meeting. Persons desiring

to participate in the meeting and requiring special accommodations or interpretive services should contact the Department 804-367-4674 at least 10 days prior to this meeting so that suitable arrangements can be made for an appropriate accommodation. The Department fully complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you are considering attending any of the Board's

meetings please call the board office at 804-367-4674 at least one to two business days prior to the meeting to ensure there have not been any changes to the date, time, or location of the meeting.

Meetings are also posted on the Town Hall's website at www.townhall.virginia.gov

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>
February 15, 2008	9:00 am	Board Meeting	DHP
April 25, 2008	9:00 am	Board Meeting	DHP

Disciplinary Actions

The following list contains decisions for all proceedings conducted from 07/01/2004 through 07/01/2007. You may access these decisions at www.dhp.virginia.gov (select "License Lookup").

<u>Respondent</u>	<u>Order Entered</u>	<u>Action</u>
MEADOR, PTA, Carrie Leigh	09/09/2004	Terms Imposed
PATEL, PTA, Shrikant Lalaji	10/08/2004	Reprimand
MANTZ, PT, Cynthia Joan	12/06/2004	Summary Suspension
GASSLER REAMS, PT, Amy Karen	02/08/2005	Monetary Penalty/ Reprimand/ Terms Imposed
WALER, PTA, Tessa Marie	09/13/2005	Reinstatement Granted/Terms
COPLEY, PTA, James Thomas	09/13/2005	License Granted
BOWERS, PTA Joseph Martin	01/23/2006	Reprimand/Terms Imposed
FLOREK, PT, Dawn Michele	02/10/2006	Terms Imposed
WEBRIGHT, PT, William George	03/24/2006	Suspension/Dishonored Pmt
MEADOR, PTA, Carrie Leigh	03/24/2006	Terms Terminated
PALANISWAMY, PT, Vijayakumar	07/26/2006	Mandatory Suspension
BARTLEY, PT, Amy Elizabeth	08/18/2006	License Granted/Probation
SHARPE, PT, John Wayne	10/19/2006	Reprimand
SWEENEY, PT Sheila Mary	03/30/2007	Suspension
LUK, PT, Samson Chung Sang	04/04/2007	Mandatory Suspension
HOGAN, PT, Michael Patrick	05/02/2007	Suspension/ Renewal Denied
COOK, PTA, Tonya Renee	06/26/2007	Probation/Terms Imposed



How to file a Complaint

The Department of Health Professions receives complaints about healthcare practitioners who may have violated a regulation or law. Complaints for all the licensing and regulatory Boards under the Department's jurisdiction are received and processed by the Enforcement Division. Complaints may be submitted in writing, by telephone, fax, e-mail, in person, or anonymously.

Department of Health Professions
Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Richmond, Virginia 23233-1463
E-mail: enfcomplaints@dhp.virginia.gov

Telephone: 1-800-533-1560
804-367-4612
804-367-4560
804-367-4691
Facsimile: 804-527-4424



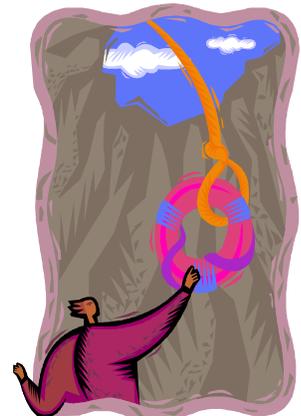
Health Practitioners' Intervention Program

If any health care practitioner has concerns about an impairment affecting himself or herself or another practitioner and would like information concerning the Virginia Health Practitioners' Intervention Program (HPIP), contact may be made with the program as listed:

Virginia Health Practitioners' Intervention Program
700 East Franklin Street
Suite 300 Tower
Richmond, Virginia 23219
804-828-1551 or Toll free at
866-206-4747

Copies of the statutes and regulations governing the Health Practitioners' Program are available from the Virginia Department of

Health Professions.
Ms. Peggy Wood, Intervention Program Manager
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Richmond, Virginia 23233
804-367-4418 or by email at
Peggy.Wood@dhp.virginia.gov



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Board of Physical Therapy
Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive
Suite 300
Richmond, Virginia 23233-1463

Phone: 804-367-4674
Fax: 804-527-4413
E-mail: PT Board@dhp.virginia.gov

Licensure Renewal

Licensees have the option of renewing online at www.dhp.virginia.gov. To access this feature you must have a PIN number, which is provided in the renewal notice; for security reasons PIN numbers are not issued over the phone. If you have lost your PIN number you may request a new temporary PIN at <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/mylicense/requestpass.htm>. You will need to complete all of the sections on the webpage and hit Submit Request. A new temporary PIN number will be sent to the address of record by U.S. postal mail. You should allow 7 to 10 business days for receipt of the new temporary

PIN number. If you believe that your address of record is incorrect please contact the board office to update our records. All address changes must be in writing, you may e-mail your address change to PTBoard@dhp.virginia.gov or fax to 804-527-4413, or you mail the change to the board's address.

The Department of Health Professions will mail a renewal notice to the licensee outlining the procedures for renewal.

Failure to receive the renewal notice, however, shall not relieve the licensee of the obligation to renew the license and maintain the re-

quired continuing education hours.

If a license holder fails to receive the renewal notice, a copy of the old license may be submitted as evidence of intent to renew, along with a statement indicating compliance with the required continuing education hours in addition to with the required renewal fee.



Ask the Board



Q: Must I be present in order to provide direct supervision ?

A. The Virginia Board of Physical Therapy regulations defines direct supervision *a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant is physically present and immediately available and is fully responsible for the physical therapy tasks or activities being*

Q: How do I know if a provider is approved by the Board for my continued competency requirements?

A. Regulation 18 VAC 112-20-131. *Continued competency requirements for renewal of an active license of the Virginia Board of Physical Therapy regulation list the approve providers.*

Q: Is DHP exempted from HIPPA and what happens if I don't comply with a DHP request?

A. Yes, should a representa-

tive of DHP request records, DHP is covered under Federal law 45CFR§164.512(d); DHP is a health oversight agency under HIPAA. Any entity subject to HIPAA may disclose protected health information to DHP for oversight responsibilities authorized by law or otherwise necessary for appropriate oversight of the health care system.

In accordance with the *Code of Virginia* section 54.1-111(9) non-compliance with a request from DHP for records is a misdemeanor and may result in disciplinary actions from the Board. *9. Refusing to process a request, tendered in accordance with the regulations of the relevant health regulatory board or applicable statutory law, for patient records or prescription dispensing records after the closing of a business or professional practice or the transfer of ownership of a business or professional practice. Any person who willfully engages in any unlawful act enumerated in this section shall be guilty of a Class 1*

misdemeanor.

Q: How do I place my license on inactive status?

A. A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant must hold a current, unrestricted license in order to place the license on inactive status. Upon request from the licensee on the renewal application and submission of the required renewal a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant may be issued an inactive license. The licensee of an inactive license is not required to meet the active practice requirements and is not entitled to perform any acts requiring a license to practice physical therapy in Virginia. Please refer to regulation 18 VAC 112-20-135. Inactive license for more information.