

NEWS BRIEF

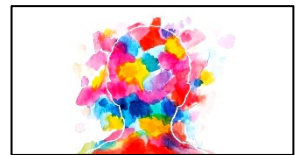
DECEMBER 2021

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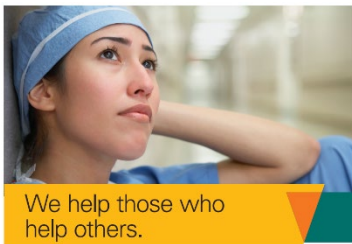
Mental Health and Substance Use Diagnosis – Support and Awareness for Licensees

Mental health includes emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices.



Healthcare practitioners licensed by the Department of Health Professions (DHP) have faced numerous challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, including some who have struggled with their own mental health or substance use diagnosis. DHP wants to ensure that those struggling with these issues have somewhere to turn for assistance.

Part of the mission of DHP and its licensing boards is to protect the public from impaired practitioners and other healthcare providers who may not be safe to practice due to mental health issues. DHP, with the [Board of Physical Therapy](#), wants to ensure that all of its licensees are safe to practice and supports mental health treatment. A healthier, happier healthcare professional is more likely to be safe and effective. Mental health treatment can help accomplish that.



We encourage practitioners to review the DHP Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program (HPMP) information by [clicking here](#). The HPMP is an alternative to disciplinary action for qualified healthcare practitioners with a substance use diagnosis or a mental health or physical diagnosis that may alter their ability to practice their profession safely. HPMP refers healthcare professionals for appropriate treatment and provides ongoing monitoring of treatment progress.

Healthcare professionals that treat other healthcare professionals do have certain reporting requirements in accordance with the Code of Virginia [§ 54.1-2400.7](#). A healthcare professional is required to be reported within 30 days if there is evidence that a licensee may be mentally or physically unable to engage safely in the practice of their profession or if they are a danger to themselves or others.

Although there are certain reporting requirements in place, practitioners should not be discouraged from seeking assistance. **The bottom line is this: Do not be afraid to ask for help; seek help if you need it.**

Fraudulent Communications

The Virginia Board of Physical Therapy has been made aware that some licensees of the Department of Health Professions have received fraudulent communications from individuals claiming to be from regulatory authorities.



Please note:

- Phone calls may “spoof” DHP or a Board and appear to be from our number;
- If you need to verify the identity of a DHP investigator or inspector, call (804) 367-4691 or email enfcomplaints@dhp.virginia.gov;
- DHP will never demand that you provide personally identifying information, such as social security number, date of birth, bank or credit card account numbers over the phone;

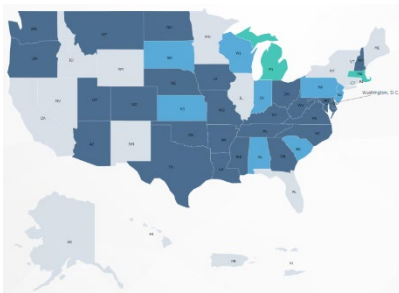
The communications, be they by e-mail, fax, phone or the U.S. Postal Service, may threaten arrest, demand personal information, or require the payment of fines.

The Virginia Board of Physical Therapy will not send such communications. If you believe that you are the recipient of a fraudulent communication claiming to be from the Virginia Board of Physical Therapy, you should refuse the demand and contact the Board of Physical Therapy at (804) 367-4674 or ptboard@dhp.virginia.gov.

Physical Therapy Compact

The purpose of the Compact is to facilitate interstate practice of physical therapy with the goal of improving public access to physical therapy services. This is accomplished by mutual recognition of physical therapist and physical therapist assistant licensure by Compact member states through a system of “Compact privileges”.

A “Compact Privilege” is the authorization to work in a Compact member state other than your home state. To be eligible for a Compact Privilege, you must hold an active PT or PTA license in your home state and meet other eligibility criteria, such as having no disciplinary action against your license for at least two years. When eligibility is verified and all fees are paid, you receive the Compact Privilege and may begin legally working in the other remote state



For more information on the Compact and how the compact privilege process works, please visit the website for the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact at www.ptcompact.org.

Upcoming Board Meetings



- February 15, 2022
- May 8, 2022
- August 9, 2022
- November 3, 2022

DID YOU KNOW...

Licensees can earn up to two (2) hours of Type 2 continuing education hours by attending a Board meeting or disciplinary proceeding?

[Click here](#) for more information

All meetings of the Board take place at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 200, Henrico, Virginia, 23233.

Contact Information

Board of Physical Therapy
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, VA 23233
804-367-4674 – Office
804-939-5973 – Fax
ptboard@dhp.virginia.gov

Website: <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/PhysicalTherapy>