



Louisiana Physical Therapy Board

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PRACTICE ACT

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LOUISIANA PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD PRACTICE ACT

Louisiana Revised Statutes 37:2401 – 37:2425

Chapter 29. Louisiana Physical Therapy Practice Act

PART I. PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

§2401. SHORT TITLE

This Chapter may be cited as the "Louisiana Physical Therapy Practice Act".

§2402. PURPOSE AND INTENT

- A. This Chapter is enacted for the purpose of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare, and to provide for state administrative control, supervision, licensing, and regulation of the practice of physical therapy in Louisiana.
- B. It is the intent of this Chapter that only individuals who meet and maintain prescribed standards of competence and conduct may engage in the practice of physical therapy as authorized by this Chapter. This Chapter shall be liberally construed to promote the public interest and to accomplish the purposes stated herein.

§2403. PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD; COMPOSITION

- A. The Louisiana Physical Therapy Board, hereinafter referred to as the "board", is hereby created within the Louisiana Department of Health. The board shall be domiciled in Lafayette Parish.
- B. The board shall consist of eight members who shall be appointed by the governor as follows:
 - (1) Two members shall be physical therapists who possess an unrestricted license to practice physical therapy and who have been practicing in the state for no less than three years.
 - (2) One member shall be a physical therapist who possesses an unrestricted license to practice physical therapy and has been practicing in the state for no less than three years and shall be appointed from a list of names submitted by the Louisiana Hospital Association.
 - (3) Two members shall be physical therapists who possess an unrestricted license to practice physical therapy and have been practicing in the state for no less than three years and shall be appointed from a list of names submitted by the Louisiana Physical Therapy Association.
 - (4) One member shall be a physical therapist assistant who possesses an unrestricted license to assist in the practice of physical therapy as a physical therapist assistant and who has been practicing in the state for no less than three years.
 - (5) One member shall be a physician who possesses an unrestricted license to practice medicine in the state and who specializes in the practice of orthopedic surgery or the practice of physiatry and shall be appointed from a list of names submitted by the Louisiana State Medical Society.
 - (6) One member shall be a consumer selected from the state at large. The consumer member may also apply directly to the office of the governor.
- C. The term of each board member shall be three years; however, initial board appointments may be for less than three years in order to establish staggered terms. Each appointment by the governor shall be submitted to the Senate for confirmation.
- D. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the board shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
- E. The governor may remove any member of the board for misconduct, incompetence, or neglect of duty.
- F. No person shall be appointed to the board if they have served for more than two consecutive three-year terms.
- G.
 - (1) The consumer member shall be selected from the state at large and possess all of the following qualifications:

- a. Is a citizen of the United States and has been a resident of Louisiana for at least one year immediately prior to appointment.
- b. Has attained the age of majority.
- c. Has never been licensed by any of the licensing boards identified in R.S. 36:259(A), nor shall he have a spouse who has ever been licensed by a board identified in R.S. 36:259(A).
- d. Has never been convicted of a felony.
- e. Does not have and has never had a material financial interest in the healthcare profession.

(2) The consumer member shall be a full voting member of the board with all rights and privileges conferred on board members, except that the consumer member shall not participate in the grading of individual examinations.

H. The governor shall ensure that his appointments demonstrate race, gender, ethnic, and geographical diversity.

§2404. BOARD MEETINGS; QUORUM; OFFICERS; COMPENSATION

- A. The board shall meet at least semiannually, on a date and at a time and place as it may designate, which shall include at least a meeting in January of each year to elect a chairman and secretary-treasurer from its membership. All meetings shall be held at the call of the chairman or at a call of a quorum of members upon not less than ten days written notice, unless such notice is waived. The presence of any member at any such meeting of the board shall constitute a waiver of notice thereof by such member. Notice shall comply with the provisions of R.S. 42:19.
- B. Any four members of the board shall constitute a quorum for any business before the board.
- C. Each board or committee member shall be entitled to a per diem of one hundred fifty dollars for attendance at board meetings or other official board approved business or activities, plus reimbursement of actual expenses reasonably necessary for attending board or committee meetings or for representing the board or participating in an official board approved activity. Board employees shall be entitled to reimbursement of actual expenses reasonably necessary for participating in or carrying out an official board approved activity.

§2405. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD; LIMITATION

- A. The responsibility for enforcement of the provisions of this Chapter is hereby vested in the board, which shall have all the powers, duties, and authority specifically granted by or necessary for the enforcement of this Chapter, including:
- (1) Establishing rules and procedures for granting licenses, and the requirements therefor, to persons governed by this Chapter, including imposing limitations as to the number of times an examination may be taken and the conditions upon which reexamination may be had, which conditions shall be determined by the board.
 - (2) Issuing licenses to those possessing the necessary qualifications therefor, and taking appropriate administrative action to regulate the practice of physical therapy in the state.
 - (3) Adopting a seal which shall be affixed to all licenses.
 - (4) Adopting rules necessary for the efficient operation of the board in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.
 - (5) Keeping a record of all meetings of the board.
 - (6) Publishing and making available a register of all persons licensed under this Chapter, including the name and current address of each licensee.
 - (7) Updating its records annually.
 - (8) Establishing by rule the standards of practice.
 - (9)
 - a. Reporting annually to the governor and to the presiding officer of each house of the legislature on the condition of the practice of physical therapy in the state, making recommendations for improvement of the practice of physical therapy or the operation of the board, and submitting a record of the proceedings of the board during the year, together with the names of all physical therapists and physical therapist assistants to whom the board issued licenses during the year.
 - b. The report shall also include the number of complaints received by the Physical Therapy Board regarding allegations of professional sexual misconduct and the status of each complaint.

B. The board may:

- (1) Authorize any member of the board to make any affidavit necessary for the issuance of any injunction or other legal process authorized under this Chapter.
 - (2) Employ counsel to carry out the provisions of this Chapter, if the fees of the counsel and the costs of all proceedings, except criminal prosecutions, are paid by the board out of its own funds.
 - (3) Employ inspectors, special agents, and investigators.
 - (4) Issue subpoenas to require attendance, testimony, and the production of documents to enforce the laws and rules relative to the practice of physical therapy and to secure evidence of violations thereof.
 - (5) Employ an executive director and necessary clerical assistance to carry out the administrative work of the board, fix the compensation thereof, and incur other necessary expenses.
 - (6) Administer oaths in the taking of testimony upon any matters appertaining to the duties of the board.
 - (7) Establish requirements for continuing education by licensees and continuing education course review and approval as the board deems appropriate.
 - (8) Seek injunctive relief to prohibit any person from practicing physical therapy as defined in this Chapter without being licensed as provided herein.
 - (9) Issue cease and desist orders to licensees and other persons or entities who are engaged in any activity, conduct, or practice constituting a violation of any provision of this Chapter or board rule. As to licensees, in addition to the injunctive relief provided for in this Chapter, the failure to comply with a cease and desist order may also be made the basis of disciplinary action.
 - (10) Conduct disciplinary proceedings pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act and impose sanctions on the practice of licensees who have violated this Chapter, the rules of the board, or standards of practice. Sanctions may be imposed by means of voluntary consent orders or by decisions of the board.
 - (11) Require that all costs of board proceedings relating to a specific disciplinary case, including the members' per diem and expenses, the cost of investigators, stenographers, attorney fees, and other reasonably associated costs be reimbursed to the board as a part of a consent order or board decision in that proceeding.
 - (12) Adopt by rule a Patients' Bill of Rights.
 - (13) Appoint licensees or members of the public as Advisory Committee members or to other committees which may be deemed useful in meeting the responsibilities of the board.
 - (14) Adopt by reference all or part of the following codes, guides, and standards of the American Physical Therapy Association: Code of Ethics, Guide for Professional Conduct, Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant, and Guide for Conduct of the Physical Therapist Assistant, except when such are in conflict with this Chapter or the rules of the board.
 - (15) Determine and collect, at the time of new licensure and licensure renewal, a core set of data elements deemed necessary for the purpose of workforce planning. The data elements shall be used to create and maintain a healthcare workforce database. The board may enter into agreements with a private or public entity to establish and maintain the database, perform data analysis, and prepare reports concerning the physical therapy workforce. The board shall promulgate rules to perform duties pursuant to this Paragraph.
- C. The board shall not have authority to expand the practice of physical therapy.
- D. The Board shall:
- (1) Submit to a review of its disciplinary process and procedures by the state inspector general or by an independent qualified external auditor recommended by the state inspector general at least every five years.
 - (2) Require training of all board members and staff members in effective communication with complainants, particularly members of vulnerable populations who allege mistreatment by licensees.

§2406. IMMUNITY FROM PERSONAL LIABILITY; BOARDS AND OTHERS; CONFIDENTIALITY

- A. There shall be no liability on the part of and no action for damages against:
- (1) Any member of the board, its agents, employees, attorneys, or any member of a committee appointed or designated by the board, for any action undertaken or performed by such person within the scope of the duties, powers, and functions of the board or such committee when such person is acting without malice and in the reasonable belief that the action taken by him is warranted.

- (2) Any person or health care entity providing information or reports to the board, its agents or employees, or to a committee appointed or designated by the board, without malice and in the reasonable belief that such information is accurate, including information or reports required by the provisions of R.S. 37:1745.14. Such immunity from liability shall additionally be in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 37:1745.16.
- B. Information or reports concerning or relating to improper conduct by or the impairment of a licensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant provided to the board or gathered by the board through investigation, including in compliance with the provisions of R.S. 37:1745.14, shall be, in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 37:1745.15, confidential.

§2407. PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY DEFINED

- A. When used in this Chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:
- (1) "Initial physical therapy evaluation" means the physical therapy assessment and resulting interpretation of a patient's condition through use of patient history, signs, symptoms, objective tests, or measurements to determine neuromusculoskeletal and biomechanical dysfunctions to determine the need for physical therapy. The conclusions of such initial physical therapy evaluation may be reported to the patient and may be used to establish treatment goals. The results of an initial physical therapy evaluation or physical therapy consultation shall be reported to the referring or treating physician, dentist, chiropractor, or podiatrist.
 - (2) "Physical therapist" includes equally physiotherapist, physical therapist, and P.T. and is a person who is a graduate of an accredited school of physical therapy, which school, at the time of graduation was approved by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education or the board and who practices physical therapy as defined in this Chapter.
 - (3) "Physical therapist assistant" includes equally physical therapist assistant, physiotherapist assistant, and P.T.A., and is a person who is a graduate of an accredited school of physical therapist assisting, which school, at the time of graduation, was approved by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education or the board. A physical therapist assistant assists in the practice of physical therapy in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter, and works under the supervision of a physical therapist by performing such patient-related activities assigned by a physical therapist which are commensurate with the physical therapist assistant's education, training, and experience.
 - (4) "Physical therapy", noun and adjective, means equally physiotherapy and physical therapy.
 - (5) "Practice of physical therapy" is the health care profession practiced by a physical therapist licensed under this Chapter and means the holding out of one's self to the public as a physical therapist and as being engaged in the business of, or the actual engagement in, the evaluation and treatment of any physical or medical condition to restore normal function of the neuromuscular and skeletal system, to relieve pain, or to prevent disability by use of physical or mechanical means, including therapeutic exercise, mobilization, passive manipulation, therapeutic modalities, and activities or devices for preventative, therapeutic, or medical purposes, and further shall include physical therapy evaluation, treatment planning, instruction, consultative services, and the supervision of physical therapy supportive personnel, including physical therapist assistants.
- B. As used in this Chapter, "physical therapy" does not include the use of roentgen rays and radium, isotopes, and ionizing radiation for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes.
- C. In seeking and receiving reimbursement for services, an initial physical therapy evaluation as defined in this Chapter shall be considered a physical therapy diagnosis and shall not constitute the practice of medicine.
- D. Words used in one gender apply also to the other, except as otherwise clearly indicated by the context.

§2408. LICENSE REQUIRED; LIMITATIONS

- A. No person shall practice, or in any way hold himself out, or designate himself, as a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant unless licensed by the board.
- B. A person employed as a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant by the United States government, or any department, agency, or bureau thereof, shall not be required to obtain a license under the provisions of this Chapter. However, such person may engage in the practice of physical therapy outside the course and scope of such federal employment only after obtaining a license in accordance with this Chapter.
- C. A license issued pursuant to this Chapter does not authorize the diagnosis of disease.

§2409. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSE; PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

To qualify for a license as a physical therapist, an applicant shall:

- (1) Be at least twenty-one years of age.
- (2) Be a citizen of the United States or have obtained legal authority to work in the United States, and have proper documentation evidencing this fact.
- (3) Be of good moral character.
- (4) Have paid all fees required by this Chapter.
- (5) Have graduated from a school of physical therapy, which school, at the time of such graduation, was approved by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education or the board.
- (6) Pass an examination to the satisfaction of the board as provided for in R.S. 37:2414.

§2410. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSE; FOREIGN GRADUATES

A graduate of a school of physical therapy outside of the United States may qualify for a license as a physical therapist upon compliance with the provisions of R.S. 37:2409(1), (2), (3), (4), and (6) as well as with all of the following provisions:

- (1)
 - a. Provides satisfactory evidence of successful completion of a foreign physical therapy education curriculum that is substantially equivalent to the requirements for physical therapists educated in accredited physical therapy schools located within the United States.
 - b. A graduate of a foreign physical therapy education curriculum shall establish substantial equivalence by presenting documentation satisfactory to the board of the successful completion of all of the following:
 - i. A foreign physical therapy education curriculum accredited by a board-approved accrediting agency containing courses which prepared the applicant to work as a physical therapist and that is recognized by the educational regulatory authority where the school is located.
 - ii. A credential evaluation as directed by the board that determines that the candidate has met uniform criteria for educational requirements as further established by board rule.
 - iii. Any additional education as required by the board.
- (2) Provides proof of identity in the form of a valid drivers license and social security card, passport, as additionally provided by the board.
- (3) Provides documentation satisfactory to the board of verification of any and all professional or trade licenses, certifications, and permits, past or present, held in any country, province, or state, including the United States, as required by the board.
- (4) Achieves a passing score on a board-approved English proficiency examination if the applicant's native language is not English.
- (5) Completes supervised clinical practice requirements as defined by board rule.
- (6) Meets all additional requirements established by board rule.

§2411. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSE; PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

To be qualified for a license as a physical therapist assistant, an applicant shall:

- (1) Be at least nineteen years of age.
- (2) Be of good moral character.
- (3) Have paid all fees required by this Chapter.
- (4) Have graduated from an accredited school of physical therapist assisting, which school, at the time of such graduation, was approved by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education or the board. However, the board shall not require an applicant to have completed a course of training in excess of that required for an associate degree.
- (5) Pass an examination to the satisfaction of the board as provided for in R.S. 37:2414.

§2411.1. PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT; FOREIGN GRADUATES

A graduate of a school of physical therapy assisting outside of the United States may qualify for a license as a physical therapy assistant upon compliance with the provisions of R.S. 37:2411(1), (2), (3), and (5), as well as with all of the following provisions:

- (1)
 - a. Provides satisfactory evidence of successful completion of a foreign physical therapy assistant education curriculum that is substantially equivalent to the requirements for physical therapy assistants educated in accredited physical therapy schools located within the United States.

- b.** A graduate of a foreign physical therapy assistant education curriculum shall establish substantial equivalence by presenting documentation satisfactory to the board of the successful completion of all of the following:
 - i.** A foreign physical therapy assistant education curriculum accredited by a board-approved accrediting agency containing courses which prepared the applicant to work as a physical therapist assistant and that is recognized by the educational regulatory authority where the school is located.
 - ii.** A credentials evaluation as directed by the board that determines that the candidate has met uniform criteria for educational requirements as further established by board rule.
 - iii.** Any additional education as required by the board.
- (2)** Provides indisputable proof of identity as specified by the board.
- (3)** Provides documentation satisfactory to the board of verification of all professional or trade licenses, certifications, and permits, past or present, held in any country, province, or state, including the United States, as required by the board.
- (4)** Achieves a passing score on board-approved English proficiency examinations if the applicant's native language is not English.
- (5)** Completes supervised clinical practice requirements as defined by board rule.
- (6)** Meets all additional requirements established by board rule.

§2411.2. PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT; MILITARY TRAINING

An applicant who has completed a United States armed services program of training not accredited by a national accreditation agency approved by the board may qualify for a license as a physical therapist assistant upon compliance with the provisions of R.S. 37:2411(1), (2), (3), and (5), as well as with both of the following provisions:

- (1)**
 - a.** Provides satisfactory evidence of successful completion of a United States armed services program of training that is substantially equivalent to the requirements for physical therapist assistants educated in an accredited entry-level program as determined by the board.
 - b.** A physical therapist assistant trained in the United States armed services shall establish substantial equivalence by presenting documentation satisfactory to the board of the successful completion of all of the following:
 - i.** A United States armed services program of training accredited by a board-approved accrediting agency containing courses which prepared the applicant to work as a physical therapist assistant.
 - ii.** A credentials evaluation as directed by the board that determines that the candidate has met uniform criteria for educational requirements as further established by board rule.
 - iii.** Any additional education as required by the board.
- (2)** Meets all additional requirements established by board rule.

§2412. LICENSE RECIPROCITY

In its discretion, the board may waive examination, and may license an applicant who is licensed and in good standing under the laws of another state, territory, or district, if the requirements for licensing of physical therapists or physical therapist assistants were, at the date of licensing therein, substantially equal to the requirements then or subsequently in force in Louisiana, and if the state, territory, or district from whence the applicant comes accords a similar licensing privilege without examination to licensees under this Chapter.

§2413. APPLICATION FOR LICENSE

- A.** An applicant for a license as a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant shall file a written application on forms provided by the board, together with the required license fee. In addition to meeting all other application requirements provided by this Chapter or board rules the applicant shall present evidence satisfactory to the board of his qualifications as required under this Chapter.
- B.** In order to determine an applicant's suitability for licensing, the board may require applicants for initial licensure to furnish a full set of fingerprints to facilitate a criminal background investigation. The board shall submit it to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history background check. The Louisiana State Police shall report the result of the criminal history background check to the board which may use that information to determine the applicant's moral character and suitability for licensing.

- C. In addition to the fees authorized by this Chapter, the board may require the applicant to reimburse the board or the law enforcement agency for the expense of fingerprinting and facilitating the criminal background check.

§2414. EXAMINATION

The board shall provide for the examination of applicants for licensing as physical therapists or physical therapist assistants under such terms and conditions as it may determine. The examination shall test the applicant's knowledge of such subjects as the board may deem useful in determining the applicant's fitness to practice physical therapy and may include demonstrations and written and oral tests.

§2415. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE; UPDATING CONTACT INFORMATION

- A. If an applicant meets the requirements of this Chapter, the board shall issue the applicant a license to practice physical therapy.
- B. Each licensee is responsible for reporting a name change and changes in business and home address, telephone numbers, and e-mail address to the board within thirty days of such change.

§2416. EMERGENCY EXEMPTIONS

No license is required by this Chapter under the following circumstances:

- (1) A physical therapist who is licensed in a jurisdiction of the United States and who enters this state to provide physical therapy during a declared local, state, or national disaster or emergency. This exemption applies for no longer than sixty days following the declaration of the emergency. In order to be eligible for this exemption the physical therapist shall notify the board of his intent to practice within the state.
- (2) A physical therapist licensed in a jurisdiction of the United States who is forced to leave his residence or place of employment due to a declared local, state, or national disaster or emergency and as a result of such displacement seeks to practice physical therapy. This exemption applies for no more than sixty days following the declaration of the emergency. In order to be eligible for this exemption the physical therapist shall notify the board of his intent to practice within the state.
- (3) A physical therapist assistant who is licensed in a jurisdiction of the United States and is assisting a physical therapist engaged specifically in activities related to Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Section.

§2417. LICENSE RENEWAL

- A. A license issued under the provisions of this Chapter shall be renewed by its holder in accordance with the rules of the board.
- B. Any license not renewed in accordance with the rules of the board shall automatically expire at the end of its term, after which the licensee shall not practice in Louisiana.
- C. An expired license may be reinstated upon application to the board by the licensee with a satisfactory explanation for the failure to renew and the payment of both the renewal fee and reinstatement fee. The denial of such application is subject to review by the courts.

§2418. AUTHORITY TO PRACTICE AS A PHYSICAL THERAPIST OR PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

- A. A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant licensed in Louisiana is authorized to practice physical therapy as defined in this Chapter. A physical therapist is responsible for managing all aspects of the physical therapy care of each patient.
- B.
- (1) Without prescription or referral, a physical therapist may perform an initial evaluation or consultation of a screening nature to determine the need for physical therapy and may perform physical therapy or other services provided in Subsection C of this Section.
 - (2)
 - a. For the treatment of a condition within the scope of physical therapy, other than under the circumstances provided for in Subsection C of this Section, a physical therapist may implement physical therapy treatment with or without a prescription or referral of a person licensed to practice medicine, surgery, dentistry, podiatry, or chiropractic if the physical therapist meets one of the following criteria:
 - i. The physical therapist has a doctorate degree in physical therapy from an accredited institution.

- ii. The physical therapist has five years of licensed clinical practice experience.
- b. If, after thirty calendar days of implementing physical therapy treatment pursuant to this Paragraph, the patient has not made measurable or functional improvement, the physical therapist shall refer the patient to an appropriate healthcare provider. The board shall take appropriate disciplinary action against any physical therapist who fails to refer a patient pursuant to this Paragraph.
- (3) No physical therapist shall render a medical diagnosis of a disease.
- (4)
 - a. The provisions of this Section shall not be construed to have any effect on the provisions of R.S. 23:1121 or 1203.1.
 - b. The provisions of this Section shall not be construed to have any effect on the monetary limit provided for in R.S. 23:1142.
- C. Physical therapy services may be performed without a prescription or referral under any of the following circumstances:
 - (1) To a child with a diagnosed developmental disability pursuant to the child's plan of care.
 - (2) To a patient of a home health care agency pursuant to the patient's plan of care.
 - (3) To a patient in a nursing home pursuant to the patient's plan of care.
 - (4) Related to conditioning or to providing education or activities in a wellness setting for the purpose of injury prevention, reduction of stress, or promotion of fitness.
 - (5) To an individual for a previously diagnosed condition or conditions for which physical therapy services are appropriate after informing the health care provider rendering the diagnosis. The diagnosis shall have been made within the previous ninety days. The physical therapist shall provide the health care provider who rendered such diagnosis with a plan of care for physical therapy services within the first fifteen days of physical therapy intervention.
- D. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to create liability of any kind for the health care provider rendering the diagnosis pursuant to Paragraph (C)(5) of this Section for a condition, illness, or injury that manifested itself after such diagnosis or for any alleged damages as a result of physical therapy services performed without a prescription or referral from a person licensed to practice medicine, surgery, dentistry, podiatry, or chiropractic.
- E. Physical therapy services performed without a prescription or referral from a person licensed to practice medicine, surgery, dentistry, podiatry, or chiropractic shall not be construed to mandate coverage for physical therapy services under any health care plan, insurance policy, or workers' compensation plan or circumvent any requirement for preauthorization of services in accordance with any health care plan, insurance policy, or workers' compensation plan.
- F.
 - (1) A person licensed under this Chapter as a physical therapist assistant shall perform treatments only under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The duties assigned to the physical therapist assistant shall be commensurate with the physical therapist assistant's education, training, and experience.
 - (2) Notwithstanding any provision of law or rule to the contrary, the supervision requirements of a physical therapist assistant shall only be the following:
 - a. It is the responsibility of each physical therapist to determine the number of physical therapist assistants he can supervise safely; however, in no case shall the number of individuals supervised by a physical therapist exceed five individuals, nor exceed the following limitations as to supervised personnel:
 - i. No more than four physical therapist assistants or technicians or any combination thereof.
 - ii. No more than two provisional licensees.
 - iii. No more than five students.
 - b. A supervising physical therapist is responsible for and shall participate in the patient's care.
 - c. A supervising physical therapist shall be readily accessible by beeper or telephone and available to the patient by the next scheduled treatment session upon request of the patient or physical therapist assistant.
 - d. A physical therapist assistant's duties shall not include interpretation or implementation of referrals or prescriptions, performance of evaluations, or the determination or major modification of treatment programs.
 - e. A supervising physical therapist shall hold documented conferences with the physical therapist assistant regarding the patient. The physical therapist is responsible for determining the frequency of the conferences consistent with

- accepted standards of practice; however, such conferences shall occur at least every sixth treatment day or every thirty days, whichever occurs first.
- f. A supervising physical therapist shall treat and reassess the patient at least every sixth treatment day or every thirty days, whichever occurs first.
 - g. A supervising physical therapist shall treat the patient for his final treatment session when feasible and write a discharge summary.
- (3) A physical therapist assistant shall in no way hold himself out to be a physical therapist and shall make known to patients his title as a licensed physical therapist assistant.
- (4) Notwithstanding any rule or regulation to the contrary, for the purposes of supervision of physical therapist assistants by a physical therapist, a nursing home as defined by R.S. 40:2009.2(1) shall not be defined as a place of residence or as a home health setting. Any rule or regulation to the contrary shall be null and void. Supervision requirements for a physical therapist assistant performing treatments in a nursing home shall be consistent regardless of whether the patient is in a skilled or non-skilled nursing bed.

§2419. USE OF TITLES AND TERMS; RESTRICTIONS

- A. The board shall determine by rule the appropriate use of professional credentials by licensees.
- B. No person or business entity, its employees, agents, or representatives shall use in connection with that person's name or the name or activity of the business, the words "physical therapy", "physical therapist", "physiotherapy", "physiotherapist", "registered physical therapist", "licensed physical therapist", "doctor of physical therapy", the letters "PT", "DPT", "LPT", "RPT", or any other words, abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying directly or indirectly that physical therapy is provided or supplied, unless such services are provided by or under the direction of a physical therapist licensed pursuant to this Chapter.
- C. No person or business entity shall advertise or otherwise promote another person as being a "physical therapist" or "physiotherapist" unless the individual so advertised or promoted is licensed as a physical therapist under this Chapter. No person or business entity shall offer, provide, or bill any other person for "physical therapy" or "physiotherapy" unless the individual performing those services is licensed pursuant to this Chapter.
- D. A physical therapist assistant shall use the letters "PTA" immediately following his name to designate licensure under this Chapter.
- E. No person shall use the title "physical therapist assistant", the letters "PTA", or any other words, abbreviations, or insignia in connection with that person's name to indicate or imply, directly or indirectly, that the person is a physical therapist assistant unless the person is licensed as a physical therapist assistant pursuant to this Chapter.

§2420. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

- A. After due notice and hearing, the board may refuse to license any applicant, or may refuse to renew the license of any person, or may restrict, suspend, or revoke any license upon proof that the person has:
 - (1) Practiced physical therapy in violation of the provisions of this Chapter, the rules of the board, or standards of practice.
 - (2) Attempted to or obtained a license by fraud or misrepresentation.
 - (3) Committed repeated acts of negligence or incompetence in the practice of physical therapy.
 - (4) Been convicted of a felony in the courts of any state, district, territory, or country. Conviction, as used in this Paragraph, shall include a plea or verdict of guilty, an admission or finding of guilt, or a plea of nolo contendere.
 - (5) Been habitually intemperate or abused controlled dangerous substances as defined by federal or Louisiana law.
 - (6) Had his license to practice physical therapy revoked or suspended, or has had other disciplinary action taken against him, or has had his application for a license refused, revoked, or suspended by the authorities of another state, district, territory, or country.
 - (7) Been found guilty of unprofessional conduct or sexual misconduct, including but not limited to departure from, or failure to conform to, the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing physical therapy practice, in which proceeding actual injury to a patient need not be established.
 - (8) Engaged directly or indirectly in the division, transferring, assigning, rebating, or refunding of fees received for professional service with a referring practitioner or any relative or business associate of that referring practitioner. However, nothing in this Paragraph shall be construed as prohibiting the members of any properly organized business entity recognized by law and comprised of physical therapists from dividing that amount of fees received for professional services among themselves as they determine by contract necessary to defray their joint operating expenses.

- B. Any action of the board taken under this Section shall be subject to notice requirements and hearing, adjudication, and appeal proceedings in accordance with the rules adopted by the board and the Administrative Procedure Act.
- C. Refusal to grant a license for failure to pass the licensing examination required by the board shall not require notice and a hearing.

§2421. VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES

- A. No person shall:
 - (1) Sell or falsely obtain or furnish any physical therapy diploma or license, or aid or abet therein.
 - (2) Practice physical therapy without a lawfully issued, current, and valid license, except as otherwise provided in this Chapter.
 - (3) Use in connection with his name any designation tending to imply that he is a licensed physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant unless duly licensed to practice under the provisions of this Chapter.
- B. Any person who, or legal entity which, commits or assists in the commission of any violation listed in Subsection A of this Section, or any legal entity which knowingly employs a person who engages in, or which legal entity otherwise facilitates or assists in the unlicensed practice of physical therapy shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned for not less than thirty days nor more than six months, or both, and, in addition, a board licensee may have his license restricted, suspended, or revoked by the board. Each violation shall constitute a separate offense, and, for such additional violations, at the discretion of the court, such person or legal entity may be subject to a fine of not less than five hundred dollars or imprisonment of not less than six months, or both.

§2422. CEASE AND DESIST ORDERS; INJUNCTION; ATTORNEY FEES; COSTS

- A. In addition to or in lieu of the criminal penalties or administrative remedies or sanctions provided in this Chapter or board rule, the board may issue an order to any licensee or other person or entity engaged in any activity, conduct, or practice constituting a violation of any provision of this Chapter or board rule, other than a person holding a license as a health care provider from another Louisiana licensing board, directing such person or entity to forthwith cease and desist from such activity, conduct, or practice. Such order shall be issued in the name of the state of Louisiana, under the official seal of the board. With regard to a person licensed as a health care provider by another Louisiana licensing board, notification of suspected violations of this Chapter or of board rules shall be sent to the director of the board which issued a license to that person for review and response to the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board from that licensing board.
- B. If the person or entity to whom the board directs a cease and desist order does not cease and desist the prohibited activity, conduct, or practice within three business days from receipt of such cease and desist order, the board, through its proper officer or agent, may seek and cause to issue in any court of competent jurisdiction and venue a writ of injunction, including a temporary restraining order, enjoining any such person or entity from engaging in the proscribed activity, conduct, or practice.
- C. In a suit for an injunction, the board may demand of the defendant reasonable attorney fees, associated investigative and administrative expenses, and the costs of court. The judgment for attorney fees, expenses, and costs may be rendered in the same judgment in which the injunction is made absolute.
- D.
 - (1) Upon proper showing by the board that such person or entity has engaged in any activity, conduct, or practice prohibited by this Chapter or board rule, the court shall issue a temporary restraining order enjoining the person or entity from engaging in such unlawful activity, conduct, or practice pending the hearing on a preliminary injunction, and, in due course, a permanent injunction shall be issued after a hearing, commanding the cessation of the unlawful activity, conduct, or practice complained of, all without the necessity of the board having to give bond as ordinarily required in such cases.
 - (2) A temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, or permanent injunction issued pursuant to this Section shall not be subject to being released upon bond.
- E. The trial of the proceeding for injunction shall be summary and by the judge without a jury.

§2423. EXEMPTIONS; PROHIBITIONS

- A. This Chapter does not restrict a person licensed under any other law of this state from engaging in the profession or practice for which that person is licensed if that person does not represent, imply, or claim that he is a physical therapist or a provider of physical therapy.
- B. A person who is not licensed as a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant in accordance with this Chapter may be employed in a hospital, institution, clinic, physician's office, or athletic training room to administer treatment under the direction

and supervision of a licensed physician; however, the treatment administered shall not be identified as physical therapy, and further provided that such person administering such treatment shall not hold himself out, nor be held out by others as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.

- C. No provision in this Chapter shall preclude either physical therapists or other health care providers from billing for or being reimbursed for physical medicine procedures, therapy treatments, or physical modalities which they are licensed to perform and which fall within their respective scope of practice.
- D. Physical therapists may not profess to provide "spinal manipulation" or "spinal adjustment" or use these terms for advertising purposes. However, this Chapter shall preclude other health care providers from professing the practice of physical therapy and from the use of the terms "physical therapy", "P.T.", or "physiotherapy" for advertising purposes unless licensed under this Chapter.

§2424. FEES; RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

- A. The board may establish and collect fees, which shall be deposited into the treasury of the board. The fees shall be established by rule adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., and shall not exceed the schedule provided for in Subsections C and D of this Section.
- B. All board expenses and compensation of board members and employees shall be paid out of board funds only, and shall not be charged to the state. The financial records of the board shall be subject to an annual audit.
- C. Fees assessed by the board shall not exceed the following amounts:
 - (1) Application fee \$400.00
 - (2) Reinstatement fee \$200.00
 - (3) Annual license renewal fee \$200.00
 - (4) License verification fee \$ 50.00
 - (5) Duplicate wall license fee \$ 50.00
 - (6) Duplicate wallet license fee \$ 50.00
- D.
 - (1) Fees assessed by the board to a course or activity sponsor for board review of a course or activity of continuing education shall not exceed two-hundred fifty dollars.
 - (2) Fees assessed by the board on a licensee for review of a course or activity of continuing education shall not exceed twenty dollars. This fee shall apply only if a licensee intends to earn continuing education credit for a course or activity in which the sponsor has not sought review or obtained approval by the board.

PART II. PHYSICAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT

§2425. PHYSICAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT; ADOPTION

The Physical Therapy Licensure Compact is hereby recognized and enacted into law and entered into by this state with all states legally joining therein in the form substantially as follows:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this compact is to facilitate interstate practice of physical therapy with the goal of improving public access to physical therapy services. The practice of physical therapy occurs in the state where the patient/client is located at the time of the patient/client encounter. The compact preserves the regulatory authority of states to protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure.

This compact is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- (1) Increase public access to physical therapy services by providing for the mutual recognition of other member state licenses.
- (2) Enhance the states' ability to protect the public's health and safety.
- (3) Encourage the cooperation of member states in regulating multi-state physical therapy practice.
- (4) Support spouses of relocating military members.
- (5) Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative, and disciplinary information between member states.

(6) Allow a remote state to hold a provider of services with a compact privilege in that state accountable to that state's practice standards.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

As used in this compact, and except as otherwise provided, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Active duty military" means full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1209 and 1211.

(2) "Adverse action" means disciplinary action taken by a physical therapy licensing board based upon misconduct, unacceptable performance, or a combination of both.

(3) "Alternative program" means a nondisciplinary monitoring or practice remediation process approved by a physical therapy licensing board. This includes but is not limited to substance abuse issues.

(4) "Compact privilege" means the authorization granted by a remote state to allow a licensee from another member state to practice as a physical therapist or work as a physical therapist assistant in the remote state under its laws and rules. The practice of physical therapy occurs in the member state where the patient/client is located at the time of the patient/client encounter.

(5) "Continuing competence" means a requirement, as a condition of license renewal, to provide evidence of participation in, and/or completion of, educational and professional activities relevant to practice or area of work.

(6) "Data system" means a repository of information about licensees, including examination, licensure, investigative, compact privilege, and adverse action.

(7) "Encumbered license" means a license that a physical therapy licensing board has limited in any way.

(8) "Executive board" means a group of directors elected or appointed to act on behalf of, and within the powers granted to them by, the commission.

(9) "Home state" means the member state that is the licensee's primary state of residence.

(10) "Investigative information" means information, records, and documents received or generated by a physical therapy licensing board pursuant to an investigation.

(11) "Jurisprudence requirement" means the assessment of an individual's knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy in a state.

(12) "Licensee" means an individual who currently holds an authorization from the state to practice as a physical therapist or to work as a physical therapist assistant.

(13) "Member state" means a state that has enacted the compact.

(14) "Party state" means any member state in which a licensee holds a current license or compact privilege or is applying for a license or compact privilege.

(15) "Physical therapist" means an individual who is licensed by a state to practice physical therapy.

(16) "Physical therapist assistant" means an individual who is licensed/certified by a state and who assists the physical therapist in selected components of physical therapy.

(17) "Physical therapy", "physical therapy practice", and "the practice of physical therapy" mean the care and services provided by or under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist.

(18) "Physical Therapy Compact Commission" or "commission" means the national administrative body whose membership consists of all states that have enacted the compact.

(19) "Physical therapy licensing board" or "licensing board" means the agency of a state that is responsible for the licensing and regulation of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

(20) "Remote state" means a member state other than the home state, where a licensee is exercising or seeking to exercise the compact privilege.

(21) "Rule" means a regulation, principle, or directive promulgated by the commission that has the force of law.

(22) "State" means any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States of America that regulates the practice of physical therapy.

SECTION 3. STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPACT

A. To participate in the compact, a state must:

(1) Participate fully in the commission's data system, including using the commission's unique identifier as defined in rules.

- (2) Have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints about licensees.
- (3) Notify the commission, in compliance with the terms of the compact and rules, of any adverse action or the availability of investigative information regarding a licensee.
- (4) Fully implement a criminal background check requirement, within a time frame established by rule, by receiving the results of the Federal Bureau of Investigation record search on criminal background checks and use the results in making licensure decisions in accordance with Section 3(B).
- (5) Comply with the rules of the commission.
- (6) Utilize a recognized national examination as a requirement for licensure pursuant to the rules of the commission.
- (7) Have continuing competence requirements as a condition for license renewal.

B. Upon adoption of this statute, the member state shall have the authority to obtain biometric-based information from each physical therapy licensure applicant and submit this information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a criminal background check in accordance with 28 U.S.C. 534 and 42 U.S.C. 14616.

C. A member state shall grant the compact privilege to a licensee holding a valid unencumbered license in another member state in accordance with the terms of the compact and rules.

D. Member states may charge a fee for granting a compact privilege.

SECTION 4. COMPACT PRIVILEGE

A. To exercise the compact privilege under the terms and provisions of the compact, the licensee shall:

- (1) Hold a license in the home state.
- (2) Have no encumbrance on any state license.
- (3) Be eligible for a compact privilege in any member state in accordance with Sections 4(D), (G), and (H).
- (4) Have not had any adverse action against any license or compact privilege within the previous two years.
- (5) Notify the commission that the licensee is seeking the compact privilege within a remote state(s).
- (6) Pay any applicable fees, including any state fee, for the compact privilege.
- (7) Meet any jurisprudence requirements established by the remote state(s) in which the licensee is seeking a compact privilege.
- (8) Report to the commission adverse action taken by any nonmember state within thirty days from the date the adverse action is taken.

B. The compact privilege is valid until the expiration date of the home license. The licensee must comply with the requirements of Section 4(A) to maintain the compact privilege in the remote state.

C. A licensee providing physical therapy in a remote state under the compact privilege shall function within the laws and regulations of the remote state.

D. A licensee providing physical therapy in a remote state is subject to that state's regulatory authority. A remote state may, in accordance with due process and that state's laws, remove a licensee's compact privilege in the remote state for a specific period of time, impose fines, and/or take any other necessary actions to protect the health and safety of its citizens. The licensee is not eligible for a compact privilege in any state until the specific time for removal has passed and all fines are paid.

E. If a home state license is encumbered, the licensee shall lose the compact privilege in any remote state until the following occur:

- (1) The home state license is no longer encumbered.
- (2) Two years have elapsed from the date of the adverse action.

F. Once an encumbered license in the home state is restored to good standing, the licensee must meet the requirements of Section 4(A) to obtain a compact privilege in any remote state.

G. If a licensee's compact privilege in any remote state is removed, the individual shall lose the compact privilege in any remote state until the following occur:

- (1) The specific period of time for which the compact privilege was removed has ended.
- (2) All fines have been paid.
- (3) Two years have elapsed from the date of the adverse action.

H. Once the requirements of Section 4(G) have been met, the licensee must meet the requirements in Section 4(A) to obtain a compact privilege in a remote state.

SECTION 5. ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL OR THEIR SPOUSES

A licensee who is active duty military or is the spouse of an individual who is active duty military may designate one of the following as the home state:

- A. Home of record.
- B. Permanent change of station (PCS).
- C. State of current residence if it is different than the PCS state or home of record.

SECTION 6. ADVERSE ACTIONS

A. A home state shall have exclusive power to impose adverse action against a license issued by the home state.

B. A home state may take adverse action based on the investigative information of a member state.

C. Nothing in this compact shall override a member state's decision that participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action and that such participation shall remain nonpublic if required by the member state's laws. Member states must require licensees who enter any alternative programs in lieu of discipline to agree not to practice in any other member state during the term of the alternative program without prior authorization from such other member state.

D. Any member state may investigate actual or alleged violations of the statutes and rules authorizing the practice of physical therapy in any other member state in which a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant holds a license or compact privilege.

E. A remote state shall have the authority to:

(1) Take adverse actions as set forth in Section 4(D) against a licensee's compact privilege in the state.

(2) Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and testimony of witnesses, and the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a physical therapy licensing board in a party state for the attendance and testimony of witnesses, and/or the production of evidence from another party state, shall be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure of that court applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before it. The issuing authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other fees required by the service statutes of the state where the witnesses and/or evidence are located.

(3) If otherwise permitted by state law, recover from the licensee the costs of investigations and disposition of cases resulting from any adverse action taken against that licensee.

F. Joint Investigations

(1) In addition to the authority granted to a member state by its respective physical therapy practice act or other applicable state law, a member state may participate with other member states in joint investigations of licensees.

(2) Member states shall share any investigative, litigation, or compliance materials in furtherance of any joint or individual investigation initiated under the compact.

SECTION 7. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PHYSICAL THERAPY COMPACT COMMISSION

A. The compact member states hereby create and establish a joint public agency known as the Physical Therapy Compact Commission:

(1) The commission is an instrumentality of the compact states.

(2) Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the commission is located. The commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

(3) Nothing in this compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity.

B. Membership, voting, and meetings

- (1) Each member state shall have and be limited to one delegate selected by that member state's licensing board.
- (2) The delegate shall be a current member of the licensing board, who is a physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, public member, or the board administrator.
- (3) Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office as provided by the law of the state from which the delegate is appointed.
- (4) The member state board shall fill any vacancy occurring in the commission.
- (5) Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote with regard to the promulgation of rules and creation of bylaws and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the business and affairs of the commission.
- (6) A delegate shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates' participation in meetings by telephone or other means of communication.
- (7) The commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. Additional meetings shall be held as set forth in the bylaws.

C. The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) Establish the fiscal year of the commission.
- (2) Establish bylaws.
- (3) Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws.
- (4) Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the provisions of this compact and the bylaws.
- (5) Promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and administration of this compact. The rules shall have the force and effect of law and shall be binding in all member states.
- (6) Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the commission, provided that the standing of any state physical therapy licensing board to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected.
- (7) Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds.
- (8) Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including but not limited to employees of a member state.
- (9) Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant such individuals appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the compact, and to establish the commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel, and other related personnel matters.
- (10) Accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services, and to receive, utilize, and dispose of the same; provided that at all times the commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety and/or conflict of interest.
- (11) Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve or use, any property, real, personal or mixed; provided that at all times the commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety.
- (12) Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property real, personal, or mixed.
- (13) Establish a budget and make expenditures.
- (14) Borrow money.
- (15) Appoint committees, including standing committees composed of members, state regulators, state legislators or their representatives, and consumer representatives, and such other interested persons as may be designated in this compact and the bylaws.
- (16) Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law enforcement agencies.
- (17) Establish and elect an executive board.
- (18) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this compact consistent with the state regulation of physical therapy licensure and practice.

D. The executive board

The executive board shall have the power to act on behalf of the commission according to the terms of this compact.

- (1) The executive board shall be comprised of nine members:
 - (a) Seven voting members who are elected by the commission from the current membership of the commission.
 - (b) One ex-officio, nonvoting member from the recognized national physical therapy professional association.
 - (c) One ex-officio, nonvoting member from the recognized membership organization of the physical therapy licensing boards.
- (2) The ex-officio members will be selected by their respective organizations.
- (3) The commission may remove any member of the executive board as provided in bylaws.
- (4) The executive board shall meet at least annually.
- (5) The executive board shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (a) Recommend to the entire commission changes to the rules or bylaws, changes to this compact legislation, fees paid by compact member states such as annual dues, and any commission compact fee charged to licensees for the compact privilege.
- (b) Ensure compact administration services are appropriately provided, contractual or otherwise.
- (c) Prepare and recommend the budget.
- (d) Maintain financial records on behalf of the commission.
- (e) Monitor compact compliance of member states and provide compliance reports to the commission.
- (f) Establish additional committees as necessary.
- (g) Other duties as provided in rules or bylaws.

E. Meetings of the commission

- (1) All meetings shall be open to the public, and public notice of meetings shall be given in the same manner as required under the rulemaking provisions in Section (9).
- (2) The commission or the executive board or other committees of the commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting if the commission or executive board or other committees of the commission must discuss:
 - (a) Noncompliance of a member state with its obligations under the compact.
 - (b) The employment, compensation, discipline or other matters, practices or procedures related to specific employees or other matters related to the commission's internal personnel practices and procedures.
 - (c) Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation.
 - (d) Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or sale of goods, services, or real estate.
 - (e) Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person.
 - (f) Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential.
 - (g) Disclosure of information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.
 - (h) Disclosure of investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes.
 - (i) Disclosure of information related to any investigative reports prepared by or on behalf of or for use of the commission or other committee charged with responsibility of investigation or determination of compliance issues pursuant to the compact.
 - (j) Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or member state statute.
- (3) If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to this provision, the commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and shall reference each relevant exempting provision.
- (4) The commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the reasons therefore, including a description of the views expressed. All documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release by a majority vote of the commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

F. Financing of the commission

- (1) The commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.
- (2) The commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue sources, donations, and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services.
- (3) The commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each member state or impose fees on other parties to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the commission and its staff, which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved each year for which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the commission, which shall promulgate a rule binding upon all member states.
- (4) The commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same; nor shall the commission pledge the credit of any of the member states, except by and with the authority of the member state.
- (5) The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the commission.

G. Qualified immunity, defense, and indemnification

- (1) The members, officers, executive director, employees, and representatives of the commission shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to protect any such person from suit and/or liability for any damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

(2) The commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director, employee or representative of the commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities; provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit that person from retaining his or her own counsel; and provided further, that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from that person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.

(3) The commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that such person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

SECTION 8. DATA SYSTEM

A. The commission shall provide for the development, maintenance, and utilization of a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action, and investigative information on all licensed individuals in member states.

B. Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the contrary, a member state shall submit a uniform data set to the data system on all individuals to whom this compact is applicable as required by the rules of the commission, including:

- (1) Identifying information.
- (2) Licensure data.
- (3) Adverse actions against a license or compact privilege.
- (4) Nonconfidential information related to alternative program participation.
- (5) Any denial of application for licensure, and the reason(s) for such denial.
- (6) Other information that may facilitate the administration of this compact, as determined by the rules of the commission.

C. Investigative information pertaining to a licensee in any member state will only be available to other party states.

D. The commission shall promptly notify all member states of any adverse action taken against a licensee or an individual applying for a license. Adverse action information pertaining to a licensee in any member state will be available to any other member state.

E. Member states contributing information to the data system may designate information that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of the contributing state.

F. Any information submitted to the data system that is subsequently required to be expunged by the laws of the member state contributing the information shall be removed from the data system.

SECTION 9. RULEMAKING

A. The commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this Section and the rules adopted thereunder. Rules and amendments shall become binding as of the date specified in each rule or amendment.

B. If a majority of the legislatures of the member states rejects a rule, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the compact within four years of the date of adoption of the rule, then such rule shall have no further force and effect in any member state.

C. Rules or amendments to the rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the commission.

D. Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules by the commission, and at least thirty days in advance of the meeting at which the rule will be considered and voted upon, the commission shall file a notice of proposed rulemaking:

- (1) On the website of the commission or other publicly accessible platform.
- (2) On the website of each member state physical therapy licensing board or other publicly accessible platform or the publication in which each state would otherwise publish proposed rules.

E. The notice of proposed rulemaking shall include:

- (1) The proposed time, date, and location of the meeting in which the rule will be considered and voted upon.
- (2) The text of the proposed rule or amendment and the reason for the proposed rule.
- (3) A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person.
- (4) The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the commission of their intention to attend the public hearing and any written comments.

F. Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the commission shall allow persons to submit written data, facts, opinions, and arguments, which shall be made available to the public.

G. The commission shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing before it adopts a rule or amendment if a hearing is requested by:

- (1) At least twenty-five persons;
- (2) A state or federal governmental subdivision or agency; or
- (3) An association having at least twenty-five members.

H. If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, the commission shall publish the place, time, and date of the scheduled public hearing. If the hearing is held via electronic means, the commission shall publish the mechanism for access to the electronic hearing.

(1) All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing shall notify the executive director of the commission or other designated member in writing of their desire to appear and testify at the hearing not less than five business days before the scheduled date of the hearing.

(2) Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each person who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in writing.

(3) All hearings will be recorded. A copy of the recording will be made available on request.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a separate hearing on each rule. Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the commission at hearings required by this Section.

I. Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close of business on the scheduled hearing date if the hearing was not held, the commission shall consider all written and oral comments received.

J. If no written notice of intent to attend the public hearing by interested parties is received, the commission may proceed with promulgation of the proposed rule without a public hearing.

K. The commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take final action on the proposed rule and shall determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the rulemaking record and the full text of the rule.

L. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule without prior notice, opportunity for comment, or hearing, provided that the usual rulemaking procedures provided in the compact and in this Section shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than ninety days after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this provision, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted immediately in order to:

- (1) Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;
- (2) Prevent a loss of commission or member state funds;
- (3) Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is established by federal law or rule; or
- (4) Protect public health and safety.

M. The commission or an authorized committee of the commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule or amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format, errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be posted on the website of the commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any person for a period of thirty days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the revision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made in writing, and delivered to the chair of the commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision will take effect without further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision may not take effect without the approval of the commission.

SECTION 10. OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AND ENFORCEMENT

A. Oversight

(1) The executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government in each member state shall enforce this compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate the compact's purposes and intent. The provisions of this compact and the rules promulgated hereunder shall have standing as statutory law.

(2) All courts shall take judicial notice of the compact and the rules in any judicial or administrative proceeding in a member state pertaining to the subject matter of this compact which may affect the powers, responsibilities or actions of the commission.

(3) The commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any such proceeding, and shall have standing to intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide service of process to the commission shall render a judgment or order void as to the commission, this compact, or promulgated rules.

B. Default, technical assistance, and termination

(1) If the commission determines that a member state has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this compact or the promulgated rules, the commission shall:

(a) Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other member states of the nature of the default, the proposed means of curing the default, and/or any other action to be taken by the commission; and

(b) Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance regarding the default.

(2) If a state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting state may be terminated from the compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the member states, and all rights, privileges, and benefits conferred by this compact may be terminated on the effective date of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of default.

(3) Termination of membership in the compact shall be imposed only after all other means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be given by the commission to the governor, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature, and each of the member states.

(4) A state that has been terminated is responsible for all assessments, obligations, and liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination, including obligations that extend beyond the effective date of termination.

(5) The commission shall not bear any costs related to a state that is found to be in default or that has been terminated from the compact, unless agreed upon in writing between the commission and the defaulting state.

(6) The defaulting state may appeal the action of the commission by petitioning the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the commission has its principal offices. The prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney fees.

C. Dispute resolution

(1) Upon request by a member state, the commission shall attempt to resolve disputes related to the compact that arise among member states and between member and nonmember states.

(2) The commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.

D. Enforcement

(1) The commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the provisions and rules of this compact.

(2) By majority vote, the commission may initiate legal action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the commission has its principal offices against a member state in default to enforce compliance with the provisions of the compact and its promulgated rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney fees.

(3) The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the commission. The commission may pursue any other remedies available under federal or state law.

SECTION 11. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE AND ASSOCIATED RULES, WITHDRAWAL, AND AMENDMENT

A. The compact shall come into effect on the date on which the compact statute is enacted into law in the tenth member state. The provisions, which become effective at that time, shall be limited to the powers granted to the commission relating to assembly and the promulgation of rules. Thereafter, the commission shall meet and exercise rulemaking powers necessary to the implementation and administration of the compact.

B. Any state that joins the compact subsequent to the commission's initial adoption of the rules shall be subject to the rules as they exist on the date on which the compact becomes law in that state. Any rule that has been previously adopted by the commission shall have the full force and effect of law on the day the compact becomes law in that state.

C. Any member state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the same.

(1) A member state's withdrawal shall not take effect until six months after enactment of the repealing statute.

(2) Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing state's physical therapy licensing board to comply with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of this Act prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

D. Nothing contained in this compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any physical therapy licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a member state and a nonmember state that does not conflict with the provisions of this compact.

E. This compact may be amended by the member states. No amendment to this compact shall become effective and binding upon any member state until it is enacted into the laws of all member states.

SECTION 12. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any party state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any party state, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining party states and in full force and effect as to the party state affected as to all severable matters.

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LOUISIANA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
TITLE 46. PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS
Part LIV. Physical Therapy Examiners

Subpart 1. Licensing and Certification
Chapter 1. Physical Therapists and Physical Therapists Assistants

SUBCHAPTER A:
BOARD ORGANIZATION

§103. BOARD DOMICILE

A. Domicile. The board shall be domiciled in accordance with R.S. 37:2403(A).

§105. MEETINGS

- A. Meetings. Meetings of the board shall be held at least six times a year to transact business. The board shall comply with R.S. 37:2404(A) when scheduling regular meetings, calling special meetings, and providing notice and waivers.
- B. Location. Unless otherwise noticed, board meetings shall be held at the board office. The board may meet at other locations as determined by the board with notice of such location posted at least five days prior to the meeting date. The location of the meeting shall not be changed after such notice is given without reasonable notice of such change provided to all board members and to others who have requested such notification.
- C. Quorum. The number of board members that constitute a quorum for any business before the board will be the number set in R.S. 37:2404(B). A majority vote of those present in a meeting is required for passage of a motion before the board.
- D. Open Meetings. All board meetings and hearings shall be open to the public. The board may, in its discretion and according to R.S. 42:16-17, conduct any portion of its meeting in executive session, closed to the public and may request the participation in such executive session of staff members or others as may be needed for consideration of the business to be discussed in executive session.
- E. Attendance. Board members are expected to attend regularly scheduled meetings, special meetings, open forums and hearings, which may be scheduled in conjunction or separate from regular scheduled meetings. Attendance constitutes active participation in at least 80 percent of the entire meeting. Missing two meetings per year is generally acceptable. Exceptions may be granted by the board for good cause. Notification of an expected absence shall be submitted to the board office as early as possible prior to the commencement of the meeting.
- F. Rules of Order. The most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all proceedings of the board unless otherwise provided by board rules or policy.
- G. Public Comments. A public comment period shall be held during each board meeting and in accordance with R.S. 42:19(D). Persons desiring to present comments shall notify the executive director of the board prior to the beginning of the meeting. However, to assure that an opportunity is afforded to all persons who desire to make comments, the chairman shall inquire at the beginning of the meeting if there are additional persons present who wish to comment. The chairman shall allot the time available for the public comments in an equitable manner among those persons desiring to comment. Each person making public comments shall identify himself and the group, organization, company, or entity he represents, if any.

§107. OFFICERS

- A. The officers of the board shall be a chairman and secretary-treasurer.
- B. The chairman shall preside at all board meetings and shall, when available, represent the board at official functions.

- C. The secretary–treasurer shall act in place of the chairman when the chairman is not present or available.
- D. The secretary–treasurer shall oversee board finances and present financial reports to the board as requested and shall review and advise on board investments as directed by the board.
- E. Term. Officers of the board shall be elected in accordance with the schedule set forth in R.S. 37:2404(A) and shall serve a one-year term or until the election of their successors. An officer elected to a position vacated before the end of its term shall serve only for the remainder of that term.

§109. COMMITTEES

- A. Special Committees. Board committees are working bodies created and appointed by the board to assist in carrying out specific board functions. Such committees shall report to the board with recommendations on those issues which have been delegated to the committee for exploration.
- B. Advisory Committee. The board may appoint an Advisory Committee not to exceed nine members to assist in the review of applicants qualifications for licensure; conduct applicant interviews; review continuing education activities and courses; and other duties deemed necessary by the board.

§111. COMPENSATION

- A. Per Diem and Expenses. Per diem and expenses shall be provided in accordance to and as authorized by R.S. 37:2404(C).

§113. FINANCES

- A. Self Funding. The board shall be a self–sustaining body and shall generate sufficient revenues from fees and assessments to maintain effective and efficient operations.
- B. Administrative Costs. Board orders in disciplinary proceeding may require the respondent to reimburse the board as authorized by R.S. 37:2405(B)11.
- C. Budget. The board shall adopt an annual operating budget at a meeting which will allow timely filing with Division of Administration schedules.
- D. Special Funds. The board may receive and expend funds in addition to its annual or biennial receipts, from parties other than the state, when the following conditions are met.
- E. Such funds are awarded for the pursuit of a specific objective which the board is authorized to accomplish by this Chapter, or which the board is qualified to accomplish by reason of its jurisdiction or professional expertise.
- F. Such funds are expended for the pursuit of the objective for which they are awarded.
- G. Activities connected with or occasioned by the expenditures of such funds do not interfere with the objective performance of the board’s duties and responsibilities, and do not conflict with the exercise of the board’s powers as specified by this Chapter.
- H. Such funds are identified in the budget.
- I. Periodic reports are made to the board concerning the receipt and expenditure of such funds.
- J. Travel Expenses. Board members, committee members and employees shall be entitled to reimbursement in accordance with R.S. 2404(C). The board shall adopt policies to provide guidance to the executive director in determining “reasonable” expenses.

§115. APPLICABLE LAWS AND RULES

- A. Board procedures and operations shall adhere to the Administrative Procedures Act, R.S. 49:950 and following; the Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:11 and following; the Public Records Act, R.S. 44:1 and following; Code of Governmental Ethics R.S. 42:1101 and other state and federal laws to which board activities are subject.
- B. As an active member of the PT Compact, the Board adopts the PT Compact Rules.

§117. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- A. The Board shall appoint an Executive Director to carry out the administrative work of the board and shall designate the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Director in a job description for that position.

§119. AFFILIATIONS

- A. Professional Organizations and Associations. The board may join and pay dues to such professional organizations and associations organized to promote the improvement of standards of practice in physical therapy or to advance and facilitate the operation of the board as an entity. In participating in such organizations or associations, the board may accept reimbursement of conference fees and travel expenses as are available generally to organizational members of those organizations or associations. Any participant who accepts complimentary admission, lodging, or transportation to and from an educational or professional development seminar or conference shall file an affidavit with the Board of Ethics in accordance with R.S. 42:1123(41).

§121. DECLARATORY STATEMENTS

- A. Issuing of Statements. The board may issue a declaratory statement on its own initiative or in response to a request for clarification of the effect of the provisions contained in the Practice Act, R.S. 37:2401 et seq., and/or the board's rules, LAC 46:LIV.Chapter 1 et seq.
- (1) A request for a declaratory statement is made in the form of a letter to the board. The letter shall include, at minimum:
 - a. the name and address of the requester;
 - b. specific reference to the statute or rule and regulation to which the request relates;
 - c. a concise statement of the manner in which the requester is aggrieved by the rule or statute or by its potential application to his concern.
 - (2) The letter shall be considered by the board within a reasonable period of time taking into consideration the complexity of the issues raised and the board's meeting schedule.
 - (3) The declaratory statement of the board in response to the letter shall be in writing and shall be made available on the board website.

SUBCHAPTER B: GENERAL PROVISIONS

§123. DEFINITIONS

- A. As used in this Title, the following terms and phrases, unless specifically defined within the Physical Therapy Practice Act, R.S. 37:2401 et seq., shall have the meanings specified herein.

Active Status — the current state of a license which classifies the licensee as holding a current and valid license and being in good standing.

Administrative Complaint — a sworn statement of allegations prepared by board counsel and filed with the board which includes a statement of the matters asserted and reference the particular Sections of the statutes and rules involved, the filing of which initiates a contested disciplinary proceeding.

American Physical Therapy Association — APTA

Applicant — a person who has applied to the board for a license to engage in the practice of physical therapy in the State of Louisiana.

Applicant Review Committee — the panel designated by board policy to review a license application and attached materials and evidence, including, but not limited to, a criminal history record, and to conduct interviews to examine whether an applicant has presented evidence satisfactory of his qualifications for licensure as required under the Practice Act and board rules and to recommend indicated action on an application. The applicant review committee acts on behalf of the board and shall be composed of one or more board members and the executive director, but may also include one or more advisory committee member(s) and legal counsel.

Application — a written request directed to and received by the board, upon forms approved and supplied by the board, for a license to practice physical therapy in the State of Louisiana, together with all information, certificates, documents, and other materials required by the board to be submitted with such forms.

Board — the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board (formerly the Louisiana State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners) created by R.S. 37:2403 within the Louisiana Department of Health, acting through its members as a body or through its executive director, staff, and agents carrying out the rules, policies and precedents established by the board.

Board Order — a final decision of the board issued in a contested proceeding or in lieu of such proceeding, which may include findings of fact and conclusions of law, separately stated.

CAPTE — the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education

Child or Children — as used in R.S. 37:2418(C)(1), an individual or individuals under the age of 21 years.

Client — recipient of services, advice, education and/or recommendations for activities related to wellness and preventive services including conditioning, injury prevention, reduction of stress, or promotion of fitness.

Clinical Instructor — a PT or a PTA supervising a student pursuing a career in the physical therapy profession.

Clinical Supervisor — a licensed PT or PTA in good standing and selected with approval of the board who directly supervises a CAPTE graduate pending examination holding a provisional license in the clinical environment. A clinical supervisor may directly supervise a foreign-educated physical therapist or foreign-educated physical therapist assistant while completing the period of supervised clinical practice requirements of §331.

Competence — the application of knowledge, skills, and professionalism required to function effectively, safely, ethically and legally within the context of the patient/client role and environment.

Confidentiality — except for the reporting requirements of La. R.S. 37:2425, all records of a PT or PTA who has successfully completed or is actively participating in the non-disciplinary alternative program (CRPTP) set forth herein §357 shall not be subject to public disclosure, and shall not be subject to discovery in legal proceedings except as required by federal and state confidentiality laws and regulations, or order of a Court. However, the records of those participating in the CRPTP will be addressed with their employer as well as with members of the Board and those serving on committees of the Board, as necessary. The records of a PT or PTA who fails to comply with the program agreement or who leaves the program without enrolling in an alternative program in the state to which the practitioner moves, or who subsequently violates the Louisiana Physical Therapy Act or the board rules, shall not be deemed confidential except for those records protected by federal and state confidentiality laws and regulations.

Consent Order — an order of the board that has been contractually entered into by the board and respondent, which shall include, in part, a factual basis for the consent order, the violations of law and rule related to the licensee's conduct, and stipulations which may include revocation, suspension, other restrictions, or any combination thereof as mutually agreed between the parties.

Consultative Services — information, advice, education and/or recommendations provided by a physical therapist with respect to physical therapy.

Contact Hour — 60 minutes of continuing education instruction.

Contested Case — a disciplinary proceeding in which the legal rights, duties, or privileges of a Respondent are to be determined by the board after an opportunity for an adjudicative hearing.

Continuing Education Year — beginning April 1 and ending March 31 of the following year.

Continuous Supervision — observation and supervision of the procedures, functions, and practice by a supervisor who is physically within the same treatment area.

Coursework Tool (CWT) — a tool developed by the FSBPT as a standardized method to evaluate the educational equivalence of non-CAPTE graduates to CAPTE graduates. Each CWT reflects the general and professional educational requirements for substantial equivalence at the time of graduation with respect to a U.S. first professional degree in physical therapy.

Criminal History Record Information — information collected by state and federal criminal justice agencies on applicants and licensees consisting of identifiable descriptions and notations of arrests, detentions, indictments, bills of information, or any formal criminal charges, and any disposition arising therefrom, including sentencing, criminal correctional supervision, and

release, but does not include intelligence for investigatory purposes, nor does it include any identification information which does not indicate involvement of the individual in the criminal justice system.

CWT — see *coursework tool*.

Disciplinary Action — the imposition of a sanction by the board which may include reprimand, probation, suspension, or revocation of a license, and other appropriate requirements.

Discharge Summary — see Documentation Standards, §341.

Documented Conferences — as used in R.S. 37:2418F(2)(e), see Patient Care Conference definition.

Dry Needling — a physical intervention which utilizes filiform needles for the treatment of neuromuscular pain and functional movement deficits. Dry Needling is based upon Western medical concepts and does not rely upon the meridians utilized in acupuncture and other Eastern practices. A physical therapy evaluation will indicate the location, intensity and persistence of neuromuscular pain or functional deficiencies in a physical therapy patient and the propriety for utilization of dry needling as a treatment intervention. Dry needling does not include the stimulation of auricular points.

FEPT — see §135.A.1.

FEPTA — see §135.A.2.

Foreign-Educated Physical Therapist (FEPT) — see §135.A.1.

Foreign-Educated Physical Therapist Assistant (FEPTA) — see §135.A.2.

Foreign Educated PT Applicant — a person whose education as a PT was obtained in a program not accredited by CAPTE.

FSBPT — the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy

Good Moral Character — as applied to an applicant or licensee means the aggregate of qualities evidenced by past conduct, social relations, or life habits, which actually provide persons acquainted with the applicant or licensee a basis to form a favorable opinion regarding his ethics and responsibility to duty. In addition, to achieve and maintain Good Moral Character, an applicant or licensee shall provide accurate, complete and truthful information to the board and shall not, at any time, commit any act or omission which provides a basis for disciplinary actions or violations under R.S. 37:2420 or R.S. 37:2421.

Graduated, Graduation or Graduate — having completed all requirements, including clinical experience, at a CAPTE accredited program for physical therapists or physical therapist assistants. If an educational program certifies that the degree is assured and will be conferred at a later date, an applicant will be considered to have graduated and become a graduate.

HIPDB — Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank, See National Practitioner Databank (NPDB).

Impairment or Impaired — a condition that causes an infringement on the ability of an individual to practice, or assist in the practice, of physical therapy with reasonable skill and safety to patients. Impairment may be caused by, but is not limited to, alcoholism, substance abuse, addiction, mental and/or physical conditions.

In Good Standing — a person who holds a current, valid Louisiana license, who is not subject to a board order or consent order, and whose license is not restricted. The board is the ultimate arbiter of whether a licensee is in good standing.

Inactive — a license status indicating voluntary termination of the right or privilege to practice physical therapy in Louisiana. The board may allow a licensee who is not engaged in the practice of physical therapy in Louisiana to inactivate the license as an alternative to an expired license.

Incompetence — lacking competence, as defined in §123.

Informal Conference — a meeting held pursuant to R.S. 49:961.C with a Respondent and an Investigative Committee of the board to determine whether a disciplinary case should proceed.

Initial Physical Therapy Evaluation — as defined in R.S. 37:2407(A)(1).

Investigative Committee — the panel designated by board policy to investigate complaints and to conduct Informal Conferences in disciplinary matters, typically composed of one or more board members, the executive director, investigator and legal counsel.

Jurisdiction of the United States — any state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any American territory.

Jurisprudence — the body of law applicable to the practice of physical therapy in Louisiana including the Practice Act and the rules promulgated by the board.

Jurisprudence Examination — an open book examination made up of multiple choice and/or true/false questions covering information contained in the Practice Act and board rules.

Legend Drug — any drug intended for use by humans which carries on its label any of the following: "caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without a prescription", "Rx," or "Rx only."

Legend Device — any device intended for use by humans which carries on its label "Rx," "Rx Only," or a statement that federal law restricts the device to sale by or on the order of a licensed healthcare practitioner.

Letter of Concern — is non-disciplinary and notifies the licensee that while evidence found does not merit formal disciplinary action, the board believes that the licensee should become educated about the requirements of the Practice Act and board rules. A letter of concern shall be placed in the permanent record of a licensee following the conclusion of a complaint or upon the granting or renewal of a license. A letter of concern shall not be reportable to NPDB, shall not be published with board disciplinary actions, and shall be deemed confidential pursuant to R.S. 37:2406(B). A letter of concern may be utilized as evidence in subsequent disciplinary actions.

License — the lawful authority of a PT or PTA to engage in the practice of physical therapy in the state of Louisiana, as evidenced by a license duly issued by and under the official seal of the board.

Louisiana Physical Therapy Practice Act — Practice Act

MEPTA — see §135.A.3.

Military-Educated PTA Applicant (MEPTA) — see §135.A.3.

Minimal Standards of Acceptable and Prevailing Physical Therapy Practice — include, but are not limited to, those set forth in the Code of Ethics and related documents of APTA.

Moral Turpitude — baseness, vileness, or dishonesty of a high degree and contrary to community standards of justice, honesty, or good morals.

NPDB — see *national practitioner databank*.

NPTE — see *national physical therapy examination*.

National Physical Therapy Examination — a national examination administered by the FSBPT and approved by the board for the licensure of a physical therapist or the licensure of a physical therapist assistant.

National Practitioner Databank (NPDB) — (formerly the “healthcare integrity and protection data bank” or “HIPDB”) a web-based repository of reports containing information on medical malpractice payments and certain adverse actions related to health care practitioners, providers, and suppliers, preventing practitioners from moving state-to-state without disclosure or discovery of previous damaging performance and promoting quality health care and deterring fraud and abuse within health care delivery systems created by the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986 (HCQIA), as amended, title IV of Public Law 99-660 (42 U.S.C. 11101 et seq.). Section 1921 of the Social Security Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 1396r-2) mandates reporting to the NPDB of adverse licensure actions taken against licensees.

Notice — a statement of the intended date, time, place, and nature of a meeting or hearing, and the legal authority and jurisdiction under which a hearing is to be held. Notice may include a formal complaint filed to initiate a contested disciplinary proceeding.

NPTE — the National Physical Therapy Examination administered by FSBPT.

On Premises — the supervising PT of record is physically present in the treating facility and immediately available to the treatment area.

Participate — as used in R.S. 37:2418F(2)(b) means that a Supervising PT of Record assumes responsibility for the care which he and those under his supervision provide to patients, provides appropriate treatment and that, at a minimum, the PT will:

- a. perform the initial evaluation and document the patient's plan of care;
- b. treat and reassess the patient at least every sixth treatment day or every 30 days, whichever occurs first;
- c. treat the patient for the final treatment session unless the patient is physically unavailable; and
- d. write the discharge summary.

Passive Manipulation — manipulation or movement of muscular tissue or joints other than by the spontaneous function of the body or active effort on the part of a patient.

Patient — the recipient of physical therapy services pursuant to a plan of care, treatment plan or program.

Patient Care Conference — see Documentation Standards, §341.

Per Diem — compensation to a board member or committee member for each day during which he is participating in or carrying out an official board approved activity pursuant to R.S. 37:2404(C).

Person — includes a natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other entity having legal existence, unless the context requires a more limited meaning.

Physical Therapist — as defined in R.S. 37:2407(A)(2), and is licensed by the board pursuant to the Practice Act and rules.

Physical Therapist Assistant — as defined in R.S. 37:2407(A)(3), and is licensed by the board pursuant to the Practice Act and rules.

Physical Therapy — as defined in R.S. 37:2407(A)(4).

Physical Therapy Evaluation — as defined in R.S. 37:2407(A)(1).

Physical Therapy Technician — a worker not licensed by the board who operates under the direction and control of a licensed physical therapist and functions in a physical therapy clinic, department or business and assists with preparation of the patients for treatment and with limited patient care.

Physiotherapy — physical therapy.

Plan of Care — documentation created and signed by the physical therapist specifying the measurable goals, specific treatments to be used and the proposed duration and frequency of specified treatment. It is an integral component of a PT evaluation and must be created by the physical therapist prior to delegating appropriate treatment to a PTA or PT technician and incorporating documentation standards provided for in §341.

Practice of Physical Therapy — as defined in R.S. 37:2407(A)(5).

Practice Setting — unless otherwise defined, the physical location where patient care is performed or client services provided. Practice setting may also refer to the type of organization which provides physical therapy services, such as an outpatient clinic, hospital, nursing home, rehab facility, school or the delivery of home healthcare.

Prescription — a request for diagnostic or therapeutic physical therapy procedures or regimen subscribed by an individual lawfully authorized to make or give such an order or directive.

Preventive Services — the use of physical therapy knowledge and skills by a PT or PTA to provide education or activities in a wellness setting for the purpose of injury prevention, reduction of stress and/or the promotion of fitness and for conditioning. This does not include the administrations of physical therapy treatment.

Probation — license status in which the licensee may practice physical therapy in Louisiana, but may be required to work under certain conditions and/or restrictions as specified and made public in a board order or board agreement.

Progress Note — see Documentation Standards, §341.

Provisional License — a temporary license issued to practice physical therapy in Louisiana. Three types of provisional licenses issued include:

- a) CAPTE Graduate Pending Examination — applicant pending results of a fixed-date examination;
- b) Foreign-Educated Provisional License — physical therapist or physical therapist assistant applicant pending completion of the supervised clinical practice requirement of §137;
- c) Temporary Reciprocal Provisional License — applicant licensed elsewhere and working temporarily in Louisiana under the provisions of §147.

PT — see *physical therapist*.

PTA — see *physical therapist assistant*.

Reassessment or Reevaluation — see Documentation Standards, §341.

Reciprocity — the acknowledgment and licensure by the board of a PT or PTA licensed by another state pursuant to procedures established by the board.

Referral — a request for physical therapy evaluation or treatment made by an individual lawfully authorized to make such request.

Reprimand — a form of censure by the board of a licensee for violation of the Practice Act or Rules.

Respondent — a licensee who is the subject of an informal complaint, as addressed in §381, or a formal administrative complaint, as addressed in §387, alleging violation of the Practice Act or board rules.

Restricted — license status indicating that the board has placed restrictions or conditions on a license including, but not limited to, scope of practice, place of practice, supervision of practice, or patient demographic.

Revocation — the withdrawal of a license issued by the board, terminating the right and privilege of practicing physical therapy in Louisiana.

Revoked — license status indicating annulment of a license by an action of the board pursuant to formal disciplinary action which terminates the right to practice physical therapy in Louisiana.

RPTP — the Recovering Physical Therapy Program adopted by the board.

RPTP Agreement — a document approved by the board containing provisions which identify requirements for successful participation in the RPTP, including, but not limited to, evaluation, treatment, after care, testing, monitoring, supervision reports, meeting attendance, and practice restrictions.

RPTP Compliance — conforming to the requirements of the Recovering Physical Therapist Program Agreement.

State — see *jurisdiction of the United States*.

Student — a person who is pursuing a course of study leading to a degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assisting from a professional education program certified by CAPTE and approved by the board, and who is pursuing supervised clinical education requirements related to his physical therapy education.

Subversion — engaging in any activity contrary to honesty, justice, or good morals in an attempt to undermine the integrity of the examination or to receive a passing score on the examination as defined in R.S. 37:2414 and required by R.S. 37:2409-2411.2. For purposes of this Chapter, subversion also includes any unauthorized use or reproduction of copyrighted materials.

Summary Suspension — the suspension of a license by emergency board action which requires a licensee to immediately cease practice pending disciplinary proceedings provided by law.

Supervising PT of Record — the PT who performs the initial evaluation and establishes a plan of care for a patient or a PT who has most recently reevaluated or treated the patient.

Suspended License — restricting the licensee's privilege to practice physical therapy or physical therapist assisting for a specified period of time.

Topical Agents/Aerosols — medications used in physical therapy treatment which are applied to the skin and obtained over-the-counter, by prescription or order, or from a licensed distributor.

Treatment Plan or Program — documentation created by a PT specifying the measurable goals, specific treatments to be used and the proposed duration and frequency of treatment; is an integral component of a PT evaluation and must be completed by the PT prior to delegating appropriate treatment to a PTA or PT technician.

Treatment Record — see Documentation Standards, §341.

Week — any consecutive seven days.

When Feasible — as used in R.S. 37:2418F (2)(g), means whenever the patient is still physically available to receive treatment and assessment.

Wound Debridement — patient care provided by a PT, provisionally licensed PT, or student PT, which removes non-living tissue from pressure ulcers, burns and other wounds as part of wound management, including but not limited to, sharps debridement, debridement with other implements or agents and application of topical agents including enzymes.

Written Record of Physical Therapy — documentation including the prescription or referral (if such exists), the initial evaluation, treatment notes, notes of patient care conferences, progress notes, reevaluations or reassessments, referral to an appropriate healthcare provider pursuant to R.S. 37:2418(B)(2)(b) (if such exists), and patient status at discharge documenting the complete course of patient care.

SUBCHAPTER C: GRADUATES OF APPROVED SCHOOLS OF PHYSICAL THERAPY OR PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING

§127. SCOPE OF SUBCHAPTER

- A. The rules of this Subchapter govern the licensing of PTs and PTAs who are graduates of physical therapy or physical therapist assistant schools located within any state or US territory.

§129. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSE, PROVISIONAL LICENSE

- A. To be eligible for a license as a PT, an applicant shall meet the requirements of R.S. 37:2409, as well as the following requirement:
- (1) furnish the board with his social security number.
- B. To be eligible for a license as a PTA, an applicant shall meet the requirements of R.S. 37:2411, as well as the following requirements:
- (1) be a citizen of a jurisdiction of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or an alien otherwise authorized to work lawfully in the United States; and
 - (2) furnish the board with his social security number.
- C. The burden of satisfying the board as to the qualifications and eligibility of an applicant for licensure is upon the applicant. An applicant shall not be deemed to possess such qualifications unless the applicant demonstrates and evidences such qualifications in the manner prescribed by and to the satisfaction of the board.

- D. To be eligible for a provisional license as a PT or PTA, a CAPTE graduate applicant shall possess all of the qualifications for license in this Section except R.S. 37:2409(5) and R.S. 37:2411(4), respectively.

§131. PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. In addition to the substantive qualifications specified in §129, to be eligible for a license, an applicant shall satisfy the procedures and requirements for application provided by §§149-153 of this Chapter and, if applicable, the procedures and requirements for examination approved by the board as set forth in §§155-161 of this Chapter.

SUBCHAPTER D: FOREIGN-EDUCATED GRADUATES

§135. SCOPE OF SUBCHAPTER

- A. Applicants. In accordance with R.S. 37:2410(6), the rules of this Subchapter specify additional qualifications, requirements and procedures for the licensing of the following individuals:
- (1) *foreign-educated physical therapist (FEPT)* — a person whose education in physical therapy was obtained outside of a jurisdiction of the United States in a program not accredited by CAPTE;
 - (2) *foreign-educated physical therapist assistant (FEPTA)* — a person whose education in physical therapy was obtained outside of a jurisdiction of the United States in a program not accredited by CAPTE;
 - (3) *military-trained physical therapist assistant (MTPTA)* — a person whose education in physical therapy was obtained in a military program not accredited by CAPTE.
- B. Foreign-educated applicants seeking initial licensure in the United States in Louisiana must obtain a provisional license and complete a period of supervised clinical practice prior to obtaining a permanent license.

§137. QUALIFICATION FOR LICENSE, PROVISIONAL LICENSE FOR FOREIGN GRADUATES

- A. The burden of satisfying the board's requirements and qualifications for licensure as a foreign-educated physical therapist (FEPT) in accordance with R.S. 37:2410, a foreigneducated physical therapist assistant (FEPTA) in accordance with R.S. 37:2411.1, and a military-trained physical therapist assistant (MTPTA) in accordance with R.S. 37:2411.2 is upon the applicant. An applicant shall not be deemed to possess required qualifications unless the applicant demonstrates and evidences such qualifications in the manner satisfactory to the board.
- B. Credentials Evaluation. A FEPT, FEPTA and MTPTA applicant must submit to the board a credentials evaluation prepared no more than 18 months prior to the date of the application for licensure. The credentials evaluation report shall be submitted to the board directly by the credential evaluation agency evaluating the professional education and training. The approved credentials evaluation shall determine substantial equivalency of the applicant's education. Such education shall include no less than 150 total semester-hour credits including no less than 90 semester-hours credits of physical therapy education and no less than 60 semester-hour credits of general education. The applicant is responsible for any expense associated with the credentials evaluation.
- (1) The credentials evaluation must provide documentation that the applicant's education from outside a state or territory of the U.S. is substantially equivalent to the education of a PT who has graduated from a physical therapy education program accredited by CAPTE. The evaluation must also establish that the institution at which the applicant received his physical therapy education is recognized by the ministry of education or an equivalent agency in that country.
 - (2) To determine substantial equivalency, the credentialing evaluation entity shall use a course work tool (CWT) adopted by the FSBPT and approved by the board.
 - (3) To determine substantial equivalency for individuals seeking initial licensure, the credentialing agency shall use the current CWT.
 - (4) To be considered substantially equivalent to the requirements established in this rule, the applicant's foreign education must contain evidence of the content and distribution of coursework identified in the appropriate CWT identified in Paragraph B.3 of this Section.

- (5) An evaluation prepared by a credentialing agency reflects only the findings and conclusion of that agency, and shall not bind the board. If the board determines that the applicant's education is not substantially equivalent to an entry-level physical therapy program accredited by CAPTE, the board will notify the applicant in writing, identifying the deficiencies.
- C. Exam Score. The applicant must achieve a passing score on the national physical therapy examination (NPTE).
- D. Authorization to Work in the U.S. The applicant must be a citizen of a jurisdiction of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or an alien otherwise authorized to work lawfully in the United States.
- E. The board will issue a provisional license to a FEPT or FEPTA only after the applicant is physically present in the U.S. and has met all requirements for licensure except the completion of a supervised clinical practice as required by R.S. 37:2410(5) and R.S. 37:2411.1(5).
- F. If a document required by this Title is in a language other than English, the applicant shall arrange for its translation into English by a translation service acceptable to the board and shall submit a translation signed by the translator attesting to its accuracy.
- G. Designated Representative Letter
- (1) An applicant may designate a person as a representative by providing a written authorization to the board which includes the name, telephone number, and address of the person stating that the person will be the designated representative for the applicant.
 - (2) This authorization must be notarized by a notary of the country in which the applicant resides and sent directly to the board. A copy of the notarized authorization shall be sent to the designated representative by the applicant.
 - (3) A designated representative may obtain confidential information regarding the application.
 - (4) The authorization to represent an applicant will be valid until the applicant receives his provisional license or the board is notified in writing by the applicant that the designated representative has been terminated or replaced. An applicant may have only one designated representative at any time.
 - (5) The designated representative is not required by the board to have power of attorney for the applicant. A designated representative or power of attorney for an applicant may not sign for the applicant any document requiring the notarized signature of the applicant. Documents submitted by a designated representative or power of attorney for the applicant must be submitted in accordance with the requirements set by the Practice Act and rules. Any falsification of, or misrepresentation in, documents required for licensing submitted by a designated representative or a person with power of attorney for the applicant may result in denial of license or other penalties to the applicant.
- H. Supervised Clinical Practice. To be eligible for an FEPT and FEPTA provisional license to engage in supervised clinical practice as required in §331, a FEPT or FEPTA applicant shall meet all of the substantive qualifications for license as specified by R.S. 37:2010 or R.S. 37:2411.1 respectively. The FEPT or FEPTA applicant and the board-approved supervisor for the period of supervised clinical practice shall participate in a personal meeting with a member of the board, or a designee of the board, by appointment prior to being issued a provisional license to engage in supervised clinical practice.

§139. LICENSING PROCEDURES FOR FOREIGN-EDUCATED GRADUATES

- A. Licensing procedures for FEPT and FEPTA applicants are as follows:
- (1) application for initial licensure by examination as a FEPT or FEPTA shall:
 - a. complete the license application process as set forth in §137;
 - b. satisfy the procedures and requirements for application provided by §§149-153 of this Chapter;
 - c. satisfy the procedures and requirements for examination administered by the board provided in §§155171; and
 - d. have successfully completed at least six months of approved supervised clinical practice as required in §331.
 - (2) licensure by reciprocity for FEPT and FEPTA applicants shall be in accordance with §145.
 - a. the period of supervised clinical practice may be waived for individuals who have engaged in physical therapy practice for 20 hours or more per week for at least 12 months immediately preceding application in a Jurisdiction of the United States.
- B. Licensing procedures for military trained physical therapist assistants (MTPTA) are as follows:
- (1) application for initial licensure by examination as a MTPTA shall:
 - a. complete the substantive qualification as specified in §137;
 - b. satisfy the procedures and requirements for application provided by §§149-153 of this Chapter; and

- c. satisfy the procedures and requirements for examination administered by the board provided in §§155-171.

§141. GUIDELINES FOR BOARD–APPROVED EDUCATION CREDENTIALING ENTITIES

- A. The credentialing entity will review all of an applicant's post–secondary education credentials earned outside of the US. The applicant must have completed, with a passing grade of A, B, C, Pass or Credit, 60 semester hours credit or the equivalent in general education courses from an accredited institution of higher learning. This general education requirement may be met by credits earned at U.S. colleges or universities, by College Level Examination Program (CLEP) credits, or Advanced Placement (AP) according to standards of the American Council on Education. The number of credits earned by CLEP or AP may not exceed 12 semester credits.
- B. The credentialing entity must attest that the institution attended by the applicant was accredited by the Ministry of Education or the equivalent in that country.
- C. All foreign PT applicants must demonstrate the ability to communicate in English by achieving no less than the minimum score accepted by the board on board–approved English proficiency tests. For graduates of entry–level physical therapy programs in other foreign countries, the board may grant an exception to the English Proficiency test if the applicant holds a current license in physical therapy in another state and has been licensed in the U.S. for no less than 10 years prior to application.
- D. The credentialing entity must attest that the applicant is, or was, licensed or authorized to practice in the country in which the entry–level degree in physical therapy was granted. If there is no licensure or official authorization in such country, the applicant must be eligible for unrestricted practice there. The board may waive this requirement for an applicant who is not licensed in the country of education due to a citizenship requirement of that country.
 - (1) If the application is for licensure by examination, the license or authorization in such country must be current and in good standing at the time of application.
 - (2) If the application is for licensure by reciprocity, and the applicant has passed the NPTE meeting Louisiana standards, the license or authorization to practice must have been in good standing at the time the license or authorization in such country expired.
- E. The credentialing entity must attest that the applicant has successfully completed an educational program substantially equivalent to U.S. programs accredited by CAPTE and has earned the equivalent of no less than 90 semester hours of professional physical therapy education.
- F. If the degree awarded is substantially equivalent to a degree in physical therapy as awarded by CAPTE–accredited programs in the US, the credentialing entity must use the Coursework Evaluation Tool for Foreign Educated PTs (CWT), as developed by the FSBPT when evaluating an applicant's credentials. The version of the tool used must correspond at minimum to the year the entry–level degree was awarded. Education deficiencies must be identified and must indicate the subjects and credit hours necessary to satisfy the requirements of the CWT. If the degree received by the applicant is from a CAPTE–accredited program located outside the U.S., the program is considered equivalent to a domestic CAPTE–accredited physical therapy program, and the applicant is exempt from meeting the requirements of the CWT.

SUBCHAPTER E: LICENSURE BY RECIPROCITY

§145. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE BY RECIPROCITY

- A. Application for licensure by reciprocity under Subchapter E may be made at any time.
- B. Licensure by endorsement for members of the military, their spouses and dependents
 - (1) Applications for licensure received from members of the military, their spouses, or dependents, as defined by La. R.S. 37:3651, will be evaluated and processed in accordance with the application section of La. R.S. 37:3651.
- C. Graduates of Approved Schools of Physical Therapy or Physical Therapist Assisting
 - (1) An applicant who possesses and meets all of the qualifications and requirements specified by R.S. 37:2409 and R.S. 37:2411, as interpreted by §§129-139 of this Chapter, but who has taken the board approved licensing exam in another jurisdiction, shall nonetheless be eligible for licensure by reciprocity in accordance with R.S. 37:2412 if the following requirements are satisfied:

- a. the applicant possesses, as of the time the application is filed and at the time the board passes upon such application, a current, unrestricted license in good standing or its equivalent issued by another jurisdiction;
 - b. the applicant has not been disciplined in any jurisdiction for an act which would have constituted grounds for refusal, suspension, or revocation of a license to practice physical therapy in this state at the time the act was committed;
 - c. the jurisdiction from whence the applicant comes accords a similar licensing privilege to individuals licensed as PTs and PTAs in Louisiana; and
 - d. the requirements for licensure in the other jurisdiction were, at the date of licensing therein, substantially equal to the requirements for licensure in Louisiana, specifically §129, as set forth now or at the time of licensure in the other jurisdiction.
- D. Foreign-Educated Physical Therapist (FEPT) or Foreign-Educated Physical Therapist Assistant (FEPTA)**
- (1) An FEPT or FEPTA is eligible for licensure by reciprocity as a PT or PTA in accordance with R.S. 37:2412 if the following requirements are satisfied:
 - a. the applicant possesses, as of the time the application is filed and at the time the board passes upon such application, a current, unrestricted license in good standing or its equivalent issued by another jurisdiction;
 - b. the applicant has not been disciplined in any jurisdiction for an act which would have constituted grounds for refusal, suspension, or revocation of a license to practice physical therapy in this state at the time the act was committed;
 - c. the jurisdiction from whence the applicant comes accords a similar licensing privilege to individuals licensed as PTs and PTAs in Louisiana; and
 - d. the requirements for licensure in the other jurisdiction were, at the date of licensing therein, substantially equal to the requirements for licensure of foreign-educated PT and PTAs in Louisiana, specifically §137, as set forth now or at the time of licensure in the other jurisdiction.
 - (2) An FEPT or FEPTA who meets the requirements of §145.C.1 and who has engaged in the practice of physical therapy for a minimum of 20 hours per week for at least for at least one year in another jurisdiction, may be eligible for licensure by reciprocity as a PT or PTA without completing the period of supervised clinical practice as set forth in §137.C, at the discretion of the board. Such request shall be made in writing and submitted with license application and acceptable documentation of clinical experience.
 - (3) In accordance with R.S. 37:2410(6) and R.S. 37:2411.1(6), the board may, in its discretion, mandate completion of a board approved self-assessment tool, various education activities, or supervised practice prior to issuance of a license by reciprocity to a foreign-educated PT or PTA.
- E.** To be eligible for licensure under Subsections C and D of this Section, applicants shall have met the continuing education requirements contained in the Practice Act and/or board rules for the 24 months preceding their application for the jurisdiction where they are currently licensed and practicing physical therapy.
- F.** An applicant for reciprocity who has a current, unrestricted license in good standing or its equivalent issued by another jurisdiction, but has not engaged in the practice of physical therapy in any jurisdiction or country for a period of four or more years may be subject to these additional requirements:
- (1) licensee may be subject to a three-month period of supervised clinical practice;
 - a. if a three-month period of supervised clinical practice is required, a supervision agreement must be approved by the executive director before a provisional license will be issued. The supervision agreement shall be in force for the entire three-month supervisory period. This licensee may only practice in those facilities and under the supervision of the PT named in the approved supervision agreement. Any change in practice site or supervisor must be submitted in a revised supervision agreement prior to the change taking place. At the end of the supervisory period, the supervising PT of record shall report to the board the satisfactory or unsatisfactory completion of the supervision period. If an unsatisfactory supervision period is reported by the supervising PT of record, the board, in its discretion, may require an additional three-month supervisory period; and
 - (2) completion of remedial courses which may be prescribed by the board.

SUBCHAPTER F: LICENSE APPLICATION

§149. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- A. The rules of this Subchapter govern the procedures and requirements for application to the board for licensing as a PT and PTA in the state of Louisiana.

§151. REQUIREMENTS

- A. Application for licensure shall be made upon forms supplied by the board. Application forms and instructions may be obtained from the board's website. Upon written request, an application form shall be mailed to the applicant.
- B. An application for licensure under this Chapter shall include:
- (1) a fully completed application using the form provided by the board;
 - (2) proof, documented in a form satisfactory to the board, that the applicant possesses the qualifications set forth in this Chapter;
 - (3) one recent passport size color photograph of the applicant taken within six months of the application date;
 - (4) such other information and documentation as the board may require to evidence qualification for licensure and completion of the requirements for licensure;
 - (5) the application fees due from an applicant shall follow the fee schedule described in §501; and
 - (6) completion of the Physical Therapy Minimum Data Set (PT MDS) survey.
- C. An applicant for whom supervised clinical practice is required must forward to the board a supervisory request form for approval, including the name of the PT or PTA who is requested to supervise his clinical practice. The supervisor must consent to the supervision and be approved by the board prior to issuance of a provisional license.
- D. An applicant must pass the Louisiana jurisprudence exam.
- E. In addition to any other requirements established by regulation, the board may require an applicant, as a condition for eligibility for licensure:
- (1) to submit a full set of fingerprints, in a form and manner prescribed by the board;
 - (2) to authorize the board to obtain state and national criminal history record information on the applicant;
 - (3) to collect from the applicant, in addition to all other applicable fees and costs, such amount as may be incurred by the board for state and national criminal history record information on the applicant.
- F. In accordance with the provisions and procedures prescribed by this Section, the board may request and obtain state and national criminal history record information from the Louisiana State Police and the FBI relative to any applicant for licensure whose fingerprints the board has obtained pursuant to this Section for the purpose of determining the applicant's suitability and eligibility for licensure.
- G. Upon request by the board and upon the board's submission of an applicant's fingerprints, and such other identifying information as may be required, the Louisiana State Police shall conduct a search of its criminal history record information relative to the applicant and report the results of its search to the board within 60 days from receipt of any such request. The board shall pay to the Louisiana State Police a processing fee pursuant to R.S. 15:587 for conducting and reporting on any such search.
- H. If the criminal history record information reported by the Louisiana State Police to the board does not provide grounds for disqualification of the applicant for licensure under the applicable law administered by the board, the board shall have the authority to forward the applicant's fingerprints and such other identifying information as may be required to the FBI with a request for a search of national criminal history record information relative to the applicant.
- I. Any and all state or national criminal history record information obtained by the board from the bureau or FBI which is not already a matter of public record shall be deemed nonpublic and confidential information restricted to the exclusive use of the board, its members, investigators, agents, and attorneys in evaluating the applicant's eligibility or qualification for licensure. No such information or records shall, except with the written consent of the applicant or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, be released or otherwise disclosed by the board to any other person or agency.

- J.** The board may refuse to consider any application which is not complete in every detail, including submission of every document required by the application form and instructions. The board may, in its discretion, require a more detailed or complete response to any request for information set forth in the application form as a condition for consideration of an application.
- K.** Each application submitted to the board shall be accompanied by the applicable fee, as provided in Chapter 5 of these rules.
- L.** To assure equal opportunity for all persons, and in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Public Law 101-336, the board shall make reasonable accommodations for an applicant for licensure by examination if the applicant has a qualified disability pursuant to applicable law and is approved by the board. The board requires notification of an applicant's disability no later than receipt of a completed application form and fee. The notification by the applicant should include the type of accommodation required. A copy of the tests performed and the diagnosis made by a physician qualified to administer such tests must be submitted with objective documentation of the disability. Accommodations to be made by the board should be reasonable in that they should not impose undue hardship on the board. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may include accommodations that are reasonably appropriate for the disability and are not limited to extended time for the examination, a map of the examination facility indicating wheelchair accessible entrances, elevators, restrooms, and examination rooms.
- M.** Every applicant shall personally complete, electronically sign, and date his application for licensure and oath.
- N.** An application which is incomplete will be closed after one year of inactivity. At the end of this period, any application which is not completed will be considered abandoned and closed by the board and fees paid to the board will not be refunded. Should the applicant re-apply after his incomplete application is closed, he shall be required to begin the process anew, including the payment of the application fee to the board.

§153. EFFECT OF APPLICATION

- A.** Submission to the board of an application for licensure constitutes authorization by the applicant to each educational institution at which the applicant has matriculated, each state or federal agency to which the applicant has applied for any license, permit, certificate or registration, each person, firm, corporation, clinic, office or institution by whom or with whom the applicant has been employed in the practice of physical therapy, each physician or other health care practitioner whom the applicant has consulted or seen for diagnosis or treatment, and each professional organization to which the applicant has applied for membership, to disclose and release to the board any and all information and documentation concerning the applicant which the board deems material to the application. With respect to such information or documentation, the submission of an application for licensure to the board constitutes consent by the applicant for disclosure and release of such information and documentation, and as a waiver by the applicant of any privilege or right of confidentiality which the applicant would otherwise be entitled to.
- B.** By submission of an application to the board for licensure or renewal, an applicant agrees to submit to physical, mental, or substance abuse examinations or evaluations, if, when, and in the manner directed by the executive director, and waives all objections to the admissibility or disclosure of findings, reports or recommendations to the board on grounds of privacy or privileges provided by law. The expense of any such examination or evaluation shall be borne by the applicant.
- C.** Submission of an application for licensure constitutes authorization by the applicant to the board to disclose and release any information or documentation set forth in or submitted with the applicant's application or obtained by the board from other persons, firms, corporations, associations or governmental entities pursuant to Subsections A or B of this Section to any person, firm, corporation, association or governmental entity having a lawful, legitimate, and reasonable need therefore including, without limitation, the physical therapy licensing authority of any state; the FSBPT, APTA and its state affiliates; federal, state, county, or parish and municipal health and law enforcement agencies, including the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals; and the Armed Services.
- D.** An applicant who submits false information may be denied licensure by the board.

SUBCHAPTER G: EXAMINATION

§155. DESIGNATION OF EXAMINATION

- A.** The examination approved by the board pursuant to R.S. 37:2414 shall be standardized and nationally accepted.

§157. ELIGIBILITY FOR EXAMINATION

- A. An applicant must have graduated from a CAPTE accredited program or be enrolled in the final semester of a CAPTE accredited program in order to be eligible to sit for the examination.

§159. DATES, PLACES OF EXAMINATION

- A. The applicant will be notified of his eligibility to schedule the examination with an approved testing service.

§161. ADMINISTRATION OF EXAMINATION

- A. The board's licensing examination is administered by an approved testing service and is computer based. The testing service is authorized and directed by the board to obtain positive photographic identification from all applicants appearing and properly registered for the examination; to establish and require examinees to observe an appropriate seating arrangement; to provide appropriate instructions for taking the examinations; to fix and signal the time for beginning and ending the examination; to prescribe such additional rules and requirements as are necessary or appropriate to the taking of the examination in the interest of the examinees; and to take all necessary and appropriate actions to secure the integrity of the examination process.
- B. An applicant for examination shall pay the site fee for the examination directly to the testing service at the time of scheduling with the testing service and in the amount and manner prescribed by the testing service.
- C. An applicant scheduled for examination shall:
- (1) present to the appropriate representative of the testing service positive personal photographic and other identification in the form prescribed; and
 - (2) fully and promptly comply with any and all rules, policies, procedures, instructions, directions, or requests made or prescribed by the testing service.

§163. SUBVERSION OF EXAMINATION PROCESS

- A. An applicant who engages or attempts to engage in conduct which subverts or undermines the integrity of the examination process shall be subject to the sanctions specified in §167.
- B. Conduct which subverts or undermines the integrity of the examination process includes, but is not limited to:
- (1) refusing or failing to fully and promptly comply with any rules, policies, procedures, instructions, directions, or requests made or prescribed by representatives of the testing service;
 - (2) removing from the examination room or rooms any of the examination materials;
 - (3) reproducing or reconstructing any portion of the licensing examination by copying, duplication, written notes or electronic recording;
 - (4) selling, distributing, buying, receiving, obtaining, or having unauthorized possession of any portion of current, future, or previously administered licensing examination;
 - (5) any unauthorized use or reproduction of copyrighted materials;
 - (6) communicating in any manner with any other examinee or any other person during the administration of the examination;
 - (7) copying answers from another examinee or permitting one's answers to be copied by another examinee during the administration of the examination;
 - (8) having in one's possession during the administration of the examination any materials or objects other than the examination materials distributed, including, without limitation, any books, notes, recording devices, or other written, printed or recorded materials or data of any kind;
 - (9) impersonating an examinee by appearing for an applicant and taking the examination for, and in the name of an applicant other than himself;
 - (10) permitting another person to appear for and take the examination on one's behalf and in one's name; or
 - (11) engaging in any conduct which disrupts the examination process for other examinees.

§165. FINDING OF SUBVERSION

- A. When, during the administration of examination, there exists reasonable cause to believe that an applicant is engaging, or attempting to engage, in subversion of the exam process, appropriate action shall be taken by the testing service to promptly

terminate such conduct and ensure the integrity of the examination. In the event that the testing entity takes action against an applicant, such testing entity shall report such conduct to the board in a timely manner.

- B.** When the board has reasonable cause to believe that an applicant has engaged in or attempted to engage in conduct which subverts the examination process, either prior to or during the administration of the examination, the board shall notify the applicant and provide him with an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act and applicable board rules.

§167. SANCTIONS FOR SUBVERSION OF EXAMINATION

- A.** An applicant who is found by the board to have engaged in or attempted to engage in conduct which subverts or undermines the integrity of the examination process shall be deemed to have failed the examination. Such failure shall be recorded in the official records of the board. An applicant who is found by the board to have engaged in or attempted to engage in conduct which subverts or undermines the integrity of the examination process shall be deemed to have failed the examination. Such failure shall be recorded in the official records of the board.
- B.** In addition to the sanctions permitted or mandated by §167.A as to an applicant found by the board to have engaged in or attempted to engage in conduct which subverts the examination process, either prior to or during the administration of the examination, the board may:
- (1) revoke, suspend, or impose probationary conditions on any license which has been issued to such applicant;
 - (2) disqualify the applicant, permanently or for a specific period of time from eligibility for licensure in the state of Louisiana; or
 - (3) disqualify the applicant, permanently from eligibility for examination.

§169. PASSING SCORE

- A.** The board adopts a criterion-referenced passing point of the NPTE.

§171. RESTRICTION, LIMITATION ON EXAMINATIONS, ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- A.** Applicants must successfully pass the examination to obtain a license to practice in Louisiana as a PT or PTA.
- B.** An applicant who has failed the examination shall be subject to the testing limits set by the exam vendor selected by the board.

SUBCHAPTER H: PROVISIONAL LICENSE

§172. CAPTE GRADUATE APPLICANTS PENDING EXAMINATION

- A.** An applicant who has graduated from a CAPTE accredited program and met the requirements of §151 may be issued a provisional license to engage in supervised clinical practice under this Rule and §330 when NPTE testing is available only on limited fixed dates.
- B.** A provisional license granted to a CAPTE graduate pending examination pursuant to this Rule shall be issued for 90 days and shall designate board-approved supervisors at each worksite. No more than one such provisional license shall be issued to an applicant.
- C.** A provisional license granted pursuant to this Rule entitles the holder to engage in the practice of physical therapy in the State of Louisiana only for the specified time and creates no right or entitlement to licensing or renewal of the provisional license. The holder of a provisional license issued under this Section shall practice physical therapy only at the physical location approved by the board.
- D.** The holder of a provisional license pending examination must schedule the licensure examination prior to the provisional license expiration date.
- E.** When the NPTE is available on an “on-demand” or “continuous” basis to applicants, such provisional licenses will not be issued.

§173. FOREIGN-EDUCATED PROVISIONAL LICENSE

- A. A foreign-educated applicant who possesses all of the qualifications for licensure prescribed by §137 of this Chapter, except for §137.C, shall be issued a provisional license to engage in supervised clinical practice under the requirements of §331 for the purpose of fulfilling in whole or part the requirement of §137.C.
- B. The holder of a provisional license issued under this Section shall not engage in the practice of physical therapy in any respect other than at the physical location for which he is approved by the board.
- C. A provisional license issued under this Section shall expire, and thereby become null and void and of no effect, on the date specified by such provisional license.

SUBCHAPTER I: LICENSE ISSUANCE, TERMINATION, RENEWAL, REINSTATEMENT

§175. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE

- A. If the qualifications, requirements and procedures prescribed by §129 are met, the executive director shall issue to the applicant a license to engage in the practice of physical therapy in the State of Louisiana.
- B. Except for applicants seeking licensure pursuant to §139, a license issued pursuant to examination shall be issued within seven days following the satisfaction of all requirements of §§129 and 151. A license issued pursuant to reciprocity under §145 shall be issued within seven days following satisfaction of all requirements of §145.
- C. A license issued to an applicant for the first time shall be for a term of one year or two years, to be determined by the birth year of the applicant.
- D. Evidence of license status may be verified from the board website.

§177. REPLACEMENT OF LICENSE

- A. The board may issue a license to replace a lost or destroyed license upon receipt of a written request and the appropriate fee from the licensee. The board will issue a new original license after name change upon receipt of a name change form, the appropriate fee, and a copy of the legal document enacting the name change.

§179. EXPIRATION OF LICENSES

- A. Licenses issued by the board shall expire, and thereby become void, on April 30 of the last year for which it is issued.
- B. The timely, acknowledged receipt of a complete application for license renewal, as provided by §181, or online verification of license renewal operates to continue licensure in full force and effect pending issuance of the renewal license document.

§180. INACTIVE LICENSE

- A. Upon written request, the board may approve inactive status to a licensee if, at the time of request, the license is current and in good standing.
- B. Upon approval of inactive status by the board, the licensee shall not engage in the practice of physical therapy within the state of Louisiana. Engaging in the practice of physical therapy while inactive is a violation of this Section and may subject the licensee to disciplinary action.
- C. Inactive Status Renewal
 - (1) For inactive licensees, continuing education requirements for renewal are waived.
 - (2) Inactive status shall be renewed in accordance with §181.
 - (3) The inactive license renewal fee is equivalent to the fee to renew an active license, as specified in §501.
- D. Reactivation of License
 - (1) To restore an inactive license to an active status, the inactive licensee shall:
 - a. provide documentation satisfactory to the board of completion of the continuing education requirements specified in §194 for the continuing education period immediately preceding reactivation;

- (3) the reinstatement fee, pursuant to §501; and
 - (4) an explanation for the failure to timely renew his license.
 - (5) Completion of the Physical Therapy Minimum Data Set (PT MDS) survey.
- C. Reinstatement pursuant to this Section shall also require that applicant or his employer reimburse or reverse charges which have been made for patient treatment during the period for which the applicant did not have a current and valid license.
- D. Reinstatement pursuant to this Section does not insulate the applicant from disciplinary action which the board finds appropriate for practicing without a current license after April 30 to the date of reinstatement.
- E. A licensee who allows his license to lapse for reasons other than §187.B shall submit:
 - (1) a complete reinstatement application;
 - (2) the renewal fee, pursuant to §501;
 - (3) the reinstatement fee, pursuant to §501;
 - (4) pass the board's online jurisprudence examination;
 - (5) an explanation for allowing his license to lapse;
 - (6) two letters of character recommendation from currently licensed physical therapists and/or physical therapist assistants in good standing and
 - (7) completion of the Physical Therapy Minimum Data Set (PT MDS) survey.
- F. To be eligible for license reinstatement under this Section, an applicant shall have met the continuing education requirements pursuant to §194 within the 24 months preceding his application.
- G. Any person whose license has lapsed and who has not practiced physical therapy for more than four years may apply for reinstatement of licensure upon payment of the renewal fee and the reinstatement fee under the following conditions:
 - (1) licensee may be subject to a three-month period of supervised clinical practice;
 - b. if a three-month period of supervised clinical practice is required, a supervision agreement must be approved by the executive director before a provisional license will be issued to complete the three-month period of supervised clinical practice. The supervision agreement shall be in force for the entire three-month supervisory period. The licensee may only practice in those facilities and under the supervision of the PT named in the approved supervision agreement. Any change in practice site or supervisor must be submitted in a revised supervision agreement prior to the change taking place. At the end of the supervisory period, the supervising physical therapist shall report to the board the satisfactory or unsatisfactory completion of the supervision period. If an unsatisfactory supervision period is reported by the supervising physical therapist, the board, in its discretion, may require an additional three-month supervisory period; and
 - (2) completion of remedial courses which may be prescribed by the board.

§189. REINSTATEMENT AFTER MILITARY SERVICE

- A. An applicant seeking reinstatement of a license which lapsed during active military service shall be required to pay a license renewal fee only, and that fee shall be proportional to the months remaining in his renewal cycle.

SUBCHAPTER J: CONTINUING EDUCATION

§191. PURPOSE

- A. To be approved by the board, a continuing education course or activity as defined in §123, must contribute directly to the professional competence of the licensee and must directly relate to the skills and knowledge required to implement the principles and methods of physical therapy.

§193. COURSE REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

- A. Courses and activities approved by the board will be posted on the board website and will indicate the hours of credit which may be earned and the classification of the course.

- B.** Consideration of courses or activities for approved continuing education credits shall be based on the content criteria in §195 and the administrative and program criteria as set forth in the Continuing Education Policy posted on the board website.
- C.** Proposed continuing education courses or activities shall be submitted to the board for approval on a form provided on the board website. Generally, courses or activities of longer duration will require more time for review than courses of short duration.
- D.** Courses and activities sponsored by the APTA, Louisiana Physical Therapy Association, and by any Louisiana CAPTE accredited program that meet the content criteria described in §195 are automatically approved by the board for continuing education credits toward the biennial requirements for licensees described in §194.
- E.** Review charge for APTA, LPTA, and Louisiana CAPTE accredited program sponsors will be waived. A fee schedule for all other course review is described in §501.
- F.** Courses or activities not approved by the board may generate acceptable continuing education credits for licensees under these circumstances:
 - (1) the licensee submits an application for approval of the course or activity using the form provided on the board website;
 - (2) the course or activity submitted for approval shall only be considered for the licensee who submits for approval;
 - (3) in no case will such application for course or activity approval be considered during the last 60 days of the requestor's license term.
- G.** Course or activity sponsors may be required to submit to the board verified records of attendance and completion of a sponsored course or activity. No licensee shall receive credit for time not actually spent attending the program.

§194. BIENNIAL REQUIREMENTS

- A.** Unless exempted under §198, licensees shall successfully complete, document and report to the board at least 30 hours of board-approved continuing education courses or activities in the biennial renewal period. No carryover of continuing education hours from one renewal period to another shall be allowed. Continuing education will be granted in the reporting period in which the academic coursework, clinical instruction, tool, residency, or fellowship is completed.
- B.** The types of approved courses or activities and requirement for each are:
 - (1) jurisprudence—a minimum of two contact hours. Passage of the jurisprudence examination, which may be taken online, or attendance at a traditional board-sponsored Jurisprudence course, either of which fulfills the two-hour Jurisprudence requirement;
 - (2) ethics or professionalism—a minimum of two contact hours;
 - (3) clinical and/or administrative—a minimum of 26 contact hours of continuing education, or activities in §195.

§195. CONTENT CRITERIA

- A.** Program content must be easily recognizable as pertinent to the physical therapy profession. It shall contain evidence-led information related to the practice of physical therapy or clinical outcomes. Course or activity content shall address physical therapy competence and practice and shall be designed to meet one of the following goals:
 - (1) update knowledge and skills required for competent performance beyond entry level of the PT or PTA at the time the licensee entered the profession;
 - (2) allow the licensee to enhance his knowledge and skills; and/or
 - (3) facilitate personal contribution to the advancement of the profession.
- B.** The minimum requirement for continuing education hours shall be no less than one hours.
- C.** Continuing education hours may be attained through the following additional activities:
 - (1) teaching an approved clinical/preventive course or activity. A licensee may receive two hours of credit for each contact hour approved for the course or activity, not to exceed 10 hours. This credit will be given only for the first time the course is presented, during the renewal period;
 - (2) ten hours of credit for an initial certification by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties;
 - (3) one hour of credit for every two hours spent in an approved post-professional clinical residency or fellowship, not to exceed 10 hours of credit;
 - (4) coursework in a postgraduate physical therapy curriculum, transitional DPT program, or an accredited college or university that meets content criteria may be accepted. Courses will be credited for each satisfactorily completed hour resulting in a grade of B or higher. One semester hour shall be equal to 10 contact hours.

- (5) teaching in a CAPTE-accredited program. One semester hour shall be equal to 10 contact hours. Credit earned shall not exceed 10 hours.
- (6) six hours of credit for completing a board-approved self-assessment tool.
- (7) Licensees serving in elected or appointed positions of national or state physical therapy organizations may obtain a maximum of five contact hours for serving in that role.
- (8) a maximum of five hours of credit for clinical instructors serving as the primary clinical instructor for PT and PTA students or provisional licensees or serving as a mentor to a resident or fellow. One hour of credit may be earned per 120 hours of clinical instruction or residency or fellowship during the renewal period. Proof of clinical instruction or mentorship shall be documented on a form provided by the board and shall be signed by two of the following:
 - a. clinical instructor or mentor;
 - b. student or mentee;
 - c. site coordinator of clinical education;
 - d. director of clinical education; or
 - e. program coordinator of the residency or fellowship.
- (9) a maximum of five-hours credit during the renewal period for publication of scientific papers, abstracts, textbook chapters and poster or platform presentations at conferences relating to PT. Textbook chapter credit will be given only for the year of publication.

D. Board policy regarding submission of materials to demonstrate completion will be available on the board website.

§197. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; AUDIT

- A. It is the responsibility of each licensee to assure that his continuing education hours are timely reported with his license renewal application.
- B. The reporting of continuing education hours by course or activity sponsors and by licensees shall be made only on forms approved by and available from the board website. Forms filed by course or activity sponsors or licensees shall be legibly printed or typewritten, and shall be completed and verified by the course or activity sponsor or licensee. A stamp or other image provided by and imprinted by the course sponsor on course materials shall suffice for proof of completion of that continuing education activity.
- C. Continuing education activities undertaken for the purpose of license renewal shall be maintained by the licensee in a file in which records of activities are kept, including dates, subjects, duration of the program, certificates of participation and completion, and any other appropriate documentation for a period of four years after the program date. Upon request, course or activity sponsors and licensees shall supply the board with such documentation.
- D. The board shall conduct an audit of the continuing education records of a number of the licensees to be determined by the board each renewal period. The board will notify licensees who are randomly selected for audit to determine compliance with the continuing education requirements. Licensees chosen for the audit shall submit to the board by the specified date copies of all records and documentation showing completion of the continuing education courses or activities previously submitted for fulfillment of continuing education requirements.

§198. EXEMPTIONS FROM CE REQUIREMENTS

- A. PTs or PTAs licensed in Louisiana are exempt from the Subchapter J continuing education requirements for the continuing education year, beginning April 1 and ending March 31 of the following year, in which they graduate from an accredited physical therapy education program. For the second year of the licensee's renewal period, 15 contact hours must be completed and reported in keeping with the requirements of §194.
- B. Upon approval by the board of a written request made in compliance with Subsection C, the board may extend the period for compliance or exempt the following from compliance with the Subchapter J. continuing education requirements:
 - (1) licensees on extended active military service for a period in excess of three months during the applicable reporting period; or
 - (2) licensees who are unable to fulfill the requirement because of illness, natural disaster, or other personal hardship.
- C. Written requests for an exemption under Subsection B, including supporting documentation, must be received by the board at least 45 days prior to the end of the renewal period for which the exemption is sought, or immediately after the licensee becomes aware of the facts or circumstances upon which the exemption is sought, whichever is later.

- (1) A licensee who is a member of the armed forces reserves and called to active military service will have his CEUs prorated in proportion to the number of months of documented active duty.
- (2) A licensee whose license expires during a period of active military service will be given a complete waiver of continuing education requirements for the renewal period in which he is activated. Active duty military personnel shall be exempt proportionally for continuing education for months of documented active service in the renewal cycle during which active military service terminates.

§199. NONCOMPLIANCE AND REINSTATEMENT

- A. Noncompliance. Noncompliance with continuing education requirements includes, but is not limited to, incomplete reports, unsigned reports, unsigned verification of course or activity completion, failure to report a sufficient number of approved continuing education hours as defined in §193, or any other matters considered to be noncompliance by the board.
- B. Notice. The board shall send written notice of noncompliance to a licensee requesting that the licensee furnish to the board within 30 days of receipt of the notice, the following:
 - (1) a written explanation for failure to complete required CE; or if applicable;
 - (2) an affidavit with documentary proof that the licensee has complied with the continuing education requirements, or an affidavit setting forth the reasons for failure to comply with the continuing education requirements because of illness, natural disaster, other personal hardship or extended active military service during the reporting period and stating that he did not provide physical therapy services during that period.
- C. Finding. If the licensee:
 - (1) satisfactorily explains the non-compliance, his license may be determined to be in compliance with the CE Audit upon payment of an administrative fee; or
 - (2) does not successfully establish compliance or acceptable exemption from compliance with continuing educational requirements, he may be subject to disciplinary action and may be required to take the licensing examination and pay the fees for examination. Passage of the examination fulfills the continuing education requirements for the year the noncompliance occurred, but shall not be applicable for subsequent reporting periods.

Subpart 2. Practice Chapter 3. Practice

SUBCHAPTER A: GENERAL PROVISIONS

§301. SCOPE OF CHAPTER

- A. The rules of this Chapter govern the practice of physical therapy in the State of Louisiana.

§303. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- A. A licensed PT is authorized to engage in the practice of physical therapy as set forth in the Practice Act and the board's rules which includes, but is not limited to, the performance of physical therapy evaluations, consultative services, wound care and debridement, the storage and administration of aerosol and topical agents, the performance of passive manipulation, and preventive services all as more fully defined in §123.
- B. A PT is responsible for managing all aspects of the physical therapy care of each patient.
- C. A PT shall exercise sound professional judgment based upon his knowledge, skill, education, training, and experience, and shall perform only those procedures for which he is competent. If, during evaluation, reassessment or screening, the PT finds that treatment which is outside the scope of his knowledge, experience, or expertise is needed, the PT shall notify the patient or client and provide a referral to an appropriate healthcare provider.
- D. Repealed.
- E. A PTA may act as a clinical instructor for a PTA student, a supervisor of a PTA CAPTE provisional licensee pending examination, or a supervisor of a foreign-educated PTA (FEPTA) provisional licensee.

§307. PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION OR REFERRAL

- A. These rules are intended to facilitate and implement the provisions of R.S. 37:2418(C)(4). They are meant as practical guidelines, while maintaining flexibility in the rendering of physical therapy services, without eliminating the opportunity for oversight and supervision.
- B. As used in connection with providing wellness or preventive services referred to in R.S. 37:2418 C(4), the PT shall:
 - (1) perform a screening to determine whether treatment or wellness/preventive services are indicated. The therapist shall inform the individual of the screening results and make recommendations for follow-up with the appropriate health care provider if needed;
 - (2) assess the client's wellness/preventive services needs, and, if such services are indicated and desired by the client, develop a written plan, which describes the services to be provided to the client.

§309. EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

- A. In the provision of early childhood services through the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program, the PT conducts appropriate screenings, evaluations, and assessments to determine needed services to fulfill family-centered goals.
- B. Subject to the provisions of this Section, the PT shall implement physical therapy services in accordance with the recommendations accepted by the Interdisciplinary Team, as stated in the Individual Family Service Plan.
- C. Evaluation and reevaluation will be conducted in accordance with federal mandates under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. §1436, or when warranted by a change in the child's condition, and include reexamination of the child.
- D. In the provision of services for children ages 3 through 22 in the school settings:
 - (1) the PT conducts appropriate screenings, evaluations, and assessments to determine if the student has a gross motor delay or a medical condition that affects gross motor functioning in the educational setting.
 - (2) subject to the provisions of the Section, the PT shall implement physical therapy services in accordance with the recommendations accepted by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team.
 - (3) Evaluation and reevaluation in the educational setting will be conducted in accordance with federal mandates under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S. Code Subchapter II, Rule 1414, or when warranted by a change in the child's condition and include reexamination of the child.

§311. TREATMENT WITH DRY NEEDLING

- A. The purpose of this rule is to establish standards of practice, as authorized by R.S. 37:2405 A.(8), for the utilization of dry needling techniques, as defined in §123, in treating patients.
- B. Dry needling is a physical therapy treatment which requires specialized physical therapy education and training for the utilization of such techniques. Prior to utilizing dry needling techniques in patient treatment, a PT shall have successfully completed a board-approved course of study consisting of no fewer than 25 hours of in-person, hands-on instruction in intramuscular dry needling treatment and safety. Online and other distance learning courses will not satisfy this requirement. Practicing dry needling without compliance with this requirement constitutes unprofessional conduct and subjects a licensee to appropriate discipline by the board.
- C. In order to obtain board approval for courses of instruction in dry needling, sponsors must document that instructors utilized have had no less than two years experience utilizing such techniques. Instructors need not be physical therapists, but should be licensed or certified as a healthcare provider in the state of their residence.
- D. Prior to performing the initial dry needling treatment on a patient the physical therapist shall educate the patient of the potential risks and benefits of dry needling and receive informed consent from the patient. Documentation of the education and consent shall be maintained in the patient treatment record.
- E. Dry needling treatment shall be performed in a manner consistent with generally accepted standards of practice, including sterile needle procedures and the standards of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Treatment notes shall document how the patient tolerated the technique and the outcome of treatments.
- F. PT Students who have met the requirements of paragraph B. above may practice dry needling under the continuous supervision of a PT who has successfully completed the dry needling training requirements.

§313. TRANSFER OF PATIENT CARE

- A. A PT shall notify the patient and shall document the transfer of care of the patient, as appropriate, to another health care provider in the event of elective termination of physical therapy services by the PT.

§315. LEGEND DRUGS AND DEVICES

- A. In providing physical therapy as authorized by law, PTs are authorized to procure from licensed distributors, store and utilize legend devices and topical legend drugs which are employed in the delivery of physical therapy.

§317. LICENSEE INFORMATION

- A. Changes to licensee information. Applicants and licensees must notify the board in writing of any change in a residential or business address, telephone number or email address within 30 days that such change takes effect.

§319. USE OF TELEHEALTH IN THE PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

- A. The board hereby adopts R.S. 40:1223.1 et seq., known as the “Louisiana Telehealth Access Act”, including any amendments thereto, and promulgates these rules to provide for, promote, and regulate the use of telehealth in the delivery of physical therapy services through telehealth. Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants owe a duty to patients to provide quality physical therapy services in accordance with the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy regardless of the mode in which those services are rendered. These rules shall be interpreted, construed and applied so as to give effect to such purposes and intent.
- B. Individuals who are licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in good standing in Louisiana may provide physical therapy via telehealth to a patient in an originating site as defined in R.S. 40:1223.3 within the jurisdiction of Louisiana and shall follow all requirements for standard of practice and documentation as provided in the Practice Act and board rules. The standard of care for telehealth services shall be substantially equivalent to the standard of care for services delivered in person.
- C. When providing telehealth services, a licensee shall have documented procedures in place to address remote medical or clinical emergencies at the patient’s location.
- D. A physical therapist licensed in good standing in another jurisdiction who is providing information, advice, or opinion through telehealth to a physical therapist licensed in Louisiana regarding patient care shall be exempt from Louisiana licensure requirements.
- E. A Louisiana licensee providing telehealth services to a patient in an originating site as defined in R.S. 40:1223.3 in a jurisdiction outside of Louisiana may be required to be licensed or registered in the jurisdiction in which the originating site is located.

SUBCHAPTER B: PROHIBITIONS

§323. USE OF TITLES AND TERMS; RESTRICTIONS

- A. A PT shall use the letters "P.T." in connection with his name or place of business to denote licensure. A PTA shall use the letters "P.T.A." in connection with his name to denote licensure.
- B. A PT student who is pursuing a course of study leading to a degree as a PT in a professional education program approved by the board and is satisfying supervised clinical education requirements related to his physical therapy education shall use the letters "S.P.T." in connection with his name while participating in this program. A PTA student who is pursuing a course of study leading to a degree as a PTA in a professional education program approved by the board and is satisfying supervised clinical education requirements related to his physical therapist assisting education shall use the letters "S.P.T.A." in connection with his name while participating in this program.
- C. No person or business entity, its employees, agents, or representatives shall use in connection with that person’s name or the name or activity of the business, the words “physical therapy”, “physical therapist”, “physiotherapy”, “physiotherapist”, “registered physical therapist”, “licensed physical therapist”, “doctor of physical therapy”, the letters “PT”, “DPT”, “LPT”, “RPT”, “physical therapist assistant”, “P.T.A.”, “physiotherapist assistant”, or any other words, abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying directly or indirectly that physical therapy is provided or supplied, unless such services are provided by or under the direction of a PT licensed pursuant to the Practice Act.

- D.** No person or business entity shall advertise or otherwise promote another person as being a “physical therapist”, “physiotherapist”, “P.T.”, “physical therapist assistant”, “physiotherapist assistant”, or “P.T.A.” unless the individual so advertised or promoted is licensed as a PT or PTA under the Practice Act. No person or business entity shall offer, provide, or bill any person for “physical therapy” or “physiotherapy” unless the individual performing those services is licensed pursuant to the Practice Act.

§325. EXEMPTIONS

- A.** In accordance with R.S. 37:2408(B), a person employed as a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant by the United States government, or any department, agency, or bureau thereof, shall not be required to obtain a license under the provisions of this Chapter. However, such person may engage in the practice of physical therapy outside the course and scope of such federal employment only after obtaining a license in accordance with this Chapter.
- B.** A student shall be exempt from licensure when pursuing a course of study leading to a degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assisting in a physical therapy education program approved by the board and while satisfying a supervised clinical rotation related to his education.
- C.** A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States or credentialed in another country performing physical therapy incidental to teaching, demonstrating or providing physical therapy services in connection with teaching or participating in an educational seminar of no more than 60 days in a calendar year, provided such physical therapist or physical therapist assistant is licensed in good standing in another jurisdiction or credentials are in good standing in another country, or holds an appointment on the faculty of a school approved for training physical therapists or physical therapist assistants.
- D.** A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant licensed in a jurisdiction of the United States or credentialed in another country contracted or employed to provide physical therapy to patients/clients affiliated with or employed by established athletic teams, athletic organizations or performing arts companies temporarily practicing, competing or performing in the jurisdiction for no more than 60 days in a calendar year.

SUBCHAPTER C: SUPERVISED PRACTICE

§329. SCOPE OF CHAPTER

- A.** The rules of this Subchapter prescribe certain restrictions and requirements for supervision of physical therapists assistants, provisional licensees, technicians and students.

§330. SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATES OF APPROVED SCHOOLS OF PHYSICAL THERAPY OR PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTING PENDING EXAMINATION

- A.** A PT holding a provisional license pending examination shall engage in the practice of physical therapy under the supervision of one or more board-approved supervisor(s).
- B.** Supervision of a PT with a provisional license pending examination shall include:
- (1)** daily face-to-face communication between one board-approved supervisor and the provisional license holder;
 - (2)** on premises, as defined in §123, observation of patient care by board-approved supervisors in the provisional licensee’s approved practice location(s), a minimum of 2 hours per day with a minimum total of 10 hours per week; and
 - (3)** availability of the supervisor at all times to provide advice to the provisional license holder and to the patient during physical therapy treatment given by the provisional license holder.
- C.** A PTA holding a provisional license pending examination shall engage in the practice of physical therapy under the supervision of a board approved supervisor. The PTA applicant holding a provisional license shall receive continuous supervision as defined in §123.
- D.** Supervisor Absence. If the board-approved clinical supervisor cannot fulfill his supervisory obligations for a CAPTE graduate pending examination provisional licensee:

- (1) if absent for five or fewer consecutive days, another PT in good standing may supervise in his place. In such case, the substitute PT is not required to be approved by the board; however, the board designated supervisor, the substitute supervisor, and the supervised individual, shall all be held accountable for the care provided by those supervised;
- (2) if absent for more than five consecutive days, the board-approved clinical supervisor of the CAPTE graduate pending examination provisional licensee shall send a written request to the executive director for approval of a substitute supervising physical therapist during his period of absence. The substitution can only occur once written approval is provided by the executive director to the designated supervisor.

§331. SUPERVISED CLINICAL PRACTICE OF FOREIGN-EDUCATED PHYSICAL THERAPIST PROVISIONAL LICENSEES & FOREIGN-EDUCATED PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROVISIONAL LICENSEES

- A. A clinical supervisor is subject to ratio restrictions pursuant to R.S. 37:2418(F)(2)(a).
- B. Before a foreign-educated physical therapist or foreign-educated physical therapist assistant applicant for initial licensure is issued a provisional license, the applicant shall submit to the board:
 - (1) a signed Statement of Responsibility completed by the requesting clinical supervisor;
 - (2) a signed Statement of Placement completed by the director of physical therapy services at the practice site where the clinical supervised practice will take place which includes the name, address, and telephone number and email address for such person; and
 - (3) a description of the types of physical therapy services provided at the site.
- C. The executive director shall approve or deny a request made under §331 after assessing whether the facility provides the opportunity for a provisional license holder to attain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be evaluated according to a board-approved performance evaluation tool and determines if the site provides a broad base of clinical experience to the foreign-educated provisional licensee including a variety of physical agents, therapeutic exercises, evaluation procedures, and patient physical therapy diagnoses.
 - (1) Clinical sites are approved on a case-by-case basis.
- D. As authorized by R.S. 37:2410(6), a foreign-educated provisional licensee shall not begin practicing physical therapy until the executive director has approved the clinical supervisor and the worksite, the foreign-educated provisional licensee has completed the personal interview with a board representative, and the executive director has issued his provisional license.
- E. A provisional licensee shall complete a supervised clinical practice at a board-approved clinical site for a minimum of four hours per day, with on premises supervision by a board-approved clinical supervisor who is a physical therapist.
 - (1) The supervised clinical practice shall consist of no less than 1,000 hours and shall be accomplished at a rate of no more than 40 hours and no less than 20 hours per week.
 - (2) The board-approved clinical supervisor of the foreign-educated initial applicant shall cosign all of the foreign-educated provisional licensee's treatment documentation within five days of treatment.
- F. Supervisor Absence. If, due to illness or continuing education, the board-approved clinical supervisor for the foreign-educated provisional licensee cannot fulfill his supervisory obligations:
 - (1) if absent for five or fewer consecutive days, another PT in good standing may supervise in his place. In such case, the substitute PT is not required to be approved by the board; however, the board-approved clinical supervisor of the foreign-educated provisional licensee, the substitute clinical supervisor of the foreign-educated provisional licensee, and the supervised foreign-educated provisional licensee shall all be held accountable for the care provided to the patient;
 - (2) if absent for more than five consecutive days, the board-approved clinical supervisor of the foreign-educated provisional licensee shall send a written request to the executive director for approval of a substitute supervising physical therapist during his period of absence. The substitution can only occur once written approval is provided by the executive director to the designated supervisor.
- G. The approved clinical supervisor shall:
 - (1) observe, assist and support the provisional licensee during the supervised clinical practice;
 - (2) rate the provisional licensee's performance during his clinical practice using a board-approved performance evaluation form or tool, indicating the dates of observation, demonstration or discussion of each skill;
 - (3) assess skills required for success in such setting with recommendations for improvement upon completion of a supervised clinical practice site;

- (4) submit the results of the supervised clinical practice to the board in a timely manner. Approval of the next clinical placement or granting of license, shall not take place until this report is received and evaluated by the executive director; and
 - (5) continue with supervised clinical practice until the supervised foreign-educated provisional licensee receives notice of termination of supervision by issuance of permanent license.
- H. A provisional licensee shall not supervise any personnel unless assistance is required to ensure the safety and welfare of the patient during ambulation, transfers, or functional activities.

§333. PHYSICAL THERAPIST RESPONSIBILITIES; SUPERVISION OF PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS

- A. A supervising PT of record is responsible for and shall participate in the patient's care.
- (1) conducting the initial patient evaluation and documenting a plan of care for the patient;
 - (2) treating and reassessing the patient at least every sixth treatment day or every 30 days, whichever occurs first;
 - (3) treating the patient for the final treatment session unless the patient is physically unavailable; and
 - (4) writing the discharge summary.
- B. A supervising PT of record shall comply with the following requirements in providing patient care and in supervising PTAs.
- (1) The level of responsibility assigned to a PTA is at the discretion of the supervising PT of record who is ultimately responsible for the care provided by this PTA.
 - (2) In all settings, the Supervising PT of Record shall:
 - a. perform an initial physical therapy evaluation and create the plan of care on each patient prior to delegation of treatment;
 - b. treat and reassess the patient at least every sixth treatment day or every 30 days, whichever occurs first;
 - c. treat and assess the patient for his final treatment session when feasible, as defined in §123, and write a discharge summary;
 - d. be readily accessible telecommunication device and available to the patient by the next scheduled treatment session upon request of the patient or PTA; and
 - e. hold a patient care conference with a PTA regarding the patient. The PT is responsible for determining the frequency of the conferences consistent with accepted standards of practice; however, such conference shall occur at least every sixth treatment day or every 30 days, whichever occurs first.
- C. In a wellness setting, after conducting an appropriate screening as to suitability for wellness or preventive services, a PT may delegate the provision of client wellness or preventive services to a PTA or a technician to perform and/or assist in the implementation of wellness services.

§335. SUPERVISION OF PHYSICAL THERAPY TECHNICIANS

- A. The level of responsibility assigned to a PT technician is at the discretion of a Supervising PT of Record who is ultimately responsible for the care provided by the technician. Documentation of education or in-service training completed by the physical therapy technician shall be maintained in the technician's personnel file.
- (1) In all practice settings, during the provision of physical therapy services, the supervising PT shall provide continuous, in-person supervision of the physical therapy technician.
 - (2) A physical therapy technician may assist a PTA only with those aspects of patient treatment which have been assigned to the physical therapy technician by a PT.
 - (3) To ensure the safety and welfare of a patient during ambulation, transfers, or functional activities, the PTA may utilize one or more physical therapy technicians for physical assistance without the physical therapist on premises.

§337. CLINICAL INSTRUCTION OF STUDENT PTS AND PTAS

- A. A clinical instructor shall provide on-premises supervision to a PT student in all practice settings. A clinical instructor shall provide continuous supervision to a PTA student in all practice settings. A PTA may act as a clinical instructor for a PTA student in all practice settings provided that the PT supervisor of the PTA is available by telecommunication device.
- B. A PTA can be a clinical instructor for the PTA student.

- C. PT students may perform an initial physical therapy evaluation and create the plan of care on each patient, treat and reassess patients, and write discharge summaries under the supervision of a clinical instructor or Supervising PT or Record.

§339. LIMITATION ON SUPERVISION RATIOS

- A. Supervision Ratio. Limitations on supervision for a physical therapist shall comply with R.S. 37:2418(F)(2)(a).
- B. It is the responsibility of each PT to determine the number of individuals he can supervise safely and within the ratio set forth by law.
- C. The number of individuals supervised by PTAs shall be included in the number of individuals supervised by the supervising PT of record for any given day. In no case shall the number of individuals supervised by a PTA on any given day exceed two, nor exceed the following limitations:
- (1) no more than one PTA provisional licensee; and
 - (2) no more than two PTA students.

§341. DOCUMENTATION STANDARDS

- A. A written record of physical therapy treatment shall be maintained for each patient. A complete record shall include written documentation of prescription or referral (if such exists), initial evaluation, treatment(s) provided, PT/PTA conferences, progress notes, reevaluations or reassessments, and patient status at discharge all as defined in §123.
- (1) A prescription or referral, if it exists, may initially be a verbal order and may be later confirmed in writing. The verbal order shall be documented by the PT in the patient's record.
 - (2) An initial physical therapy evaluation, as defined in R.S. 37:2407(A)(1), shall be created and signed by the PT performing the evaluation within seven days after performing the evaluation.
 - (3) Progress note is the written documentation of the patient's subjective status, changes in objective findings, and progression to or regression from established goals. A progress note shall be created and signed only by the supervising PT of record or PTA. A progress note shall be written a minimum of once per week, or if the patient is seen less frequently, then at every visit.
 - (4) Reassessment or reevaluation is the written documentation which includes all elements of a progress note, as well as the interpretation of objective findings compared to the previous evaluation with a revision of goals and plan of care as indicated. A reassessment shall be written at least once per month, or, if the patient is seen less frequently, then at every visit. A reassessment shall be created and signed by the supervising PT of record.
 - (5) Treatment Record is the written documentation of each patient visit which includes specific treatment and/or any equipment provided which shall be signed or initialed by the Supervising PT of Record or PTA. A treatment record shall be maintained only if a progress note is not written for each patient visit. A treatment record may be in the form of a checklist, flow sheet, or narrative.
 - (6) Patient care conference is the documentation of the meeting held between a PTA who is providing patient care and the PT supervising that care to discuss the status of patients. This conference shall be conducted where the PT and PTA are both physically present at the same time and place, or through live telecommunication conducted in accordance with all standards required by federal and state laws governing privacy and security of a patient's protected health information. The patient care conference shall be signed and dated by the PT and PTA and shall be entered in the patient treatment record within five days of the conference, documenting treatment recommendations and decisions made.
 - (7) Discharge summary is the written documentation of the reasons for discontinuation of care, degree of goal achievement and a discharge plan which shall be created and signed by the supervising PT of record. A discharge summary shall be written at the termination of physical therapy care when feasible.
- B. A licensee shall maintain accurate patient treatment and billing records and shall not falsify, alter, or destroy such records, the result of which would be to impede or evade investigation by the board or other lawful authorities.
- C. The documentation standards set forth above do not mandate a particular format; however, a complete physical therapy record must include these elements.
- D. Forms of electronic signatures, established pursuant to written policies and mechanisms to assure that only the author can authenticate his own entry, are acceptable.
- E. Documentation by a student must be co-signed by the Supervising PT of Record or supervising PTA.
- F. A written record of an initial screening for wellness or preventive services shall be kept along with plans for implementation of a wellness or preventive program.

SUBCHAPTER D: DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

§343. SANCTIONS IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

- A. The board, after due notice and hearing as set forth herein and in the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 and following, may refuse to issue a license or provisional license, or may suspend, revoke, or impose probationary conditions and/or restrictions on a licensee upon finding that the licensee has violated the Practice Act, or any of the Rules promulgated by the board.
- B. Board orders in disciplinary proceeding may require the respondent to reimburse the board in accordance with R.S. 37:2405(B)(11).
- C. In placing a respondent on suspension or probation, the board may impose such additional terms, conditions and restrictions as it deems appropriate for the period of suspension or probation. The board shall specify in its order the exact duration of the suspension or probationary period. Upon finding that a respondent placed on probation has failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the board order, the board may take such additional disciplinary action as it deems appropriate, following notice and hearing.

§345. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

- A. The board shall deem a violation any charge of conduct which fails to conform to the Practice Act, and board rules to carry out the provisions of the Act, and shall take appropriate action where violations are found. The rules of this Chapter complement the board's authority to deny, suspend, revoke or take such other action against a licensee, or Compact Privilege holder as it deems appropriate.
- B. As used in R.S. 37:2420(A)(7) of the Practice Act and in these rules, the term unprofessional conduct does not require actual injury to a patient, and includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (1) departure from, failure to conform to, or failure to perform on a continuing basis to the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing physical therapy practice as defined in §123, or the commission of any act contrary to honesty, justice, good morals, patient safety or the best interest of the patient, whether committed in the course of the licensee's practice or otherwise, regardless of whether actual injury to a patient results therefrom, including, but not limited to:
 - a. failure to use sound professional judgment;
 - b. failing to assess a patient's status at every visit;
 - c. performing or attempting to perform procedures for which the licensee is not qualified by education, experience, licensure, or training;
 - d. failure to inform and refer the patient or client to an appropriate practitioner, when the licensee becomes aware of findings and/or the need for treatment which are outside the scope of the PT's competence;
 - e. providing treatment interventions that are not warranted by the patient's condition or continuing treatment beyond the point of reasonable benefit to the patient;
 - f. providing substandard care as a PTA by exceeding the authority to perform components of physical therapy interventions selected by the supervising PT of record or through a deliberate or negligent act or failure to act, whether or not actual injury to any person occurred;
 - g. causing, or permitting another person to cause, physical or emotional injury to the patient, or depriving the patient of his individual dignity;
 - h. abandoning a patient without documenting the transfer of care or by inappropriately terminating the patient/practitioner relationship; or
 - i. providing services as a PTA without the knowledge or supervision of a PT.
 - (2) improperly delegating or supervising—a PT retains responsibility to his patient for the training, delivery and results of physical therapy services rendered to his patient. A PT shall not:
 - a. delegate professional, physical therapy, or, if applicable, physical therapist assistant responsibilities to a person the PT or PTA knows, or has reason to know, is not qualified by education, training, experience or licensure to perform the function or responsibility involved; or
 - b. fail to exercise appropriate supervision over a person who is authorized to practice only under PT supervision;

- (3) failing to create or maintain medical record—a licensee shall create and maintain adequate and legible patient records. In addition, a licensee shall:
- a. not falsely create or alter a medical record or destroy a medical record except as authorized by law;
 - b. upon receipt of proper authorization, and in conformity with R.S. 40:1299.96, make patient medical records in the PT's possession available within a reasonable period of time to the patient, the patient's representative, or another physician or licensed health care provider;
 - c. make arrangements for patient access to medical records created by the licensee after relocating or closing a physical therapy practice, retiring, or being prohibited from practice by order of the board;
 - d. make arrangements, or assist another PT practicing in the same group to make arrangements, for access by a patient to his medical records after the PT has left a physical therapy practice, relocated a practice to a new location, closed a practice, or retired;
 - e. insure proper destruction of medical records by methods approved by state or federal authorities; and
 - f. not abandon or desert medical records;
- (4) exercising undue influence—a PT shall exercise his professional judgment in the best interest of his patients. A licensee shall not:
- a. place his or her own financial gain over the interest and welfare of a patient in initiation or continuation of physical therapy services that are contraindicated or cannot reasonably result in a beneficial outcome; or
 - b. exercise influence over a patient in such a manner as to abuse or exploit the physical therapy provider/patient or client relationship for the purpose of securing personal compensation, gratification, gain or benefit of any kind or type, unrelated to the provision of physical therapy services;
- (5) sexual misconduct—inappropriate sexual or intimate conduct, includes, but is not limited to sexual intimacy, contact, exposure, gratification, abuse, exploitation or other sexual behavior with or in the presence of a patient or any other individual in connection to the licensee's practice of physical therapy regardless of consent by the patient. Such conduct may be verbal, physical, visual, written or electronic, or it may consist of expressions of thoughts, feelings or gestures that are sexual or reasonably may be construed by a patient or other individual as sexual or which may reasonably be interpreted as intended for the sexual arousal or gratification of the practitioner, the patient, or another individual. Sexual misconduct between a licensee and a former patient after termination of the therapist–patient relationship may also constitute unprofessional conduct if the sexual misconduct is a result of the exploitation of trust, knowledge, influence or emotions derived from the professional relationship;
- (6) disruptive behavior—aberrant behavior, including but not limited to harassment, sexual or otherwise, manifested through personal interaction with employees, co-workers, hospital personnel, health care professionals, patients, family members or others, which interferes with patient care or could reasonably be expected to interfere with the process of delivering quality care or jeopardizing patient safety;
- (7) conviction of any crime or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any criminal charge arising out of or related to the practice of physical therapy or which constitutes behavior which could put the person or property of patients at risk of harm from a treating licensee, or failing to notify the board of the same within seven days of conviction or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere;
- (8) engaging in conduct which results in an arrest and the initiation of criminal prosecution, even if criminal charges are eventually lessened or dropped, when the conduct leading to the arrest can be verified and constitutes behavior which could put the person or property of patients at risk of harm from a treating licensee;
- (9) utilizing dry needling techniques in patient treatment without first obtaining appropriate specialized training and education as required by §311.
- (10) making or participating in any communication, advertisement, or solicitation which is false, fraudulent, deceptive, misleading or unfair in violation of board rules, or which contains a false, fraudulent, deceptive, misleading or unfair statement or claim, including, but not limited to:
- a. documenting services provided which have not been provided as documented or billing for services which have not been provided;
- (11) disclosure to a third party not involved in a patient's care, of information or records relating to the physical therapy provider–patient relationship, except when such disclosure is authorized by the patient or when required or permitted by law;
- (12) practicing or enabling practice by an impaired provider as defined in §123, a licensee shall not:

- a. engage in the practice of physical therapy while under the influence of a mood-altering substance that compromises the professional judgment or practice or has the potential to compromise the medical judgment or practice;
 - b. enable practice by an impaired provider;
 - c. fail to submit to physical or mental examination or for drug screening or testing at the time and place directed by the executive director following receipt of apparently reliable information or report alleging impairment, pursuant to §351, or as otherwise provided in the rules;
- (13) failing to timely notify the board of a name change, or change in business or home address, telephone numbers or email addresses as required by R.S. 37:2415.B.
- (14) allowing another person to use a licensee's wall certificate, pocket identification card, license number, national provider identifier, or other official document which identifies the holder as a licensee for any purpose other than to identify himself as the lawful holder of those credentials;
- (15) failure to notify the board of a felony arrest or arrest related to habitual intemperance as defined in §351, institution of formal criminal charges either by indictment or bill of information, and conviction, including, but not limited to, a guilty plea or a plea of nolo contendere, within seven days of such arrest, criminal charge, or conviction.
- C. By implementing the meanings set forth in these rules, the board does not intend to restrict and reserves its authority and right to take action based upon R.S. 37:2405(B)(10), in any instance in which the particular facts and circumstances of a complaint, investigation or adjudication rise to a level of conduct that the board may in its discretion, finds to be unprofessional conduct.

§347. FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION

- A. A person who "attempts to or attains a license by fraud or misrepresentation," as used in R.S. 2420.A (2) of the Practice Act, includes a person who:
- (1) makes any representation to the board, knowingly or unknowingly, which is in fact false or misleading as to a material fact or omits to state any fact or matter that is material to an application for a license under Chapter 1 of these rules; or
 - (2) makes any representation, or fails to make a representation or engages in any act or omission, the result of which is false, deceptive, fraudulent, or misleading in achieving or obtaining any of the qualifications for a license required by Chapter 1 of these rules.

§349. COMMISSION OF A FELONY

- A. As used in R.S. 37:2420.A (4) of the Practice Act, a "felony" is a crime defined as such under the laws of the US, or of any state. The term "convicted", as applied to a licensed PT or PTA, or an applicant for such license is a judgment entered against such person by a court of competent jurisdiction on the basis of a finding or verdict of guilty or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere. Such a judgment provides cause for administrative action by the board so long as it has not been reversed by an appellate court of competent jurisdiction, notwithstanding that an appeal or other application for relief from such judgment may be pending.

§351. SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND HABITUAL INTEMPERANCE

- A. As used in R.S. 37:2420.A (5) of the Practice Act, "habitually intemperate" means:
- (1) repeated excessive use or abuse of alcohol; or
 - (2) the ingestion, self-administration, or other use of legally controlled substances or medications which affect the central nervous system, other than pursuant to and used in accordance with a lawful prescription and/or medical advice; or
 - (3) repeated excessive use or abuse of any mood altering or mind altering substance that may negatively impact the ability of a licensee to safely practice physical therapy.
- B. As used in R.S. 37:2420.A of the Practice Act, the phrase "abused controlled dangerous substances as defined by federal or Louisiana law" means physiological or psychological dependence on any legally controlled substance or medication with a potential for inducing physiological or psychological dependence or tolerance.
- C. If the board receives apparently reliable information, including, but not limited to, reports made pursuant to R.S. 37:1745.14, which information or report puts in question a licensee's or applicant's current fitness and ability to practice physical therapy with reasonable skill and safety to patients, the licensee or applicant shall submit to such physical or mental examination, evaluation, test, or drug/alcohol screen as requested by the executive director to determine the licensee's or applicant's fitness and ability to practice physical therapy with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

- D. A respondent shall appear for drug screening and testing at the facility designated by the executive director within six hours of initial contact by the board representative sent to the telephone number or email address designated for such purposes by respondent pursuant to §355, or as otherwise provided in the rules.
- E. Records of such examinations, evaluations, tests, and screens shall be maintained by the board in confidence unless such records are admitted into the record of any adjudication proceeding before the board or subpoenaed by a court order.

§353. RECOVERING PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM (RPTP)

- A. Under the provisions of R.S. 37:2402 and following, the board has the authority to establish and implement recovery programs for PTs and PTAs as an alternative to the disciplinary process. The RPTP is established to assist board licensees who have demonstrated actual or potential inability to practice physical therapy with reasonable skill and safety to patients because of impairment as defined in §123. The goal of the RPTP is for PTs or PTAs to be treated and to return to practice in a manner which will not endanger public health, safety and welfare.
- B. Eligibility. The following persons are eligible for participation in the RPTP:
 - (1) a Louisiana-licensed PT or PTA;
 - (2) a graduate of a school of physical therapy or physical therapist assisting eligible for licensure in Louisiana;
 - (3) a PT or PTA currently enrolled in a peer assistance/alternative program in another jurisdiction and requesting licensure in Louisiana;
- C. Objective. The RPTP objectives are:
 - (1) to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the public through a program which closely monitors practitioners whose capacity to practice physical therapy with reasonable skill and safety to patients has been, or may potentially be, compromised because of impairment as defined by §123;
 - (2) to encourage voluntary participation of licensees in appropriate rehabilitative medical treatment and ongoing aftercare and monitoring;
 - (3) to promote safe physical therapy care by preventing and/or restricting the practice of impaired licensees; and
 - (4) to provide a structured program for participants seeking recovery from impairment.
- D. Referrals to RPTP. Upon receipt of a complaint which involves a licensee, or reliable information of the impairment of persons eligible for participation in the RPTP as specified in Subsection B of this Section, the executive director may refer eligible persons for participation in the RPTP. Only eligible persons whose conditions have reliable indicators for return to safe practice will be permitted to participate in the RPTP.
- E. Defer or Suspend Disciplinary Proceedings. When disciplinary proceedings have been initiated or could be initiated against a licensee pursuant to R.S. 37:2401-2424, such proceedings may be deferred or suspended to allow the licensee to participate in the RPTP.
- F. An eligible person as defined in Subsection B of this Section not meeting the criteria of §357 may be admitted into the RPTP by the board pursuant to any adjudication order.
- G. In addition to providing an alternative to discipline, the RPTP accepts eligible persons who have been diagnosed with a physical, and/or mental impairment, or substance abuse and/or dependency and eligible persons already subject to discipline ordered by the board.
- H. When a licensee ceases to be in compliance with his RPTP agreement, he shall be referred back to the board for regular disciplinary proceedings or such action as authorized in the RPTP agreement.
- I. Use of Outside Contractor. The RPTP may be administered by board staff directly or the board may delegate to a qualified outside contractor the administration and operation of all or part of RPTP on such terms as it deems prudent. Such contractor shall be charged with the powers and responsibilities set forth in these rules. If delegated to a qualified outside contractor, the board shall cooperate with a contract operator of RPTP and shall act responsibly to meet its obligations under the Practice Act, board rules, RPTP agreements and contracts with outside contractors.

§357. ADMISSION TO THE CONFIDENTIAL RECOVERING PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM (CRPTP)

- A. Participation in CRPTP may be voluntary, nonpunitive, confidential, as defined by §123, and in place of formal disciplinary proceedings for eligible persons who meet the following admission criteria:
 - (1) voluntary request for admission to RPTP whether referred by self or other sources;

- (2) addiction to or use of alcohol and/or other mood altering substances including prescription drugs, or has a physical or mental condition, which impairs or potentially impairs the ability of the eligible person to perform duties safely;
 - (3) no previous disciplinary action involving impairment by any licensing authority;
 - (4) has no criminal convictions or pending criminal charge that involves violence or danger to another person, or involves a crime which constitutes a threat to patient care;
 - (5) no diversion of chemicals;
 - (6) no dealing or selling of illicit drugs;
 - (7) no coexisting untreated physical, emotional or psychiatric problems which would impair physical therapy competency;
 - (8) no related practice problems involving death or significant harm to a patient; and
 - (9) agrees to comply with all RPTP requirements and signs the RPTP agreement including a statement acknowledging chemical dependency or other impairment.
- B.** Involvement by the participant in the CRPTP will remain confidential and shall not be subject to discovery in a legal proceeding except as required by federal and state confidentiality laws as long as the licensee complies with all stipulations of the RPTP agreement.
- (1) The board may cause to be made non-confidential the records, files and information related to a successfully completed RPTP in the event that a former participant becomes the subject of a subsequent disciplinary action for violation of the Practice Act or board rules related to substance abuse and/or chemical dependency unless such records are protected by federal and state confidentiality laws and regulations.
- C.** When a licensee ceases to be in compliance with his confidential RPTP agreement, he shall be referred back to the board for regular disciplinary proceedings.

§361. RPTP NON-COMPLIANCE

- A.** When a licensee ceases to be in compliance with his RPTP Agreement, he shall be referred back to the board for regular disciplinary proceedings.

§363. LICENSEES LEAVING THE STATE

- A.** A RPTP participant who moves from Louisiana to another state with an alternative program shall have records transferred to that program.
- B.** A RPTP participant who moves to a state where there is no alternative program shall have his records transferred to the licensing board in the receiving state.

§365. LICENSURE OF PERSONS WITH A HISTORY OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- A.** As authorized by R.S. 37:2420(A)(5), the board may refuse to license any applicant, or may refuse to renew the license of any person, or may restrict, suspend or revoke any license upon proof that a person has been habitually intemperate or abused controlled dangerous substances as defined by federal or Louisiana law.
- B.** In reviewing a history of substance abuse, the board may consider, among other evidence, the following in determining fitness to practice physical therapy and appropriate board action:
- (1) documentation demonstrating the degree of sobriety obtained;
 - (2) documentation showing completion of a drug or alcohol rehabilitation program;
 - (3) evidence of participation in board-accepted aftercare;
 - (4) a current status report from a drug/alcohol abuse counselor or board-accepted aftercare sponsor; and
 - (5) notarized letters of recommendation.
- C.** The burden to provide the foregoing documentation to the board shall be solely at the expense of the respondent/applicant.

§369. DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST AND ABUSE OF REFERRALS

- A.** Declaration of Purpose; Interpretation and Application. Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants owe a fiduciary duty to patients to exercise their professional judgment in the best interests of their patients in providing, furnishing, recommending, or referring patients for health care items and services, without regard to personal financial recompense. The purpose of these rules and the laws they implement is to prevent payments by or to a health care provider as a financial incentive for the referral

of a patients to a health care provider for diagnostic or therapeutic services or items. These rules shall be interpreted, construed and applied so as to give effect to such purposes and intent.

- B.** As used in R.S. 2420 A(8) of the Practice Act, the phrase "engages directly or indirectly in the division, transferring, assigning, rebating, or refunding of fees received for professional service with a referring practitioner or any relative or business associate of that referring practitioner" means the exploitation of the physical therapy referral mechanism so that a referring practitioner receives compensation, payment, or anything of value, including but not limited to rental fees in excess of fair market value, or any other unearned monies or value in kind, in return for a patient referral when the referring practitioner does not have an ownership interest in the physical therapy practice involved.
- C.** Violation of R.S. 37:1744 shall be a violation of these rule and the laws they implement.
- D.** Violation of R.S. 37:1745 shall be a violation of these rules and the laws they implement.
- E.** General Exceptions. Any payment, remuneration, practice, or arrangement, which is not prohibited by or unlawful under §1128B(b) of the federal Social Security Act (Act), 42 U.S.C. §1320a-7b(b), as amended, with respect to health care items or services for which payment may be made under title XVIII or title XIX of the Act, including those payments and practices sanctioned by the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, through the Office of the Inspector General, pursuant to §1128B(b)(3)(E) of the Act, through regulations promulgated at 42 CFR §1001.952, as the same may hereafter be amended, shall not be deemed a payment prohibited by R.S. 37:1745(B) or by §369 of these rules with respect to health care items or services for which payment may be made by any patient, private, or governmental payer.
- F.** Sanctions. Upon proof of a violation, the board may suspend or revoke, refuse to issue, or impose probationary or other restrictions on any license and shall order the refund of all such sums received in payment for the goods and services furnished or rendered without disclosure of financial interest. Such a refund shall be paid to the individual patient, third-party payor, or other entity who made the payment.
- G.** The board shall submit to the commissioner of insurance an annual report listing the investigations undertaken pursuant to this Section, including the number of violations and the sanctions imposed, if any.

§375. DISCIPLINARY PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

- A.** The purpose of the following rules is to supplement and effectuate the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 and following, regarding the disciplinary process and procedures. These rules are not intended to amend or repeal the provisions of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, and, to the extent any of these rules are in conflict therewith, the provisions of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act shall govern.
- B.** A disciplinary proceeding, including the formal hearing, is less formal than a judicial proceeding. It is not subject to strict rules and technicalities, but must be conducted in accordance with considerations of fair play and constitutional requirements of due process.
- C.** The purpose of a disciplinary proceeding is to determine contested issues of law and fact; whether the Respondent did certain acts or omissions and, if he did, whether those acts or omissions violated the Practice Act or board rules; and to determine the appropriate disciplinary action.
- D.** Pursuant to 45 CFR 60.1, the board is required to report certain information, including final adverse actions it has taken against its licensees, to the NPDB. The board may designate an agent to act on its behalf to report information and submit queries to the NPDB as required by federal law, as may be amended from time-to-time.

§377. INITIATION OF COMPLAINTS

- A.** Complaints may be initiated by any person or by the board on its own initiative. A licensee is obligated to report to his supervisor or employer, and to the board, violations of the Practice Act, board rules or the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing physical therapy practice as defined in §123.
- B.** Failure by a licensee to report such violations to his supervisor or employer and to the board may subject the licensee to disciplinary action.

§379. EMERGENCY ACTION

- A.** In accordance with R.S. 49:961, if the board finds that public health, safety, and welfare require emergency action and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, a summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for suspension, revocation or other action. Such proceedings shall be promptly instituted and determined.

§381. DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS

- A. Some complaints may be settled informally by the board and the Respondent without a formal hearing. The following types of informal dispositions may be utilized:
- (1) Disposition by Correspondence. For less serious complaints, the executive director or legal counsel may write to the Respondent explaining the nature of the complaint received. If the Respondent's subsequent response satisfactorily explains the situation, the matter may be dropped. If the situation is not satisfactorily explained, it may be scheduled for an Informal Conference.
 - (2) Informal Conference. An Investigative Committee of the board may conduct an Informal Conference with the Respondent. The Respondent shall be given reasonable notice to participate in the Informal Conference and provided with a description of the issues to be discussed, the possible violations of law or rules and whether admissions by Respondent in the Informal Conference may later be used in a formal hearing.
 - (3) Letter of Concern, as defined in §123;
 - (4) Consent Order. If the respondent and the board member participating in the Investigative Committee agree on the essential facts and law arising out of the complaint and on sanctions to be imposed on the respondent, the complaint may be resolved by a consent order to be presented by the participating board member or by board legal counsel for approval, amendment or rejection. If accepted by the board and the respondent, the consent order shall be finalized as a board order and shall be reported to the NPDB and published as a disciplinary action of the board;
 - (5) Dismissal:
 - a. a complaint may be dismissed for the following reasons:
 - i. the absence of adequate, credible evidence; or
 - ii. other reasons which the Investigative Committee believes are justification for dismissal;
 - b. when it is the decision of the Investigative Committee to dismiss a complaint, the complainant shall be provided with a letter explanation for dismissal of the complaint;
 - (6) Education. After review and investigation of a complaint, the Investigative Committee may require the licensee to participate in an educational meeting with the Investigative Committee, or other persons as delegated by the Investigative Committee, to discuss the laws and rules as they apply to the practice of physical therapy. Request for an educational meeting shall be in writing and shall provide the date, time, location, and matters to be discussed. This meeting shall be confidential and shall not be reported to the NPDB nor published as a disciplinary action of the board. Failure to comply with the request for an educational meeting shall be deemed a failure to cooperate with the board in violation of §383.A.
- B. An Agreement reached between a complainant and a Respondent shall not preclude disciplinary action by the board on the issues raised in the complaint brought to the board.

§383. FAILURE TO RESPOND OR COOPERATE WITH THE BOARD

- A. Licensees shall cooperate with and assist the board in carrying out its duties. A licensee shall, among other matters:
- (1) respond or provide information or items requested, respond to a subpoena, comply to a request for a meeting, or complete an evaluation within the time designated by the board or its staff;
 - (2) not attempt to influence the board, its members, staff or agents by means of intimidation, falsehoods or other means prohibited by law;
 - (3) not contact members of the board directly or through others during the pendency of a complaint in an attempt to influence the outcome of an investigation or disciplinary proceeding; and
 - (4) not contact or attempt to contact a complainant or witness for purposes of intimidation or harassment regarding a complaint or an investigation by the board.
- B. If the Respondent does not respond to the original communication from the board within ten days of a request by the board, a second letter shall be sent to the Respondent by certified mail, return receipt requested, seeking a response by a specified date.
- C. If the Respondent fails to reply to the board's second request or otherwise fails to cooperate with the board, the board shall record the circumstances of the failure to cooperate and shall notify the Respondent of the date for an Informal Conference or Formal Hearing and that failure to appear and participate may result in action which could eventually lead to suspension or revocation of license, or other appropriate sanctions under the law.

§385. MONITORING OF LICENSEES

- A. A Respondent who is required by board order to provide information or perform certain acts will be monitored by a board representative to ensure that the requirements imposed by the board order are met.

- B.** Respondents working under a board order resulting from disciplinary proceedings shall provide to the executive director their preferred telephone and/or email address for expedited communications regarding compliance with board orders. Once designated by the Respondent, all communication regarding compliance shall be directed by board representatives to that telephone number or email address and the Respondent shall be responsible for responding to such communications within four hours of the time the message was sent to the designated telephone number or email address. Failure of the Respondent to respond to the board representative within four hours shall be grounds for disciplinary action against the Respondent. If the Respondent desires to change the designated means of communication, they shall do so in writing sent to the executive director.

§387. FORMAL HEARINGS

- A.** The board is authorized by R.S. 37:2420, to initiate administrative proceedings against persons to whom it has issued a license to practice as a PT or PTA or against any applicant requesting a license. The board and the Respondent accused of a violation are the parties to the proceeding. The person has the right to appear and be heard, either in person or through counsel; the right to notice, a statement of what accusations have been made; the right to present evidence and to cross examine; and the right to have witnesses subpoenaed.
- B.** If the Respondent does not appear, either in person or through counsel, after proper notice has been given, the Respondent is deemed to have waived these rights and the board may proceed with the hearing without the presence of the Respondent.
- C.** Disciplinary proceedings shall include certain steps, and may include other steps as follows.
- (1)** The board has received or originated a complaint alleging that a licensee or applicant has acted in violation of the Practice Act or board rules.
 - (2)**
 - a.** The complaint is investigated by the Investigative Committee as defined in §123 to determine if there is sufficient evidence to warrant disciplinary proceedings. Once the complaint is under investigation, no board member (except board members serving as members of an Investigative Committee) shall receive or review any information relevant to the subject matter of the investigation or communicate with the respondent or his legal representative, potential witnesses, or any member of the Investigative Committee concerning any issue of fact or law relevant to the investigation. A board member who has served on the Investigative Committee shall not serve as a member of a hearing panel of the board in the adjudication of a case previously investigated by the board member.
 - b.** A decision to initiate a formal complaint or charge is made if one or more of the following conditions exist:
 - i.** the conduct complained of is sufficiently serious;
 - ii.** the Respondent, through board correspondence, has been given an opportunity to show compliance with lawful requirements for the retention of his license without restriction as contemplated by R.S. 49:961.C, but the Respondent fails to respond, affirmatively waives the opportunity or provides an unconvincing response to the board's correspondence; or
 - iii.** an Informal Conference is conducted, but fails to resolve all of the issues or reach a Consent Order acceptable to the board and the Respondent.
 - (3)** A sworn complaint is filed, charging the violation of one or more of the provisions of the Practice Act and/or board rules and the specific violation thereof.
 - (4)** A time and place for a hearing is fixed by the chairman or an agent of the board.
 - (5)**
 - a.** At least 20 days prior to the date set for the hearing, a copy of the charges in the form of an Administrative Complaint shall be served on the Respondent by certified mail with return receipt as well as by regular first class mail at the most current address reflected in the official records of the board, or by personal service on the Respondent. Respondent is obligated to provide current contact information to the board as required by §317. If service by certified mail is not effective or is returned unclaimed, attempted personal service does not succeed and attempted notice at Respondent's email address and telephone number also are unsuccessful, the complaint may be adjudicated by default pursuant to R.S. 49:955.D.
 - b.** The content of the charges limits the scope of the hearing and the evidence which may be introduced. The charges may be amended at any time up to ten days prior to the date set for the hearing.
 - c.** If the board is unable to describe the matters involved in detail at the time the sworn complaint is filed, this complaint may be limited to a general statement of the issues involved. Thereafter, upon respondent's request, the board shall provide a more definite and detailed statement.

- d. The respondent may file a written answer to the complaint within 15 days of service, admitting or denying each of the separate allegations. Any matter admitted by the respondent shall be deemed proved and established for the purpose of adjudication. In the event the respondent does not answer the complaint, all allegations will be deemed denied.
 - e. At any time after service of the administrative complaint, a respondent who chooses to be represented by legal counsel shall provide written notification to the board's prosecuting attorney of the name, address and telephone number of such counsel. Following receipt of proper notice of representation, all further notices, correspondence, administrative complaints, subpoenas, orders or other process shall be served on Respondent through his counsel of record.
- (6) Except for extreme emergencies, motions requesting a continuance of a hearing shall be filed no less than five days prior to the time set for the hearing. The motion shall contain the reason for the request, which reason must have relevance to due process.

§389. ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENAS

- A. The chairman, or an authorized agent of the board, shall issue subpoenas on behalf of the board for disciplinary proceedings and when requested to do so, may issue subpoenas for respondent.
- B. Subpoenas include:
 - (1) a subpoena requiring a person to appear and give testimony; and
 - (2) a subpoena duces tecum, which requires that a person produce books, records, correspondence, or other materials over which he has control.
- C. A subpoena requested by a respondent shall not be issued unless the respondent deposits with the board sufficient money to pay the fees and expenses to which a witness in a civil proceeding is entitled under R.S. 13:3671. In addition, the board shall set the amount of any additional compensation for a witness subpoenaed to testify as an expert based on the value of the time employed and the degree of skill and learning required to formulate and present an expert opinion, which additional compensation shall be paid in advance by the party requesting the subpoena for the attendance of such witness.
- D. A motion to limit or quash a subpoena may be filed with the board, but not less than 72 hours before the hour set for the hearing.

§391. CONDUCT OF HEARING

- A. The hearing shall be convened by the board chair or acting board chair at the time, date and place provided in the notice to respondent, at which time the board's primary role is to receive evidence and argument, and to reach a decision. Any board member, who, because of bias or interest, is unable to provide a fair hearing, shall be recused from the particular proceeding. The reasons for the recusal are made part of the record. Should the majority of the board members be recused for a particular proceeding, the governor shall be requested to appoint a sufficient number of pro tem members to provide a quorum for the proceeding in accordance with R.S. 49:960B.
- B. Any objection to the composition of the hearing panel or the qualifications of any member of the hearing panel shall be made and ruled on by the chair before any evidence is received.
- C. The board shall be represented by its investigating board member who has conducted the investigation and by its prosecuting attorney who presents evidence to support the charges contained in the administrative complaint.
- D. Respondent may present evidence personally or through an attorney, and witnesses may testify on his behalf.
- E. Evidence includes the following:
 - (1) oral testimony given by witnesses at the hearing, except that, for good cause, testimony may be taken by deposition. The cost of such deposition shall be borne by the requesting party;
 - (2) documentary evidence, such as written or printed materials including public, business or institutional records, books and reports;
 - (3) visual, physical and illustrative evidence;
 - (4) admissions, which are written or oral statements of the respondent a party made either before or during the hearing; and
 - (5) facts officially noted into the record, usually readily determined facts making proof of such unnecessary.
- F. All testimony shall be received under oath. If the witness objects to swearing, the word "affirm" may be substituted.

§392. ORDER OF HEARING

- A.** Unless respondent is notified otherwise no less than 72 hours prior to the beginning of the hearing, the order of proceedings shall be as follows:
- (1) the board's representative makes an opening statement of what he intends to prove, and what action is sought from the board;
 - (2) the respondent or his attorney makes an opening statement, explaining why he believes that the charges against respondent are not legally founded;
 - (3) the board's representative presents the evidence against the respondent;
 - a. which evidence may include, but is not limited to, all evidence admissible pursuant to R.S. 49:956(2) and (3);
 - b. as part of the board's case in chief, the board's representative may call the respondent under cross examination;
 - (4) the respondent or his attorney cross examines;
 - (5) the respondent presents evidence;
 - a. which evidence may include, but is not limited to, all evidence admissible pursuant to R.S. 49:956(2) and (3);
 - (6) the board's representative cross examines;
 - (7) the board's representative rebuts the respondent's evidence;
 - (8) the respondent surrebuts the evidence against him;
 - (9) each party makes closing statements. The board's representative makes the initial closing statement and the final statement; and
 - (10) motions may be made before, during, or after a hearing. All motions shall be made at an appropriate time, according to the nature of the request. Motions made before a hearing or after the hearing pursuant to §396, shall be in writing. Those made during the course of the hearing may be made orally since they become part of the record of the proceeding.

§393. DECISION OF THE BOARD

- A.** The decision of the board shall be reached in the following manner:
- (1) determine the facts established by the evidence presented in the hearing;
 - (2) determine whether the facts in the case support the charges brought against the respondent; and
 - (3) determine whether charges brought are a violation of the Practice Act or board rules.
- B.** The vote of the board shall be recorded. A majority of the quorum of the board in attendance at the hearing shall be necessary to render a decision, unless otherwise agreed upon by the parties. Minority views may be made part of the record.
- C.** Sanctions against the respondent shall be based upon the findings of fact and conclusions of law determined by the board. The respondent shall be notified by mail of the decision of the board.

§395. RECORD OF THE HEARING

- A.** The record of the hearing shall include:
- (1) all papers filed and served in the proceeding;
 - (2) all documents and other materials accepted as evidence at the hearing;
 - (3) statements of matters officially noticed;
 - (4) notices required by the statutes or rules, including notice of the hearing;
 - (5) affidavits of service or receipts for mailing or process or other evidence of service;
 - (6) stipulations, settlement agreements or consent orders, if any;
 - (7) records of matters agreed upon at a prehearing conference;
 - (8) reports filed by the hearing officer, if one is used;
 - (9) orders of the board and its final decision;
 - (10) actions taken subsequent to the decision, including requests for reconsideration and rehearing; and
 - (11) a transcript of the proceedings, if one has been made, or a tape recording or stenographic record.
- B.** The record of the proceeding shall be retained until the time for any appeal has expired, or until the appeal has been concluded. The record is not transcribed unless a party to the proceeding so requests, and the requesting party shall pay for the cost of the transcript.

SUBCHAPTER E: POST-ADJUDICATION REMEDIES

§396. RECONSIDERATION OF DECISIONS

- A. A petition by a party seeking reconsideration or rehearing must be in proper form and filed within ten days after notification of the board's decision. The petition shall set forth the grounds for the rehearing, which shall include one or more of the following:
- (1) the board's decision is clearly contrary to the law and evidence;
 - (2) there is newly discovered evidence by the party since the hearing which is important to the issues and which the party could not have discovered with due diligence before or during the hearing;
 - (3) there is a showing that issues not previously considered ought to be examined in order to dispose of the case properly; or
 - (4) it would be in the public interest to review and further consider the issues and the evidence.
- B. The board's decision to grant or deny a requested reconsideration of its decision is final and not subject to review or appeal.
- C. The board shall reconsider a matter when ordered to do so when the case is remanded for reconsideration or rehearing by a court to which the board's decision has been appealed.

§397. JUDICIAL REVIEW OF ADJUDICATION

- A. Any respondent whose license has been revoked, suspended, denied or otherwise sanctioned by the board has the right to have the proceedings of the board reviewed by the state district court having jurisdiction over the board, provided that such petition for judicial review is filed within 30 days from mailing of the notice of the decision of the board. If judicial review is granted, the board's decision is enforceable in the interim unless the court orders a stay.

§399. APPEAL

- A. A respondent aggrieved by any final judgment rendered by the state district court may obtain a review of said final judgment by appeal to the appropriate circuit court of appeal. Pursuant to the applicable Section of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La R.S. 49:965, this appeal shall be taken as in any other civil case.

Subpart 3. Fees Chapter 5. Fees

§501. FEES

- A. The board may collect the following fees:
- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| (1) Application | \$250 |
| (2) re-instatement | \$ 75 |
| (3) renewal of license, per year | \$140 |
| (4) license verification | \$ 40 |
| (5) duplicate wall license | \$ 50 |
| (6) duplicate wallet license | \$ 20 |
| (7) CE review (courses <8 hrs) | \$100 |
| (8) CE review (courses 8+ hrs) | \$150 |
| (9) late renewal of license | \$400 |
| (10) licensee course review | \$ 20 |
| (11) mailing list | \$250 maximum |

(12) compact state fee \$95

- B.** The biennial renewal fee provided in this Rule shall be received by the board office prior to May 1 of each period.
- C.** If the biennial renewal fee is received by the board office on or subsequent to May 1, the applicant shall apply for reinstatement pursuant to §187 and shall pay the renewal fee and the reinstatement fee.
- D.** The board may assess reasonable fees with regards to administrative business expenses and services.