

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY



Newsletter

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Word from Board Chair

What Is Your Scope of Practice?

The most prevalent concept that we deal with as a licensing board involves interpreting the physical therapy scope of practice. Every Board meeting we have a session that is dedicated to questions licensees present regarding particular tasks and whether or not they are in the physical therapy scope of practice. Recent examples include: 1) Can a physical therapist measure INR in a homebound patient? 2) Are physical therapists prepared to inventory patient medications? The Board often spends a great deal of time discussing and deciding the correct approach. Therefore, how do you know what is included in your scope of practice?

The literature recommends attention to three different scopes of practice when making such decisions. First is the professional scope of practice. This area is typically defined by national organizations such as the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) or the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapists (FSBPT). These organizations develop and maintain documents such as *The Guide to Physical Therapist Practice*, *Normative Model of Physical Therapist Education*, or the *National Physical Therapist Examination Outline* that define the overall scope of practice. This is the broadest sense of professional scope of practice, and these resources are a great way to start educating yourself.

Second, our scope of practice is defined by the legal jurisdiction where we practice. For Mississippians, it is the Mississippi Law, or Practice Act, and its corresponding rules and regulations for implementing the law. The Mississippi Board of Physical Therapy (MSBPT) is the body charged with interpreting and implementing the laws. Visit our website to review the scope of practice of physical therapy and corresponding regulations at www.msbpt.ms.gov.

Finally, each of us as individual practitioners have a personal scope of practice. Due to our different practice settings, patient populations, and continuing competence activities, we each have individual areas of competence and expertise. This is likely the narrowest subset of scope of practice. Even though a particular intervention is part of professional or jurisdictional scope of practice, it may not be within our personal scope of practice. It is best to refer that patient to someone better versed in that procedure. An example is dry needling. Even though it is now included in the physical therapist's professional and jurisdictional scopes of practice, it should not be practiced without additional training and experience.

So...let us all keep our patients safe and provide the highest quality of care by operating within all three of these scopes of practice. If you do not have the education, training, or expertise to intervene with a particular patient, find a therapist that is better suited to meet that client's needs and make the necessary referral. Doing so is just the right thing to do!

Scope of Practice Resources

Guide to Physical Therapist Practice 3rd edition. www.apta.org/Guide

Scope of Practice Definitions. www.apta.org/Scope

Normative Model of Physical Therapist Professional Education (2004).

National Physical Therapist Examination Outline. www.fsbpt.org

Mississippi Physical Therapist Practice Act. www.msbpt.ms.gov

Cyndi K. Scott, PT, PhD, MBA

Random Audits

The Board is authorized by state statute to enter and make inspections of any place where physical therapy is practiced. Accordingly, the Board through its agents continues random inspections and audits to determine if licensees are in compliance with the Board regulations. During the second, third, and fourth quarter of 2014 and the first quarter of 2015, the following licensees were cited by the Board:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Clare E. Kahre, PT | Failing to have a current license identification card on premises. |
| William R. Thomas, PT | Failing to have a current seal on licensure certificate. |
| Anna K. Roberts, PT: | Failing to have a current license identification card on premises. |
| Jasper W. Adcock, PT | Failing to display a current licensure certificate and failing to have a licensure certificate with a current seal. |
| Andrew F. Biggs, PT | Failing to display a current licensure certificate and seal. |
| Tonya G. McLendon, PT | Failing to display a current licensure certificate and seal. |
| Richard A. Barker, PT | Failing to display a current licensure certificate and seal. |
| Heather B. Russell, PTA | Failing display a current licensure certificate and failing to have a licensure certificate with a current seal. |

If licensees cannot locate their current licensure certificate and/or licensure identification card, they may want to purchase the documents from the Board's office. A second inspection for licensees who are not in compliance may be required in the near future.

The Board is authorized to impose a monetary sanction of not less than \$100.00 or not more than \$500.00 for the first violation.

The Board expresses its thanks for the courteous cooperation received by its inspectors at the majority of the sites visited. The Board is also pleased that several sites seemed to be in full compliance with physical therapy laws and regulations. Keep up the good work.

Random Audits:

During the second, third, and fourth quarter of 2014 and the first quarter of 2015, the following practitioners were inspected and audited. The Board is happy to announce their compliance.

Andrew S. Rothschild, PT	In compliance	Joseph M. Thomas, PT	In compliance
Dana S. Davis, PT	In compliance	Michelle C. Ellison, PT	In compliance
Samuel B. Lewis, PT	In compliance	Tara D. Hays, PTA	In compliance
Keith A. Comish, PTA	In compliance	Jessica K. Malone, PT	In compliance
Alan D. Whitfield, PT	In compliance	James D. Holbrook, PT	In compliance
Meredith G. Warf, PT	In compliance	Steven W. Mason, PTA	In compliance
Tara D. King, PT	In compliance	Donna E. Martin, PT	In compliance
Jessica E. Green, PTA	In compliance	Rabecca T. Barnard, PTA	In compliance
De Juana W. Trisler, PTA	In compliance	Joshua D. Duckworth, PT	In compliance
Samuel E. Storm, PT	In compliance	John R. Burnett, PT	In compliance
Elizabeth B. White, PT	In compliance	Teresa T. Duckworth, PT	In compliance
Melinda K. Roberson, PT	In compliance	Robin S. Murry, PTA	In compliance
Lana M. Hill, PTA	In compliance	James M. Griffith, II, PTA	In compliance
Mallory T. Godfrey, PTA	In compliance		

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING CEU APPROVAL

As a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant licensee, it is YOUR responsibility to verify that the continuing education (CE) courses you take are courses that meet the requirements of our regulations. To ensure that your courses are approved, please follow the steps listed below:

1. Go to the Continuing Education page on the website (www.msbt.ms.gov) and select the list of approved courses for the appropriate year. To be certain that you are taking courses that are acceptable to the Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy, it is best to select courses that the Board has reviewed, approved, and placed on this list. **ONLY** courses that have been submitted to the Mississippi Board for review, appear on this list. **ALWAYS** check this list before registering and paying for a course.
2. If a course you would like to take does not appear on our list, you may check the regulations that appear at the top of the list and see if the course information provided to you by the sponsor lists any of the general approvals that we accept, such as APTA. However, if there is any doubt in your mind whether the course is acceptable, you should follow the instructions in #3.
3. **CALL THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATION.** Ask if they have submitted the course to Mississippi and received approval. If they respond that the course is approved in Mississippi, ask the sponsor to fax or email a copy of the approval letter to you. At this point, you may discover that they are relying on the statement in our regulations Part 3103 Rule 5.4 (1) (a) that says that we will accept "Attendance at educational programs where continuing education credit is given and approved by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) . . . or any other state Physical Therapy Association educational programs." If that is the case, the sponsor needs to put in writing, either in a letter or an email, a statement indicating approval of the course is "Per Mississippi Regulation Part 3103 Rule 5.4 (1) (a) the course will be accepted by the Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy. They should also provide you with a list of any other state Physical Therapy Associations that have approved the course. **DO NOT ACCEPT THEIR VERBAL STATEMENT THAT THE COURSE IS APPROVED IN MISSISSIPPI!**

New Licensees

The Board is pleased to welcome 38 new licensees to the physical therapy community in Mississippi. These licenses have been issued since the winter 2014 newsletter. Welcome to the physical therapy practitioner community in Mississippi!!

New Graduates Licensed as of Spring 2014

Physical Therapists:

Bentz, Anna L.
Brown, Rachel A.
Bryant, Charles Kevin
Bull, Amy C.
Cavender, Ashley D.
DeSanto, Cali A.
Grey, Carmen L.
Knight, Justin L.
Moses, Amy R.
Nallamala, Surya
Patel, Sheetal
Shawl, Megan E.
Shekhar, Jyoti
Stanley, Michael L.
Thompson, Luke E.
Turner, Gretchen L.

Whittington, Brittany L.
Worrel, Jr., Stephen A.

Physical Therapist Assistants:

Beeman, Katrina S.
Brady, Christie M.
Colon, Jose M.
Dang, Nhung M.
Davis, Peggy D.
Hanmer, Brandon C.
Jobbins, Adlehein B.
Knapp, Rachel R.
Martin, Gwen M.
McMillon, Dorothy A.
Nguyen, Steve T.
Phan, Ky V.
Turner, Paige T.

Physical therapy practitioners who have reinstated their license since the winter 2014 newsletter.

Physical Therapists:

Nehemiah, Sr., Wesley M.
Ragan, Pamela Jill
Wier Winter, Audra Kelly

Physical Therapist Assistants:

Arotin, Tabitha A.
Eisworth, Barbara K.
Ford, Billy D.
Rosnick, Brian G.

ATTENTION

Look what's available on our website at www.msbpt.ms.gov.

Please visit the website frequently for updated information.

You can find:

- Application packet
- Continuing Education – approved courses are available for review
- Current Board members
- Dry Needling requirements
- How to file a complaint
- Information on how to get a course approved
- Licensure renewal information
- Links to APTA, MPTA, FSBPT and more
- List of current disciplinary actions
- Name/Address change forms and many more
- Practice Act and Rules and Regulations
- Scheduled Board meetings
- Verification of License – check to see if someone is licensed

Complaints & Disciplinary Actions in 2014

Complaints received: 25

Physical Therapists – 17
Physical Therapist Assistants – 5
Non Physical Therapy Practitioners - 3

Disposition of complaints:

11 closed – no action/violation
1 closed – no jurisdiction
1 cease & desist letter
2 closed with referral
2 closed with information letter
1 advisory letter
1 closed with stipulation order
6 pending

Notification of Change of Employment Information

Part of the application process for a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant in Mississippi is to **provide the name of your employer and the physical address where you will be practicing**. However, if you are uncertain of your employment at the time you make application, it is important that you remember to notify the Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy (MSBPT) regarding your employment information (name of company, physical address, and phone number) as soon as possible after you become employed.

Notification of change of employment is also important. If you make a transition from one employer in Mississippi to another within the state, or even to an employer out-of-state, it is requested that you keep us informed of the physical location where you are practicing for as long as you are licensed in Mississippi.

Licensees in Mississippi who work for a parent corporation that is located in another state need to provide to MSBPT the name of their practice site and physical address with local phone number. An example is as follows:

Employer: South Therapy Corp. @ Highland Manor
Nursing Home
Address: 1124 Riverside Drive
City: Jackson State: Mississippi Zip: 39202
Phone: (601) 555-5555

It is acceptable for you to provide the name of your parent corporation, but the practice site and the physical location in Mississippi are what the Board needs for the purposes of random audits and for third party notices for those of you who have not released your home address.

Notification of new employment or a change in employment may be made in one of the following ways:

1. Go to www.msbpt.ms.gov and select the **Forms** tab on the menu on the home page. Download the **Change of Name and Address** form, print it out, and complete the information in the employment section. Fax the form to (601) 352-2920.

Often a change of employment also means a change in residential (mailing) address. If that is the case, please update your mailing address at the same time, including email address and phone numbers.

2. Due to the online application and renewal process, many licensees are already familiar with how to access their profile online. You may go into your profile and add or make changes in your employment information and also change your mailing address if needed. The data system time stamps such changes so that we have a record of when you made the change.

If you have not accessed your profile previously, please call the office at (601) 352-2918 for instructions and a temporary password.

We appreciate your help in keeping the database as up-to-date as possible.

Do You Know the Difference between Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy and the Mississippi Physical Therapy Association?

The Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy (the Board) frequently encounters questions about the differences between the Board and the Mississippi Physical Therapy Association (MPTA). In general, there seems to be enough confusion to warrant a brief article explaining the roles of the Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy and the Mississippi Physical Therapy Association.

The Role of the Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy:

The role of the Board is to protect the public welfare and safety while improving quality of health care. It serves as an advocate for the public who may benefit from physical therapy services. The Board establishes the rules and regulations in accordance with the Physical Therapy Practice Act which identifies the minimum standards for practice in the state. When questions arise regarding the scope of practice or what services a practitioner may legally provide, the Board issues an interpretation with the advice of legal counsel.

Practitioners who meet the practice standards are issued a license. When complaints are received about practitioners, an investigation is conducted. In addition, the Board conducts random audits of practitioners in order to ensure compliance with the law and regulations. In those cases where evidence is found of noncompliance with the law, the Board determines disciplinary action.

The Board addresses regulatory issues such as continuing competence, background checks, jurisprudence knowledge, ways of monitoring practice, and changing educational requirements in order to fulfill its consumer protection role mandated by the State through the Practice Act. Board actions relate not only to current questions but often are connected to upcoming changes within our ever evolving healthcare system and society.

The Board is self-supporting and receives no general fund tax appropriations. It is funded solely through fees collected from its licensees.

Board members meet quarterly at the Board office to discuss issues and make decisions regarding physical therapy practice in Mississippi. Also, special called meetings occur as needed for hearings to consider complaints. Between meetings our Board administrator, investigator, and license registration agent manage licensure processes, investigations, and communications.

The Role of the Mississippi Physical Therapy Association (MPTA):

MPTA is a statewide voluntary membership organization composed of approximately 650 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and physical therapist/physical therapist assistant students. The organization works to advance the physical therapy profession as well as promote and improve the health and quality of life for the people of Mississippi. MPTA is a state chapter of the **American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)**, a nationwide professional organization that represents over 90,000 members.

The MPTA board of directors and members who work on behalf of the association are committed to the following organizational values: 1) excellence in evidence-based practice, education, research, and advocacy; 2) social responsibility and cultural competence; 3) professionalism; and 4) problem solving and decision making that reflects visionary thinking, innovation, collaboration, and accountability.

Being a member of MPTA (and APTA) is a way of being involved in the advancement of the profession of physical therapy. The dues you pay and the time you contribute help move the profession forward. Legislative advocacy on behalf of the profession has resulted in advancements and changes in practice with regard to such matters as direct access, concussion management, and dry needling.

Another aspect of MPTA's role is in the area of continuing education. Each year the organization provides courses that are automatically approved under Part 3103 Rule 5.4 (1) (a) of the *Regulations Governing Licensure of Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants*. Courses are made available in different areas of the state so that practitioners across the state have access to some of these continuing education opportunities. In order to help therapists meet the 2-hour ethics requirement that must be met each licensure period, MPTA usually provides ethics courses among their offerings.

The physical therapy profession in Mississippi is driven by a vibrant pool of engaged PT/PTA members and students who pursue and value life-long learning, including advanced proficiency, clinical specialization, and ABPTS Board certification. It is to your benefit to be a member of such a dynamic professional organization.

The contact information for MPTA is as follows:

Chapter website: www.mspta.org

Chapter email address: MPTA@apta.org

Chapter Facebook page: www.facebook.com/mississippiphysicaltherapyassociation

PROFILE PHOTO FOR RENEWAL PURPOSES

The following are some important options and tips about meeting the requirement of placing a photo of yourself on your profile before you will be able to renew your license:

Acceptable Photo:

- A small, head and shoulders only, photo. If scanned and uploaded, the photo should be on standard stock photo paper in order for your features to show up clearly on your profile. An example of an acceptable shot is a passport picture because of its size and quality; however, we are not suggesting that it must be a passport picture as that is unnecessary expense.
- As an alternative to scanning an actual photo, you may have someone make a photo of you with your smart phone or make a selfie and upload it from your phone to your profile.

Unacceptable Photo:

- Photo that includes anyone besides you
- Photo of the licensee wearing sunglasses or a hat or cap
- Copy of a photograph
- Driver's license photo and/or picture identification

If you have difficulty uploading your photo to your profile, you have two options: 1) you may send your photo from your phone or computer to the Board Administrator at sboyette@msbpt.ms.gov, and she will upload it to your profile; or 2) you may send a photo in the mail, and the Board staff will upload it for you. Keep in mind that you will need to allow time for the photo to arrive at the Board office and be uploaded prior to your online renewal. This is not an option you will want to choose if you wait until after June 15 to renew your license.

Did you know?

- ❖ There are 1,869 physical therapists and 1,080 physical therapist assistants with active Mississippi licenses as of March 18, 2015.
- ❖ The next scheduled Board meeting is April 30, 2015. This meeting is open to the public.
- ❖ No licensee is required to submit paper documentation of continuing education courses when renewing. You only submit certificates verifying courses if you are notified that you have been randomly selected for audit or are currently on CE probationary status.
- ❖ If you are currently on CE probation, you will not be able to renew online.
- ❖ The Board office will be closed on Monday, April 27, 2015 for Confederate Memorial Day, which is a legal state holiday.
- ❖ The Board office will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2015 for Memorial Day, which is a legal state holiday.
- ❖ The Board Administrator's new email address is sboyette@msbpt.ms.gov.
- ❖ Changing your employment address is as important as changing your mailing address. You can update your change of address/employment by logging into your profile. The address must be a complete address with telephone number.
- ❖ Requests to change names must be accompanied by a certified legal document which attests the change (marriage license, etc.)
- ❖ The Board and its staff cannot answer questions about Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement requirements or codes. You will need to contact the Medicare/Medicaid office.

Renewal Options and Reminders

The Board suggests that you keep the following information in mind when renewing your license:

ONLINE AND PAPER RENEWAL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED NO EARLIER THAN MAY 1st!!!

Address Changes: **Have you moved or had a change in employment? Did you notify the Board office in writing of the change?** The Board will mail renewal notices approximately sixty (60) days prior to the end of the licensure period. This means the notice will be mailed around May 1, 2015 to the last home address on file with the Board. Please notify the Board immediately by fax, email, mail, or you may prefer to go into your online profile and make address and employment changes yourself. Refer to Part 3103 Rule 1.8 of the regulations.

Completion of renewal application: You will have the option of online or paper renewal. Regardless of which method you choose, verify that you have answered every question, including updating any changes to your personal and professional addresses and telephone numbers and that you have listed all CE courses. The entire address should be included (name, address, city, state, zip and telephone number) in completing your renewal application. The information requested is pertinent for your licensure file. If you are submitting a paper renewal, forms that are missing **ONE** piece of information will be returned as incomplete and may result in a lapsed license if the form is not completed in its entirety prior to the expiration date.

Photo Required: Commencing with the licensure renewal period ending June 30, 2014 a licensee shall be required to provide the Board with a **current photo identification** every four (4) years from the date of the Board's receipt of the licensee's previous photo identification. The photo must be an approximate size of 2x2 inches, head and shoulder only, full face, front view, plain white background, standard photo stock paper. Scanned or computer-generated photographs must be printed on photo quality paper and must have no visible pixels or dots. Photos can be uploaded to the licensee's profile or the photo can be mailed into the Board office. **Part 3103 Rule 4.1.3**

Renewal Fee: The renewal fee is \$150.00 for physical therapists and \$125.00 for physical therapist assistants. If renewing online, you will pay by a credit card or electronic check; a paper renewal will need to be paid by check or money order made payable to Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy (MSBPT).

Continuing Education: If renewing online, list all approved CE courses in the appropriate fields. If submitting a paper renewal, list all approved CE courses on the second page of the renewal application. If you are selected for CE random audit and have not yet received proof of course completion, please refer to Part 3103 Rule 5.2(4) of the regulations (90-proof). **All physical therapists and physical therapist assistants need to be aware that the Board can request to see your continuing education certificates at any time.**

Change of name: If you are requesting a change of name, a copy of a legal document must accompany the name change request. Legal documents consist of a copy of your marriage license, divorce decree, social security card or driver's license.

Be on Time: It is in your best interest to submit the renewal application prior to June 30, 2015 to avoid late and reinstatement fees. Renewal applications completed in their entirety should have their new identification card and licensure seal before the end of the licensure period. Licensees who renew online will be able to update their expiration date in their profile, and the new date is immediately available for verification. The Board staff cannot guarantee that paper applications received after June 15, 2015 will be processed in time for licensees to receive confirmation of renewal in the mail prior to June 30, 2015. Remember... employers should not let you work until your new renewal licensure information has been received.

Verify receipt of renewal: If submitting a paper renewal, it is strongly recommended by the Board staff that you send the renewal application by certified or priority mail which requires return receipt.

Failure to renew before the deadline: A licensee who does not file all requirements for renewal before the end of the licensure period will be deemed to have allowed his/her license to lapse. Those individuals whose licenses expire will be required to pay the late fee in addition to the renewal fee. Failure to submit all renewal requirements by September 30 shall result in the necessity of the payment of a reinstatement fee in addition to the late fee and renewal fee. Refer to Part 3103 Rule 4.3 of the regulations. Remember...you may not practice as a physical therapist or as a physical therapist assistant until your license has been reinstated. Practicing with a lapsed license could result in disciplinary action by the Board.

SPECIAL REQUEST: During renewal period, May 1-June 30, the Board office is extremely busy with processing renewals. At the same time we have all of the graduating physical therapists and physical therapist assistants applying for licensure and meeting deadlines for taking the NPTE. We are asking that you **PLEASE REFRAIN FROM CALLING THE BOARD OFFICE TO VERIFY THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED YOUR RENEWAL APPLICATION OR TO SEE IF A CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE IS APPROVED.** If you send a paper renewal application, you should send it certified mail so that you will receive a notice when the Board receives it. If you need to check the approval of a Continuing Education course, please go to the Continuing Education page on the website and follow the NEW INSTRUCTIONS that are posted there concerning CEU APPROVAL. The link you need to select is: **IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING CEU APPROVAL.** **The Board staff thanks you for helping us process renewals and graduate applications in a timely manner.**

**Mississippi State Board
of Physical Therapy
Post Office Box 55707
Jackson, MS 39296-5707**



Change of Home Address, Worksite or Name

It is the responsibility of licensees to provide the Board with written notification of address changes (home or work) no later than 30 days after such change is effective according to Part 3103 Rule 1.8. For a name change, a notarized copy of the legal document must accompany the request. Failure to keep your address or name change current will result in a \$25.00 fee for the cost of resending any correspondence or materials.

NAME LICENSE #

FORMER NAME

FORMER ADDRESS (City, State, Zip) COUNTY

NEW ADDRESS (City, State, Zip) COUNTY

()
PHONE NUMBER EMAIL ADDRESS

FORMER EMPLOYER:

()
PRIMARY EMPLOYER ADDRESS (City, State, Zip) PHONE NUMBER

*Mail this form to the Mississippi Board of Physical Therapy, P.O. Box 55707, Jackson, MS 39296-5707,
or fax to (601) 352-2920 or email to sboyette@msbpt.ms.gov.*