

Important Licensure Renewal Reminders

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

■ 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 notices, approximately sixty (60) days prior to the end of the licensure period. This means the renewal application will be mailed around May 1, 2009 to the last home address on file with the Board. Please notify the Board immediately by fax, email or mail if you have recently moved, changed employment or forgot to notify the Board of this change. Refer to Section 3.8 of the regulations.

■ Completion of renewal application:

Please complete the renewal application in its entirety. 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 CEU's completed on the back on the application. The entire address should be included on the form (name, address, city, state, zip and telephone number). The information requested is pertinent for your licensure file. 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.

■ Renewal Fee:

The renewal fee is \$150.00 for physical therapist and \$125.00 for physical therapist assistants. Check or money order should be made payable to Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy (MSBPT).

■ Continuing Education:

Appropriate documentation of CE credits should be listed on the back of the renewal application and copies of course completion should be submitted with the renewal form. Please refer to Section 7-2 (4) of the regulations for information on licensees who have not yet received proof of course completion (90-proof).

■ Change of name:

If you are requesting a change of name, a copy of a legal documentation 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, 2009 to

avoid late and reinstatement fees. Renewal applications completed in their entirety and not returned by the Board for completion should have their new identification card and licensure seal before the end of licensure period. The Board staff cannot guarantee applications received after June 12, 2009 will be processed in time for licensees to receive confirmation of renewal in the mail prior to June 30, 2009. Remember... employers should not let you work until your new renewal licensure information has been received.

■ Verify receipt of renewal:

It is strongly recommended by the Board staff that you send the renewal application by certified or priority mail which requires return receipt.

Displaying Your License

Section 4-2 of the Regulations states that "a person licensed to practice physical therapy in Mississippi shall be issued a certificate of licensure and license identification card. The licensee shall prominently display the certificate of licensure or copy thereof at their place(s) of employment. The licensee shall carry the license identification card with them at all times and show said ID card when requested."

The requirement that the license certificate be prominently displayed is intended to inform patients that they are being treated by licensed practitioners. When the license is displayed as required, **YOU**, will also see it and be reminded that there is an expiration date, and that there are requirements that must be fulfilled before that expiration date.

Although the Board sends a reminder and renewal application approximately 60 days prior to expiration of your license, the ultimate responsibility for fulfilling the

■ Failure to renew before the deadline:

A licensee who does not file, with the Board, all requirements for renewal before the end of the licensure period will be deemed to have allowed his/her license to lapse. Then individuals will be required to pay the late fee in addition to the renewal fee. Failure to submit all renewal requirements postmarked on or before 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 Section 6-3 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.

requirements for renewal belongs to the license holder. Seeing your license certificate on a regular basis should remind you not only of the expiration date, but that you must obtain continuing education. Every renewal period, there are some licensees who do not even begin to accumulate the required 24 hours of continuing education until they receive their renewal reminder in the mail. Then they have only 60 days to comply and are in a state of panic.

Display your license in such a manner that you will have to view it daily. Ownership of your license is a property right, but with that right comes responsibility. Displaying your certificate will constantly remind you of your responsibilities. If for no other reason, remember that if a Board representative visits your place of employment, and your license is not displayed, that could constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

Unlicensed Physical Therapy Practitioners

The Board continues to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in the investigation and prosecution of fraudulent acts concerning physical therapy. In January, 2009 the Board's Licensing Investigator testified at a Federal trial in Gulfport. The trial resulted in guilty verdicts for two people on eighteen counts of Medicare fraud. The guilty parties operated a so-called "therapy practice" and sent unlicensed and untrained techs into Medicare recipients homes to provide "physical therapy." The techs had

received a few days training from an occupational therapist assistant. Some of the "techs" even had criminal backgrounds. Sentencing of the two individuals will take place in May, 2009.

In the recent past, similar cases involving hundreds of people have resulted in similar trials and plea bargains. Millions of dollars in reimbursement to Medicare and Federal prison sentences have ensued. The Mississippi Division of the United States

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Recognizing an Addiction

Many of you have probably seen patients who are addicted to drugs, whether prescription or illegal, and to alcohol. Do you recognize the signs of addiction? Would you then recognize this disease in a colleague? If you do recognize it, what do you do?

Addiction is a chronic, neurobiological disease. Genetic, social and environmental factors may influence its development and manifestations. It can be recognized by behaviors that may include one or more of the following:

1. Change in Personality – Shifts in energy, mood and concentration may occur. Everyday responsibilities become secondary.
2. Change in Appearance – Personal hygiene may suffer and significant weight loss may occur.
3. Blackouts and Forgetfulness – A person regularly forgets events.
4. Social Withdrawal – A person may withdraw from family and long time friends or may suddenly acquire a strange new set of friends.

5. Desensitized Emotions – A person may have an attitude of indifference, a lack of emotion, or have no interest in things that formerly pleased them.
6. Inactivity or Increased Activity – Dependency may make a person lethargic or overactive depending on the type of drug consumed. A "crash" usually follows a period of hyperactivity.
7. Defensiveness – Abusers who try to hide a dependency may become defensive or even aggressive if they feel that their secret may be exposed. Some may display paranoid behavior.

If you suspect that a colleague may be suffering from a dependency problem, refer them to a professional counselor. Please report suspicious behavior to your supervisor or employer. You could be helping your colleague both professionally and personally.

**Mississippi State Board
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Unlicensed Physical Therapy Practitioners

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Attorney's Office and the investigators at the Office of the Inspector General, Division of Medicare have worked diligently to bring these cases to a resolution.

Complaints & Disciplinary Actions in 2008

Complaints received:

Physical Therapists – 7
Physical Therapist Assistants – 3

Disposition of complaints:

1 closed – no action
2 closed – no jurisdiction
1 closed – no violation
1 closed – cease & desist
5 pending

Disciplinary Actions:

1 physical therapist assistant
consent order

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY



Newsletter

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A Word from the Board Administrator

Release of Home Addresses

The Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy (Board) will not release a licensee's home address to anyone who requests a Board roster for marketing purposes absent the written consent of the licensee. At this time, the licensee's name and work address only are released to the requesting third party. This information is considered public record and; therefore, must be furnished upon request of any party pursuant to the Mississippi Public Records Act. However, the requests for mailing addresses typically come from the Mississippi Physical Therapy Association (MPTA), continuing education sponsors, and recruiters.

In the very near future, the Board will be mailing an information waiver and memorandum to all licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. If you wish to release your home address to ensure receipt of notices or brochures from companies or third parties then please return the waiver form to the Board's office as soon as possible. If the authorization release form is not returned, the Board will continue releasing your employment address as your contact information.

The waiver will also be included on all future license renewal applications. You will be given the opportunity on every renewal application to update your decision by checking the "yes" or "no" box of the authorization section. If at anytime during the licensure period you wish to rescind authorization to release your home address you may notify the Board in writing.

Stephanie J. Boyette

Ethical Practice is the Law

By now all licensees should know that a minimum of two hours of approved courses in ethics and professional responsibility are part of your continuing education requirement each licensure period. The Board adopted the Code of Ethics and Guide for Professional Conduct of the American Physical Therapy Association as its standard for ethical practice.

A code of ethics should provide a public statement about the character and moral values of the physical therapy profession. Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants should consider it their obligation to place the patient's welfare first. Often, in the real world of clinical practice, licensees must make decisions that test ethical dimensions. Physical therapy practitioners must make such decisions as: how much therapy is needed, who can provide the needed services most efficiently in order to best utilize the patient's healthcare funds, does the patient need to be evaluated by other healthcare practitioners and hosts of other issues.

The APTA code and guide offer valuable information when dealing with ethical decision making. Patients rely on your moral sensitivity when making decisions about providing physical therapy services. Hopefully, there is much discussion among therapists and managers when critical decisions need to be made.

Impairment Rating

A scope of practice question recently prompted the Board to issue an opinion on impairment ratings. The Board determined that "The impairment rating process includes a medical diagnosis and interpreta-

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Important Reminders

- ◆ Effective July 2008, all licensees must take two-hours of board-approved programs in ethics/professional responsibility as part of their total CE requirements.
- ◆ Address changes must be submitted on the change of address form located on the Board's website no later than thirty (30) days after such change is effective.
- ◆ You should always verify that a course is approved on the Board's website if you plan to submit it for continuing education credit.
- ◆ Failing to report to the Board any unprofessional, incompetent or illegal acts that appear to be in violation of this law or any rules established by the Board is a violation for which a licensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant may be disciplined.
- ◆ There have been recent revisions to the regulations and a current copy of the regulations should be downloaded.

New Licensees

The Board is pleased to welcome 28 new licensees to the physical therapy community in Mississippi. These licenses have been issued since the Fall 2008 newsletter. Welcome to Mississippi!!

Physical Therapists

Barbara Barnett	Lundy Foose	Twanda Longino
Brian Bradley	Joshua Hamilton	Charles Oates
Nicole Bradley	Lori Hardin	Anne Reiher
Jessica Braga	Jo-Shannon Hartnett	Stephen Sims
Kerri Dixon	Shannon Herring	Christina Stewart
Elizabeth Edmiston	Kimberly Johnson	Tommy Winston
David Field	Millicent Lawrence	

Physical Therapist Assistants

Jamie Armstrong	Thomas Causey, Jr.	Twyone Lauderdale
Chelsie Brooks	Amber Curles	Martha Slatton
Kaley Carpenter	Marla Johnson	

Know the Law

The Board is active in and very serious about its role of public protection. It employs a full time investigator who handles complaints filed against physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and unlicensed individuals who are presenting themselves as physical therapy practitioners.

One way to ensure legal practice is to be familiar with the regulations and practice act (physical therapy law). Both the regulations and law can be accessed on the Board's website. Both can be printed. Keeping a copy of these documents close at hand could save you considerable expense and embarrassment. Most people have access to computers and the internet. If you do not have access to the Board's website, a copy of the regulations can be mailed to you for a fee of \$10.00. It is a small enough price to pay for peace of mind.

Did you know?

- ◆ There are 1453 physical therapists and 723 physical therapist assistants with active Mississippi licenses.
- ◆ The next scheduled Board meeting is June 5, 2009.
- ◆ When a licensee is disciplined by the Board, the licensee's name and details of the violation are reported to a national disciplinary data bank.
- ◆ A physical therapist whose license had been expired for more than five years and who applies for reinstatement of licensure must take approved remedial courses and practice under direct supervision for a period of three months.
- ◆ Presentations made before physical therapists and other medical practitioners and are directly related to physical therapy may be used for up to 25% of your continuing education requirement, if you have requested credit prior to the event.
- ◆ The Board may order a licensee to submit to a reasonable physical or mental examination if the licensee's physical or mental capacity to practice safely is at issue in a disciplinary procedure.
- ◆ The Board's new policy for the loss of your license identification card is \$10.00 for the first replacement. There will be a cost of \$25.00 for any subsequent replacements. The request form is located on the Board's website.

Changes to Regulations

It's time to update your regulations!!! The Final Rule Adoption that was posted on the Board's website was effective March 20, 2009. **The Board strongly suggests that you go to the Board's website (www.msbt.state.ms.us) and print a copy of the current regulations and keep them in a convenient place for easy referral.** To view the original rule for all deletions and addendums, you will need to review these changes on the website listed above. A summary of those changes and the section of the regulations are listed below:

1. Electromyography (EMG)/nerve conduction studies may be performed by a licensed physical therapist who is certified in electromyography by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialists (ABPTS). 1-3.6.1
 2. To adopt the American Physical Therapy Association Code of Ethics: Standards of Ethical Conduct and the accompanying Guide for Professional Conduct for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants licensed under this chapter. To further adopt the American Physical Therapy Association Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy and the accompanying Criteria. 2-3.12
 3. "Good moral character" is a pattern of behavior conforming to the profession's ethical standards and behavior that indicates honesty and truthfulness, integrity, respect among the community for lawful behavior, respect for the rights of others, and obedience to the lawful directives of public officers or officials or persons charged with the enforcement of the law and showing an absence of moral turpitude.

A determination of good moral character shall be based on acts that reflect moral turpitude and upon the consideration of all aspects of a person's character as exemplified by his or her behavior and shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, consideration of the following:

 1. Evidenced among other things of having neither a conviction nor a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, probation, pretrial diversion or payment of any fine for a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, regardless of whether the matter is under appeal by the applicant. Fitness for service as it relates to moral character must be verified by an appropriate background investigation.
 2. Disciplinary action taken against any professional license, registration or certification held by the applicant by applicable governmental authority of any state, territory or political subdivision of the United States or any other jurisdiction.
 3. Whether an applicant has been guilty of conduct or practices in this state or elsewhere which would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's laws, rules and/or regulations.
 4. Civil lawsuits and administrative action bearing upon moral character such as fraud, misrepresentation, theft, assault and battery.
 5. The applicant's prior history of unlicensed practice of a regulated profession in this state.
 6. Conduct that violates any of the provisions in the Code of Professional Ethics, Guidelines and Standards established by the American Physical Therapy Association.
 7. Conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, or attempted deception.
 8. Conduct involving misrepresentation.
 9. Conduct that would adversely reflect on a person's fitness to perform physical therapy.
- In determining a person's good moral character when there is evidence of the conduct described above in subsection 2 of this rule, the Board will also consider the following factors:
1. The nature of the criminal offense(s) or conduct which gave rise to the disciplinary, civil or administrative action.
 2. The age of the applicant at the time of the criminal conviction(s) or conduct which give rise to the disciplinary, civil or administrative action.
 3. The number of criminal convictions or number of disciplinary, civil or administrative actions taken against the applicant.
 4. The nature and severity of the sentence or sanction imposed for each criminal conviction or disciplinary, civil, or administrative action.
 5. Whether the probation period given in a conviction has been completed and fully satisfied to include fines, court costs, and other conditions of probation.
 6. Whether restitution ordered by a court in a criminal conviction or civil judgement has been fully satisfied.
 7. Satisfactory completion of all terms of a criminal conviction(s) or disciplinary action.
- The burden of demonstrating that the applicant possesses the good moral character required for licensure shall rest with the applicant. 3-1.1.1.2.3.4
4. The license of a temporary licensee who is required to take the approved examination and fails to take said examination shall be automatically expired by operation of the law and without further action of the Board as of the date the results are received by the Board. 3-5.6
 5. The license of a temporary licensee who does not pass the approved examination shall be automatically expired by operation of the law and without further action of the Board on the date that the results of the examination are received by the Board. 3-5.7
 6. A temporary license will not be issued to any individual who has had a temporary license expired pursuant to the provisions of these regulations. 3-5.8
 7. All licensees shall comply with the current American Physical Therapy Association Code of Ethics: Standards of Ethical Conduct and the accompanying Guide for Professional Conduct for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. 5-2.1
 8. All licensees shall comply with the current American Physical Therapy Association Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy and the accompanying Criteria. 5-2.2
 9. Replacement Licensure Seal was added to the list of fees. 12-2.15

New Board Appointments

Governor Haley Barbour has announced two new appointments to the Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy. Phillip "Phil" Rasberry is a physical therapist from Laurel who is representing the 4th Congressional District, replacing retiring Board member Susan Pearson. He is a 1975 graduate of the University Mississippi Medical Center and is currently employed by South Central Regional Medical Center as the Director of Rehabilitation Services. Phil's appointment begins immediately and expires June 30, 2010. Tamra "SuAnn" Poole is a physical therapist assistant from Brookhaven. She is a 1998 graduate of Pearl River Community College and is currently employed by King's Daughters Therapy Center. SuAnn's appointment begins immediately and expires June 30, 2011. The Board and staff welcome the new appointees.

Re-appointments to the Board

Governor Haley Barbour has re-appointed Neva F. Greenwald and Marcia Kidder. Neva is a physical therapist from Flowood who is representing the 3rd Congressional District. She is currently employed by the University Mississippi Medical Center as the physical therapy program director. Neva's re-appointment

begins immediately and expires June 30, 2012. Marcia is a physical therapist from Senatobia who is representing the 1st Congressional District. She is currently employed by the Office of Bone and Joint Surgery. Marcia's reappointment begins immediately and expires June 30, 2011. The Board and staff would like to welcome you both back to the Board and look forward to your continued contributions and commitment to fellow physical therapist practitioners and to the public.

Farewell to Board Members

Sadly, we said farewell to one of the original Board members appointed to the Board by former Governor Ronnie Musgrove in 2002. Susan Pearson is a physical therapist, who represented the 4th Congressional District. Susan began her term April 22, 2003 and expired June 30, 2006. She continued to serve as a Board member even though her term had expired and graciously volunteered her expertise until a new appointment was made by the Governor. The Board and staff would like to thank Susan for all her contributions and commitment during her service to the Board. Her contributions and commitment have been outstanding and it has been a pleasure to work with Susan. Her assertiveness, physical therapy expertise and strong commitment to physical therapy

services have been important in Board deliberations and actions. She will always have a special place in our hearts and wish the very best in her future endeavors.

Attention!

Look what's available on our website at www.msbt.state.ms.us.

Please visit the website frequently for updated information.

You can find:

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

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 Section 3-8. 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 #	
OLD NAME		
OLD ADDRESS (City, State, Zip)	COUNTY	
NEW ADDRESS (City, State, Zip)	COUNTY	
PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	
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) 939-5246.