

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY



Newsletter

Issue 3

Volume 3

Fall 2010

Board Members:

Neva F. Greenwald, PT, Chair
Marcia Kidder, PT, Secretary
Quoinsetta Franklin, PT, Treasurer
Phil Rasberry, PT, Member
SuAnn Poole, PTA, Member
Rahul Vohra, MD, Physician Member
Kathy G. Henry, Consumer Member

Board Staff:

Stephanie Boyette,
Board Administrator
Shirley Givens,
Licensing Investigator
Lajuan Sims,
Licensing Registration Agent

Board Counsel:

Gloria Green, JD, Special Assistant
Attorney General

MS Board of Physical Therapy
PO Box 55707
Jackson, MS 39296-5707
(601) 939-5124 Telephone
(601) 939-5246 Fax

info@msbpt.state.ms.us
www.msbpt.state.ms.us



A Word from the Board Administrator

Random Audit Inspections

The Board will begin unannounced random audits/inspections with the sites being selected. A Board representative will be checking each licensee's compliance with the law and regulations. The Board knows that situations arise daily in which licensees are faced with ethical dilemmas and has determined that this is one way we can help protect the public against unqualified, incompetent and unprofessional practitioners.

The following is a partial listing of items the Board representative will be checking through observation and examination of written documents:

1. License certificate displayed for each practitioner employed at each facility
2. License ID Card available for each practitioner licensee
3. Techs or Aides on premises – if yes, their names

4. Techs or aides legally utilized
5. Proper supervision of PTAs
6. Ratio of PTAs to PT
7. If no onsite PT, is the supervising practitioner easily available by telecommunications
8. Are PTAs treating in accordance with plan of care
9. Referrals documented in patient record
10. Students appropriately supervised and current contract with educational program(s) on file

Any non-compliance found during these inspections will be reported to the Board by the visiting representative. Disciplinary action against the non-compliant licensees will be pursued. The Board expects full cooperation with the visiting representative by all licensees and health care organizations. Failure to cooperate will be reported to the Board and may result in legal action.

Stephanie J. Boyette

New Board Appointment

Governor Haley Barbour has appointment Susan "Kathy" G. Henry of Brandon as the consumer at large member to the Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy. She is currently employed by the Rankin Country School District as a school counselor. She is involved in numerous professional activities, memberships, community and religious activities. Her appointment is for a four year term effective July 1, 2010 and expires June 30, 2014. The Board and staff welcome the new appointee.

H A P P Y
Holidays

A Word from the Board Chair

Your Physical Therapy Practice Quotient

Rules and Regulations for Physical Therapy Practice

The practice act is a broad framework for the practice of physical therapy in the state and is infrequently updated to reflect changes to health care. The declaratory statements, opinions, rules and regulations support the intent of law while clarifying and amplifying it. They are updated more frequently and address more specifically areas of practice. Practitioners can learn more about such topics as supervision, continuing competency requirements, the accepted profession codes for practice, rules for renewal and any specific guidelines for using special procedures.

Are you up to date on the rules and regulations? Have you looked up the state's board of physical therapy Web site and are you familiar with the resources available there? Do you have a paper or electronic copy of the law/practice act? Have you reviewed the rules and regulations lately? Do you periodically check the Website for updated information? I know who the members of the board of physical therapy are and their terms of office? Have you spoken to a member of the staff or the board regarding a question you have had? Have you attended a board meeting?

If you answered yes to three or more questions, congratulations!! You are on your way to having a foundation of knowledge about your practice. If you checked less, oops, you need to start getting informed.

Neva F. Greenwald, PT

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

Continuing Education Certificates

Please notice, in the cover letter that is included with your license renewal application, licensees are instructed to send **only copies** of your course completion certificates. Occasionally licensees will send the original certificates and then call later requesting return of the certificates or copies of them. Limited file space makes it impossible to retain all certificates in each licensure file year after year.

After licensees C. E. credits are verified, and the staff makes sure all courses are listed on the back of the renewal form in the appropriate section, the copies are discarded. Therefore, we cannot return the certificates at a later date.

In summary, if you think there is a possibility that you will need your original course completion certificate at a later date, remember to send copies only for license renewal.

Did you know?

- ◆ There are 1559 physical therapists and 830 physical therapist assistants with active Mississippi licenses.
- ◆ Effective October 1, 2010, all new applicants for licensure will be required to undergo a fingerprint and criminal history check. Because the background check could take up to 6 to 8 weeks, applicants should coordinate the application process accordingly. To obtain the fingerprint card, you must contact the Board office and the card will be furnished upon payment of a processing fee of \$50.00. No license will be issued until the results of are received in this office.
- ◆ The next scheduled Board meeting is December 2, 2010.
- ◆ 57 physical therapy practitioners did not renew their license for the 2010 licensure period.
- ◆ There is no limit on the amount of continuing education hours that may be obtained through home study/online courses as long as the course has been approved by the Board at www.msbt.state.ms.us or listed in section 7-4 of the regulations.
- ◆ Random audit inspections will begin soon.
- ◆ From July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, during fiscal year 2010, the Board issued 208 licenses.
- ◆ Maryland's Physical Therapy Board renewal fees are \$300 for PTAs and \$350 for PTs for a two-year period.
- ◆ Itawamba Community College was the first physical therapist assistant program in Mississippi.
- ◆ The Board and its staff cannot answer questions about Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement requirements or codes. You will need to contact the Medicare/Medicaid office.
- ◆ Sylvia McCandless is the president of the Mississippi Physical Therapy Association.
- ◆ There are 587 members of the Mississippi Physical Therapy Association.
- ◆ There are 36 certified clinical specialists in Mississippi registered with APTA.
- ◆ American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) has revised the Code of Ethics and the Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy.

New Licensees

The Board is pleased to welcome 147 new licensees to the physical therapy community in Mississippi. These licensees are either new graduates who have passed the NPTE and received their permanent licenses, or practitioners who were previously licensed in other states and have either moved to Mississippi or who live in other states but are practicing in Mississippi. To the new graduates, we offer our congratulations on both graduation and on passing the NPTE. This is a note worthy accomplishment. To the physical therapy practitioners who were licensed in other states, welcome to Mississippi!!

New Graduates as of May 1, 2010

Physical Therapists:

Adams, Kristin E.
Anderson, Kristal N.
Bauer, Andrew A.
Boiko, Brian R.
Boothe, Clayton S.
Boutwell, Courtney G.
Bradshaw, Rachel L.
Bynum, Luke A.
Connerley, Laura B.
Crosby, Shannon M.
Donaldson, Cedric K.
Dulaney, Tyrea S.
Eason, Stefanie S.
Ford, Aaron J.
Foreman, Bridget H.
Forester, Angela A.
Furlan, Michael B.
Hampton, Jr. Thomas E.
Harps, Avery E.
Henderson, Darreth H.
Howard, Ann F.
Kendrick, Erin M.
King, Margaret Y.
Knight, Katrina
Knoernschild, Rebecca B.
Layne, Theresa P.
Lee, Stacey C.
Lewis, Katherine M.
Loftin, Christopher R.
Marolt, Kallee W.
Martin, Kimberly H.
Mathews, Stephani M.
McCullough, Keri H.
McIntosh, Shannon M.
McNair, Kalyn R.
Moak, Randi D.
Nelson, Kimberly S.
Newell, Carla L.

Prosser, William S.
Rogers, Candice L.
Shideler, Beverly L.
Smith, Jessica H.
Spradley, Kayla A.
Stewart, Megan N.
Talbot, Michael D.
Thompson, Monique K.
Thornton, Mason A.
Wadsworth, Aliza K.
Watts, Brian A.
Weathers, Lisa A.
White, John "Kory"
Winstead, Derek T.
Woods, Elizabeth J.
Young, John R.

Physical Therapist Assistants:

Ainsworth, Leigh Ann
Beard, Lindsey K.
Blackmer, Fernanda "Faye"
Blalock, Jared H.
Bland, Laurel A.
Boyette, Heather N.
Brantley, Kyle T.
Breaux, Karen C.
Champlin, Joseph D.
Cothren, Caleb "Tanner"
Cridle, Bethany M.
Davis, Corey L.
DeViney, Kourtney B.
Diamond, Tiffany K.
Ditto, Michael B.
Douglas, Sarah M.
Drachenberg, Whitney R.
Easter, Sarah "Lindsey"
Evans, James R.
Fitzgerald, Jennifer L.
Gomez, Charity L.
Gordon, Lauren A.
Gorsuch, Stephanie M.

Griffin, Jessica M.
Hammon, Keith E.
Hardin, Ashlee "Nicole"
Hendrix, Timothy B.
Horn, David A.
Ivy, Chandler S.
James, Martha T.
Lackey, Phillip B.
Lowe, Lauren P.
McFarland, Candace L.
McGarrh, Leston "Chase"
Metcalf, Jacob O.
Moody, Nancy E.
Mooney, Holly R.
Palmer, Amy L.
Pettus, Courtney L.
Prentice, Merry A.
Qualls, Amanda L.
Reynolds, Jessica W.
Robbins, Damie S.
Thomas, Ginger M.
Tilghmann, Laura F.
Wells, John N.
White, Margaret L.
Wilson, Emily R.
Windham, Karen "Sharay"
Wooten, Jennifer N.

Physical Therapy Practitioners from other states or reinstatement of license since Spring Newsletter

Physical Therapists:

Barreiro, Maria H.
Blackwell, Brian L.
Borganelli, Wanda H.
Conerly, Shavon A.
Crews, Jennifer D.
Dobbs, Kathleen B.

Dover, Larry D.
Downey, Kristen H.
Estoque, Angeline M.
Garces, Jogene K.
Garrick, Carrie F.
Gongon, Joemar R.
Johnson, Chelsea L.
Jones, Judith W.
Leech, Joseph B.
Magtuto, Mary K.
Manuel, Josephine L.
Mott, Jennifer L.
Ortega, Yolanda A.
Paine Winton, Christy D.
Porter, Debra L.
Roberts, Damie T.
Rocconi, Lauren K.
Sappenfield, Alicia A.
Smith, Jasmine M.
Snow, Gabriel E.
Tatum, Jamika L.
Wheeler, Stacy M.

Physical Therapist Assistants:

Bailey, Sandra C.
Bowden, Felicia D.
Boylan, Teresa K.
Johnson, Brittany S.
Kiddy, Aimee L.
Knight, Meaghan N.
Lee, Jr., Alan J.
Lynn, Amber L.
Meadows, Donald W.
Murphy, Tina S.
Perry, Rebecca S.
Simmons, Terrica N.
Sims, Michael J.
Waldrop, James E.
Wintermute, Melissa D.

Important Reminders

- ◆ All licensees must take two-hours of board-approved programs in ethics/professional responsibility as part of their total CE requirement each licensure period.
- ◆ 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. The Board may assess a licensee fee of \$25.00 for failure to notify the Board of address change.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Requests to change names on licensure files must be accompanied by a certified legal document which attests the change (marriage license, etc.)

Non-Renewed licenses for persons whose surnames begin with A-L or whose license expires in even-numbered years (2010).

The following licensees did not renew their licenses and cannot practice physical therapy in the State of Mississippi as of July 1, 2010. Some licenses may have been reinstated since this newsletter went to press. Check the license verification at www.msbtpt.state.ms.us for any updates.

Physical Therapists:

Arnold, Michelle	PT3422	Stewart, Tiffany	PT4497
Eklund, Brewer	PT2353	Thomas, Nelda	PT3248
Glass, Lynn	PT4362	Thompson, Christopher	PT1990
Hester, Brenda	PT2809	Tyner, Lorraine	PT4187
Martin, Courtney	PT4324	Walhelm, Andrew	PT4261
McCoy, Raven	PT3962	Weatherbee, Larry	PT4327
McPhearson, Regina	PT3707	Weeks, Charles	PT0075
Meekins, Myra	PT2703	Wilhelm, Wendy	PT4146
Midlick, David	PT1459	Williams, Elizabeth	PT4291
Midlick, Leslie	PT1443	Williams, Maritza	PT4233
Mills, Jennifer	PT3294	Williams, Tricia	PT4491
Mister, LaTonya	PT4456	Wright, Tara	PT4393
Mitchell, Anne	PT0050		
Mitchell, Mary	PT4306	Physical Therapist Assistants:	
Moore, Katherine	PT4237	Morris, Jennifer	PTA4181
Philpot, Bobbie	PT3048	Morris, Tammy	PTA4663
Porter, Jeff	PT4318	Murphy, Mary	PTA4124
Pritchard, Stacy	PT4432	Nance, Jeanice	PTA1095
Quiles, Juan	PT4322	Oertwig, Bethany	PTA3575
Risinger, Adam	PT4581	Pennington, Kenneth	PTA4182
Roberts, Jodi	PT4598	Powell, Donald	PTA2125
Robillo, Danny	PT1200	Rosnick, Brian	PTA4125
Rorie, Shelley	PT2789	Slatton, Martha	PTA4473
Roussel, Dustin	PT4445	Stone, Andre	PTA4655
Schreiber, Diana	PT4070	Thames, Tiffany	PTA4093
Schreiber, Gus	PT1439	Turner, Morgan	PTA4326
Schroeder, Dana	PT3817	Vogelsang, Kristy	PTA3776
Scott, Jennifer	PT4010	Walters, Sheree	PTA2845
Siegel, Margaret	PT4644	Wandell-Willis, Laura	PTA3464
Smith, Jayson	PT3961	Washington, Michelle	PTA2583
Stano, Jennifer	PT4159	Wilson, Kayla	PTA4252

Read Everything!!!

Again during the recent license renewal period, we were informed by some licensees that they “didn’t know about that.” Everything that is pertinent to licensure requirements is covered either in correspondence mailed to licensees, in the Board’s newsletter, on the Board’s website or in the Regulations. Every piece of correspondence that is mailed with a new license or a renewed license contains information about required continuing education hours and new laws and regulations. You are all aware that when you receive your renewed license information, the License ID Card and current Seal are stapled to a memorandum; yet, many people have admitted that they just rip the ID card and seal off the memorandum and toss the memorandum in the trash without reading it. When this is done, important information is missed.

The Board realizes that some memorandums are repetitive, but many also contain new and timely information that is vital for maintaining a legal physical therapy practice. The Board urges that everyone read every word of any correspondence that is received. “Ignorance of the Law is No Excuse” is an old axiom used in criminal courts. The same applies in Regulatory Law. There is so much information available to licensees through multiple venues, that there is no excuse for being unfamiliar with physical therapy law. The only skill required to be familiar with this information is the ability to read.

The Board urges every licensee to print a copy of the regulations and practice act. Keep the printed copy close at hand for easy referral. If you are not familiar with the law and regulations, how can you be certain that your practice is 100% legal?

An Ethical Practice

Ethics is defined as a system of moral standards. For healthcare professionals it includes conforming to professional standards of conduct. The standards of conduct for most health care professions are similar. Some individual professions include standards that are unique to the particular profession. For instance, the Mississippi *Regulations Governing Licensure of Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants* bind all licensed Mississippi physical therapy practitioners to the Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct of the American Physical Therapy Association. Even though a licensee may not be a member of the APTA, he/she must abide by the written code of ethics because it is a regulation.

The Board may use violations of APTA’s Code of Ethics as grounds for disciplinary sanctions. Being familiar with the APTA Code of Ethics and Standards for Professional Conduct will go a long way in assuring that your practice is conducted ethically.

Situations arise daily in which licensees are faced with ethical dilemmas. Some employers require billing for a certain number of units of treatment or for the maximum units for which

insurance will reimburse. What if the physical therapist determines that the patient no longer needs physical therapy? Does the practitioner keep treating, or is the patient informed that no additional treatment is warranted? What if a patient presents with an injury which is not in a therapist’s area of expertise and he/she would benefit more from treatment from a rival practice? What if a doctor refers a patient to a physical therapy practice that is operated by the hospital/clinic in which the doctor practices. Is the patient informed that he/she is not required to use a specific practice, but may go to a therapist or clinic of his/her choice? Should a practitioner defy an employer over an ethical wrong under threat of dismissal?

Every possible situation that could arise cannot be covered in any set of regulations. Ethical decision-making means putting the welfare of the patient first, even though it may not be the easiest or most profitable decision. That thing we call conscience guides most of us to do the ethical or right thing. If we cannot then decide if a decision is ethical, we always have written guidelines.

Convictions for Medicare Fraud

The Board has reported in the past its cooperation with the Department of Medicare and the United States Attorney's office in the prosecution of individuals who defraud Medicare and tax payers through the illegal practice of physical therapy. The Board's licensing investigator again testified in a trial involving a Gulf Coast couple who fraudulently billed Medicare for physical therapy services they claimed had been provided to recipients in their homes. Neither was a licensed physical therapist. One even attempted to train employees in a 2-week class on physical therapy even though he himself had never received any formal training in physical therapy.

The trial resulted in a prison sentence of 15 years for one of

the individuals and 11 years for the other. The judge also ordered the couple to pay 8.1 million dollars in restitution to Medicare, and ordered forfeiture of the couple's home.

Earlier convictions for others involved in the same scheme resulted in 5-year sentences for another couple, one an attorney, who cooperated with the prosecution by testifying against their cohorts.

The Board will take this opportunity to advise its licensees they must be very diligent in the handling of Medicare claims. Fraudulent billing and misrepresentation is a Federal criminal act, and is dealt with harshly by Federal prosecutors and the courts. If, during the course of its investigations, the Board finds reason to believe that a criminal act has been committed, it will report the act to the appropriate authorities.

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.

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

