

TENNESSEE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Policy Statement on Transition of Continuing Competence Due Dates in 2016 for Physical Therapy Assistants and Online Course Hour Restrictions for all Physical Therapy Practitioners under Revised Rule 1150-01-12

The Board of Physical Therapy has promulgated and adopted a change to its continuing competence rules which requires Physical Therapist Assistants to obtain a minimum of thirty (30) hours of continuing competence in the twenty four (24) months preceding the licensure renewal month. Additionally, the Board of Physical Therapy has promulgated and adopted a change to its continuing competence rules which limits to ten (10) hours the number of continuing competence hours a Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant may acquire to satisfy the continuing competence requirement. The new rule is scheduled to take effect on **June 29, 2016**. Under the prior rule, a renewing Physical Therapist Assistant was required to earn twenty (20) hours of continuing competence in the twenty-four months immediately preceding the licensure renewal month. Additionally, under the prior rule, there was no restriction on the number of online hours a Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant could acquire that would count toward their continuing competence requirements.

To address concerns that some licensees scheduled to renew their licenses in 2016 may have earned continuing competence credits sufficient to satisfy the requirement under the old rule that will not satisfy the new rule, the Board adopts the following policy statement:

Through June 30, 2017, any Physical Therapist Assistant with a licensure expiration date on or before June 30, 2017 who earns twenty (20) hours of continuing competence in his or her twenty-four (24) month licensure renewal cycle is considered to have fulfilled the continuing competence requirement for that licensure renewal cycle. Furthermore, Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants with licensure expiration dates on or before June 30, 2017 may acquire more than ten (10) hours of online instruction to fulfill their continuing competence requirements for that renewal cycle. Illustrative examples of the effect of this policy are provided below.

Examples:

1. Physical Therapist Assistant whose license expiration date is at the end of June 2016:
 - a. Old Rule: twenty (20) hours required; must be earned in the preceding twenty-four (24) months through May 2016; no restriction on the amount of hours acquired online.
 - b. New Rule: thirty (30) hours required, and only ten (10) may be acquired online. Under this policy, twenty (20) hours earned through May 2016 will satisfy the continuing competence

requirement when renewing in June 2016, and the practitioner will not be restricted in the amount of hours acquired online that count toward fulfilling the twenty (20) hours.

2. Physical Therapist Assistant whose license expiration date is at the end of June 2017:

a. Old Rule: twenty (20) hours required; must be earned in the preceding twenty-four (24) months through May 2017; no restriction on the amount of hours earned online.

b. New Rule: thirty (30) hours required, and only ten (10) may be acquired online. Under this policy, 20 hours earned through May 2017 will satisfy continuing the competence requirement when renewing in June 2017, and the practitioner will not be restricted in the amount of hours earned online that count toward fulfilling the twenty (20) hours.

3. Physical Therapist Assistant whose license expiration date is in July 2017:

a. Old Rule: twenty (20) hours required; must be earned in the preceding twenty-four (24) months through June 2017; no restriction on the amount of hours earned online.

b. New Rule: thirty (30) hours required, and only ten (10) may be acquired online. Under this policy, thirty (30) hours must be earned through June 2017 to satisfy the continuing the competence requirement when renewing in July 2017, and the practitioner will be limited to ten (10) hours of online instruction counting towards the thirty (30) hours.

This policy will cease to be in effect on July 1, 2017.

The Board of Physical Therapy adopted and ratified this policy statement on the 27th day of May, 2016.