



Tennessee Board of Physical Therapy Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer 2016

Division of Health Licensure and Regulation ♦ Health Related Boards ♦ 665 Mainstream Drive, 2nd Floor, Nashville, TN 37243

♦ Web: tn.gov/health ♦ Phone: (615) 741-3807 or 1-800-778-4123

Fax: (615) 253-8764 ♦ Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time (except State and Federal holidays)

The mission of the Tennessee Department of Health is to:

Protect, Promote, and Improve the health and prosperity of people in Tennessee.

ACCESSING THE BOARD'S WEBSITE

- In address bar type: <http://tn.gov/health>
- Click on link titled: "Health Professionals"
- Choose: Health Related Boards
- Click on link for: "Physical Therapy"

There are many resources on our website, including the rules, statutes, applications, policy statements and legislative updates. License renewal and licensure verification may also be utilized on this website. This is a valuable resource. Please use it often.

RESOURCES AND USEFUL LINKS:

- [Tennessee Board of Physical Therapy Home](#)
- [Licensure and Education Information](#)
- [Complaints, Disciplinary Actions and Peer Assistance](#)
- [Applications, Publications and Information](#)
- [Statutes, Rules and Policies](#)
- [Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy \(FSBPT\)](#)
- [American Physical Therapy Association \(APTA\)](#)
- [Tennessee Physical Therapy Association \(TPTA\)](#)

HOT TOPICS

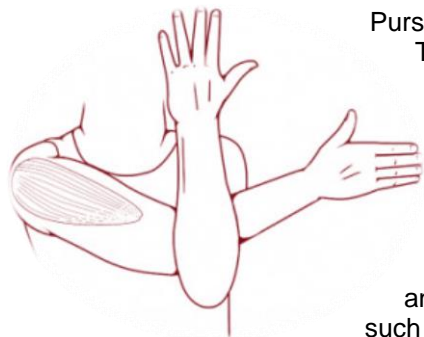
Dry Needling

On June 29, 2016, Rule 1150-01-.22 of the General Rules Governing the Practice of Physical Therapy became effective, requiring all physical therapists who want to practice dry needling in the State of Tennessee to, among other things, have taken dry needling specific coursework that meets the pre-requisites listed in the rules. The list of approved and pre-approved dry needling courses, as ratified by the Board of Physical Therapy, is as follows: Myopain Seminars, Kinetacore, Institute of Advanced Musculoskeletal Treatments (IAMT)/Results Physiotherapy, Benchmark Rehab Institute, Benchmark Rehab Partners Orthopedic Physical Therapy Residency Program, Evidence in Motion Institute of Health Professionals, Spinal Manipulative Institute/American Academy of Manipulative Therapy, Integrative Dry Needling Institute/American Dry Needling Institute and, Systemic Dry Needling/Systemic Dry Needling and Courses by Sue Falsone.

New Continuing Competence Requirements

Effective June 29, 2016, the Board promulgated a change to its continuing competence rules which increased the minimum hours of continuing competence hours for Physical Therapist Assistants to thirty (30) hours in the twenty four (24) months preceding the licensure renewal month. Also, the Board limited to ten (10) hours the number of continuing competence hours that may be acquired online. Additional details can be found on page 4.

ABOUT THE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY



Pursuant to Public Chapter 115 of the Public Acts of 2007, the Committee of Physical Therapy was replaced by the Board of Physical Therapy. Its mission is to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans by requiring those who practice the profession of physical therapy within the state to be qualified. The Board interprets the laws, rules, and regulations to determine the appropriate standards of practice in an effort to ensure the highest degree of professional conduct. The Board is authorized to issue licenses to qualified candidates who have completed appropriate education and successfully completed required examinations. The Board is responsible for the investigation of alleged violations of the Practice Act and rules and is responsible for the discipline of licensees who are found guilty of such violations.

The administrative staff of the Division of Health Related Boards supports the Board by issuing licenses to those who meet the requirements of the law and rules. Licenses or certificates are awarded in the following categories:

- Physical Therapist
- Physical Therapist Assistant

Renewal of License

Licensees are responsible for renewing their licenses on time and keeping the Board apprised of changes affecting location and name as this facilitates timely notification from the administrative office. Renewal notices are mailed from the Board's administrative office forty-five (45) days prior to the expiration of the license to the current address on record. Licenses can be renewed on-line sixty (60) days prior to expiration at <https://apps.tn.gov/hlrs/>. It is a violation of the law and of the Board's rules to practice on an expired license.

Contacting the Administrative Office:

Tennessee Board of Physical Therapy
665 Mainstream Drive, 2nd Floor
Nashville, TN 37243
Phone: (615) 741-3807 Local or (800) 778-4123 Nationwide
Fax: (615) 253-8724

Administrative Staff

Michael Sobowale

Administrative Director

Tomica Walker

Board Administrator

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Public Chapter 763

This act permits licensees whose licenses from a health-related board have expired to obtain reinstatement on the basis of a plan developed by the department of health for periodic payment of past due renewal fees and unattained continuing education instead of the current requirement of payment of all past due fees before reinstatement. This Act became effective July 1, 2016.

Public Chapter 810

This act enacts the "Physical Therapy Licensure Compact" to facilitate interstate practice by physical therapists and physical therapist assistants who meet certain requirements. This Act became effective April 14, 2016.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES CONT'D

Public Chapter 94

This act defines "abuse" and "neglect" for purposes of placing a person on the registry of persons who have abused, neglected or misappropriated the property of vulnerable individuals specifically within the statutes that govern the Dept. of Health. It does not impact the definitions within the statutes that govern the Dept. of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities nor the Dept. of Human Services. It also increases the time within which placement on the registry may be appealed from 30 to 60 days. For rulemaking purposes, this bill became effective on April 10, 2015. All other provisions became effective on July 1, 2015.

Public Chapter 261

The act provides for the practice of telehealth. It outlines the following:

- Defines a healthcare provider
- Establishes a provider-patient relationship by mutual consent and mutual communication
- Specifies that telehealth does not create a new standard care
- Prohibits any board from creating a more restrictive standard of professional practice for telehealth service
- Allows a physician to prescribe by means of telemedicine and follow all prescribing applicable statutes such as checking the Controlled Substance Monitoring Database; however, pain management clinics are not permitted
- There is no separate telehealth license required by the Board of Medical Examiners

Public Chapter 502

This act allows the Joint Government Operations Committee (the legislative committee that reviews all rules) to stay a rule up to 75 days instead of 60 days. Present law authorizes the Joint Government Operations Committee to consider the following factors when reviewing rules: authority, clarity, consistency, justification, necessity and reference. This act adds arbitrariness and capriciousness as two new considerations.

NEW RULES AND RULE AMENDMENTS

New rules regarding continuing competence; examinations; dry needling; disciplinary actions; civil penalties; assessment of costs; and screening panels became effective June 29, 2016.

Rule 1150-01-.12 – Continuing Competence

Key new changes in the Board's requirements for continued competence are as follows:

- At least twenty (20) hours of the thirty (30) hour requirement must be from Class I activities as provided in paragraph (5), and only then (10) may be acquired online.
- Up to ten (10) hours of the thirty (30) hour requirement may be from Class II activities as provided in paragraph (6) of the rule.
- Four (4) of the hours required in parts (3) (a) (1) and (3) (b) (1) must consist of ethics and jurisprudence education courses and are now required every renewal cycle.

The Board also adopted a policy statement to address transitional issues that may occur as a result of these changes in the continuing competence rules. This policy statement may be found here:

http://tn.gov/assets/entities/health/attachments/PT_Policy_Statement_on_2016_CE_Transition.pdf .

Rule 1150-01-.08 – Examinations

Rule 1150-01-.08(9) is amended as follows:

Effective July 1, 2015, the Board stopped approving individualized structured remediation plans. However, those remediation plans already in effect prior to July 1, 2015 must be completed by the applicant. An applicant who fails the examination two (2) or more times after July 1, 2015 must submit proof of ten (10) hours of additional clinical training and ten (10) hours of additional coursework to the Board administrator before the Board will approve a reapplication for subsequent testing beyond two attempts. These ten (10) hours of additional clinical training and ten (10) hours of additional coursework are required after each subsequent failure beyond two (2) times before an applicant can be approved for reapplication for subsequent testing.

Rule 1150-01-.22 – Dry Needling – NEW*

New Rule 1150-01-.22 regarding dry needling requirements may be viewed here:

http://tn.gov/assets/entities/health/attachments/Dry_Needling_Rules_Effective_6-29-16.pdf

Rule 1150-01-.15 – Disciplinary Actions, Civil Penalties, Assessment of Costs, and Screening Panels

Rule 1150-01-.15 is amended as follows:

(2) Order of Compliance – This procedure is a necessary adjunct to each previously issued disciplinary order containing probation, suspension or other condition limiting the licensee's ability to practice. An order of compliance is available only when a petitioner has completely complied with the conditions of a previously issued disciplinary order, including payment of civil penalties, completion of continuing education courses, or payment of administrative costs. If all conditions of the ordered discipline have been satisfied, or if no conditions have been placed on the license in addition to probation or suspension, the board may consider a petition at its last meeting before the expiration on any such discipline. The Board, at its discretion, may require the petitioner to appear before granting such order. No discipline issued by the Board shall be lifted until the licensee petitions for and receives such order from the Board, which shall only be effective the original date the discipline was to expire, and in no event effective earlier than the date of petition pursuant to this paragraph.

Additional details regarding changes to current rules on this topic can be found here:

http://tn.gov/assets/entities/health/attachments/1150-01-.15_Rules_Effective_6-29-16.pdf

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

The Board has scheduled meetings throughout the year for purposes of conducting administrative business concerning ratifying licenses, promulgating rules, disciplinary matters, etc. The five (5) members of the Board are appointed by the Governor and serve four (4) year terms. A quorum of three (3) members is required to conduct business. The meetings are open to the public. The Tennessee Open Meetings Act passed by the General Assembly in 1974 requires that meetings of state, city and county government bodies be open to the public and that any such governmental body give adequate notice of such meeting. Open meeting notices can also be accessed at: <http://tn.gov/health/calendar/physical-therapy>.

LIVE-STREAM MEETINGS

As of January 2015, public meetings are live-streamed and viewable via the internet. Links to view a meeting can be accessed by visiting the department's "Calendar of Events" at: <http://tn.gov/health/calendar>. Archived meetings may also be accessed and viewed from the Department of Health website at: <https://web.nowuseeit.tn.gov/Mediasite/Catalog/Full/98fe21d561e9489487745f0c7da678b221>

BOARD MEMBER COMPOSITION

David Harris, PTA, Chair
Board Member

David Finch, PT, Secretary
Board Member

Bethany R. Buttrey, PT
Board Member

LeAnn F. Childress, PT
Board Member

Minty R. Ballard
Public Member

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2016 & 2017

- ▶ February 4, 2016 – 9:00 AM CST
- ▶ May 27, 2016 – 9:00 AM CST
- ▶ August 12, 2016 – 9:00 AM CST
- ▶ November 18, 2016 – 9:00 AM CST
- ▶ February 9, 2017 – 9:00 AM CST
- ▶ May 25, 2017 – 9:00 AM CST
- ▶ August 10, 2017 – 9:00 AM CST
- ▶ November 16, 2017 – 9:00 AM CST

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be held at the following location:

665 Mainstream Drive
Poplar Conference Room, Ground Floor
Nashville, TN 37243



NATIONAL CONFERENCES

**American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)
Combined Sections Meeting**
Anaheim, CA
February 17-20, 2016

**American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical
Therapists (AAOMPT) – Annual Conference**
St. Louis, MO
October 26-30, 2016

COMPLAINTS, DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS & PEER ASSISTANCE

Complaints

If you believe a practitioner's performance or behavior is not acceptable, you may file a complaint through Health Related Boards, Office of Investigations. For information on filing a complaint, please visit:

<http://tn.gov/health/article/PT-complaints>.

You may contact the Complaint Divisions of the Department of Health at 1-800-852-2187 to request a complaint form or download one here:

<http://tn.gov/assets/entities/health/attachments/PH-3466.pdf>.

The form must be completed in its entirety. All materials received in connection with the complaint will become property of the Department of Health and cannot be returned. Please return the complaint to:

**Office of Investigations
665 Mainstream Drive, 2nd Floor, Suite 201
Nashville, TN 37243**

Disciplinary Actions

A listing of monthly disciplinary actions taken by the Board of Physical Therapy can be found here:

<http://tn.gov/health/article/boards-disciplinary-actions#dars>.

Peer Assistance

The Board of Physical Therapy has contracted with the Professional Assistance Program to assist in safeguarding health care consumers in Tennessee by providing a consultation, referral, and monitoring program for Physical Therapy Practitioners whose practice is impaired or potentially could be impaired due to the use of alcohol or drugs, or a psychological or physiological condition.

**Tennessee Professional Assistance Program
545 Mainstream Drive, Suite 414
Nashville, Tennessee 37228-1201
Phone: 615-726-4001 or 1-888-776-0786
Fax: 615-726-4003
www.tnpap.org**

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Electronic Notifications Opt-In

Licensees who prefer to receive notifications by electronic means instead of by regular United States mail from the Department of Health should request to "opt-in" from the portal on the Board's website at: <https://apps.tn.gov/hlrs/>. Licensees may also submit a written request to the Board's Administrative Office.

Please note that once you choose to opt-in to receive electronic notifications, ALL notices from the Health Department, including license renewal notices, will be sent by electronic mail. License renewal notification will be sent from the Board's Administrative Office forty-five (45) days prior to the expiration of the license to the current e-mail address on record with Tennessee Department of Health. Also, you will be required to notify the Administrative Office should there be any changes to your email address.

Updating Your Practitioner Profile

Pursuant to Tennessee Health Care Consumer Right – to-Know Act, 1998, T.C.A. §63-51-101, et seq., licensed physical therapists have a continuing duty and the responsibility to notify the Department of Health of any changes or updates to information submitted on the mandatory practitioner's profile questionnaire within thirty (30) days of the occurrence of such event. Changes include any change of address. A copy of the questionnaire can be found at: <http://health.state.tn.us/downloads/PH-3585.pdf>.

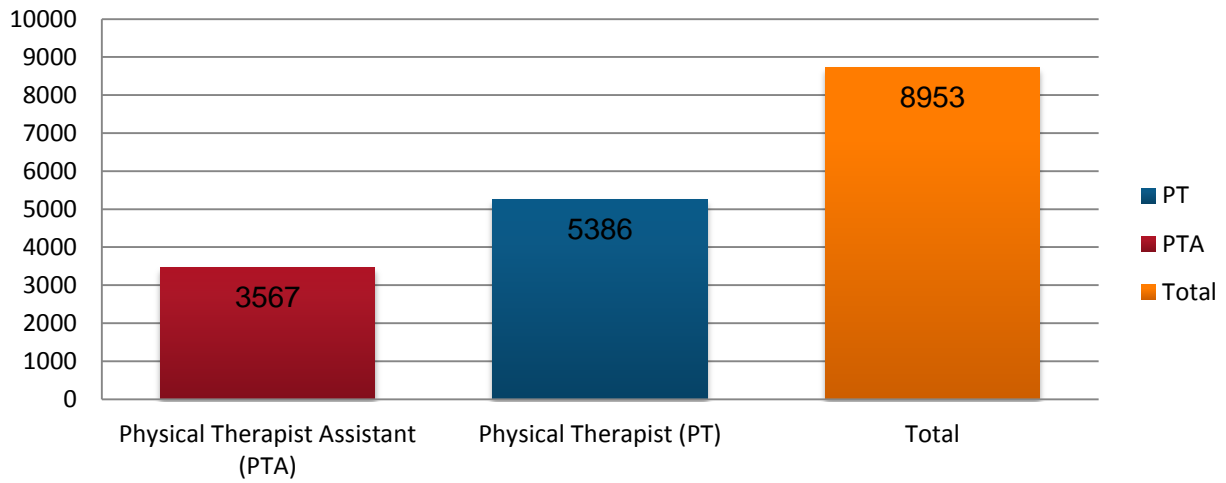
To check the accuracy of your profile, please visit: <https://apps.health.tn.gov/Licensure/>.

Changes may be submitted on the form to the Board's Administrative Office at:

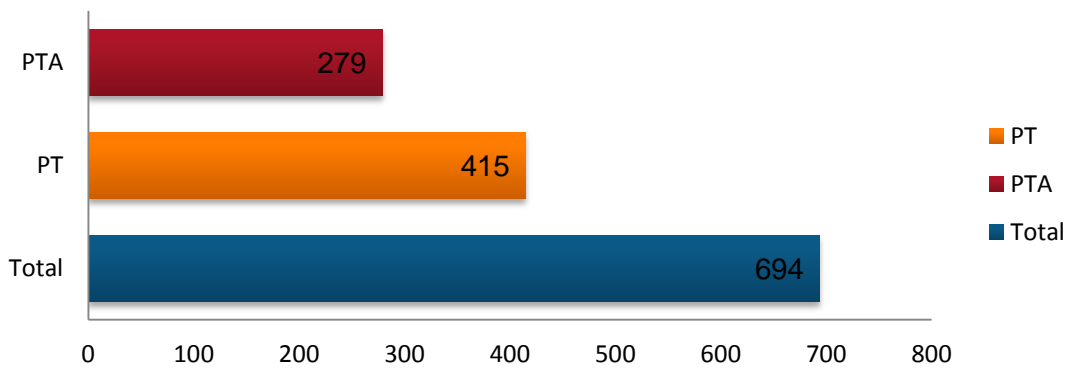
**Office of Health Related Boards
Board of Physical Therapy
665 Mainstream Drive, 2nd Floor
Nashville, TN 37243**

STATISTICAL DATA

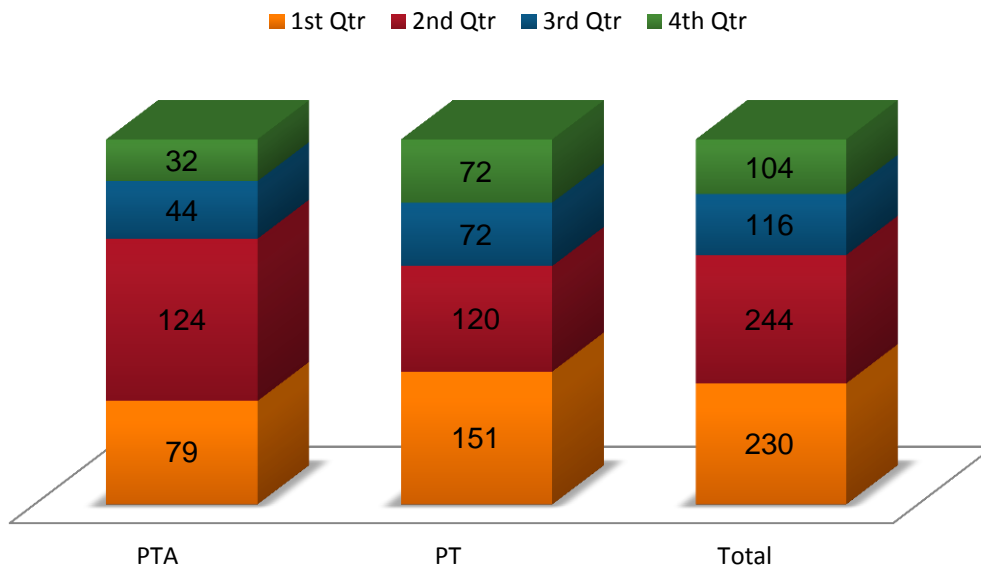
Total Number of Licenses as of 7/31/2016



Applications Received from 1/1/15 to 12/31/15



Quarterly Breakdown



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: I have moved and/or changed my place of employment. How do I update my address with the Board?

A: Changes in address must be submitted in writing to the Board's administrative office within 30 days. Please include your name, profession, license number, old address and new address. Please also specify if the change is to your mailing or practice address.

Q: How do I report a name change and/or request an updated license?

A: Changes in name must be submitted in writing to the Board's administrative office, along with documentation supporting the change (i.e. marriage certificate, divorce decree). Please include your name, profession and license number. If you wish to receive a duplicate copy of your license, reflecting the updated name, you must specify this in your request and include a check or money order in the amount of \$25.00 for each license type (i.e. Wallet/Renewal size or Wall size).

Q: I am applying for a license in another state and need primary source verification. How do I obtain this?

A: Requests for license verification must be submitted in writing to the Board's administrative office. Please include your name, profession, license number and address which the verification must be sent. Please also include a check or money order in the amount of \$25.00 per request.

Q: Can I renew my license online?

A: Certainly! License renewals may be processed up to sixty (60) days prior to the license expiration date. Please visit <https://apps.tn.gov/hlrs/> and choose "Go Now" under Professional License.

Q: My license has expired. How do I reinstate my license?

A: Reinstatement of an expired license may be accomplished upon payment of the reinstatement fee and the renewal fee as provided in Rule 1150-01-.06, and by submitting proof of continuing competence requirements as provided in Rule 1150-01-.12.

Q: Am I required to do continuing education to maintain my license?

A: Yes. Pursuant to Rule 1150-01-.12(3)(a): Each Physical Therapist must complete thirty (30) hours during the twenty-four (24) months that precede the licensure renewal month.

1. At least twenty (20) hours of the thirty (30) hour requirement must be from Class I activities and only ten (10) may be acquired online.
2. Up to ten (10) of the thirty (30) hour requirement may be from Class II activities.

Pursuant to Rule 1150-01-.12(3)(b): Each Physical Therapist Assistant must complete thirty (30) hours during the twenty-four (24) months that precede the licensure renewal month.

1. At least ten (20) hours of the twenty (30) hour requirement must be from Class I activities and only ten (10) may be acquired online.
2. Up to ten (10) hours of the twenty (20) hour requirement may be from Class II activities.

For applicants approved for initial licensure by examination, successfully completing the requirements of Rules 1150-01-.04, .05, and .08, as applicable, shall be considered proof of sufficient competence to constitute compliance with this rule for the initial period of licensure; however, applicants approved for initial licensure by examination must successfully complete four (4) hours of ethics and jurisprudence education during their initial period of licensure. Thereafter, these four (4) hours are required at every renewal cycle for all licensees.

Q: I am no longer practicing as a physical therapist or assistant. How do I retire my license?

A: To retire your license, please complete the Affidavit of Retirement form, have it notarized and forward it to the administrative office. The form may be downloaded from the Board's website here:

<http://tn.gov/assets/entities/health/attachments/PH-3460.pdf>. Please inquire with the Board office regarding requirements to reinstate a retired license.

