

Notice to Physical Therapists



August 2004

The Pennsylvania Board of Physical Therapy is pleased to announce that regulations regarding "**direct access**" have received legislative approval and an application for the required **Certificate of Authorization** is now available. **The application may be downloaded or requested through this website ... www.dos.state.pa.us/phyther. To download, click on "Licensure Information", then "Board Forms".** Also on the homepage is a link to the regulations and statute regarding "direct access". **YOU MUST MAINTAIN A CURRENT PT LICENSE IN ORDER TO PRACTICE UNDER THE CERTIFICATE. THE CERTIFICATE DOES NOT REPLACE YOUR PT LICENSE.**

Requirements for the Certificate of Authorization:

1. Applicant holds a **current license to practice physical therapy** in Pennsylvania and such license has been and must continue to be maintained **in good standing**.
2. Applicant has **passed the national physical therapy examination**. If applicant passed the examination **prior to 1990**, a board approved course of at least 10 hours must be completed on the appropriate evaluative procedures to treat a person without a referral. The course must be completed within two years immediately preceding the date of application. Documentation showing course outline/objectives and a transcript/certificate verifying course completion must be submitted with the application for the certificate. These courses will not be pre-approved by the Board.
3. Applicant has **practiced physical therapy in the delivery of patient care** on a continuous basis **for at least two years** immediately preceding the date of application. **A minimum of 200 hours per year** in the delivery of direct patient care is required.
4. Applicant is covered by **professional liability insurance** in the minimum amount required of physicians under Section 711 of the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (MCare) Act, (40 P.S. §1303.711). **Coverage shall remain in effect as long as the licensee has a certificate of authorization.**
5. **Renewal of Certificate:** Certificates will expire on the same date as the PT license (December 31 of each even year). The certificate and PT license will be renewed separately, however **the certificate will not be renewed unless the PT license of the certificate holder is concurrently renewed**. As a condition of **certificate** renewal, a physical therapist shall have completed during the preceding biennium, a minimum of 20 contact (instructional) hours of physical therapy **CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE)** related to keeping the certificate holder apprised of advancements and new developments in the practice of the physical therapy profession. At least 10 of the 20 hours shall be in evaluative procedures to treat a person without a referral. **CE is NOT required as part of the initial application for a certificate nor for the first renewal of the certificate. The continuing education requirement shall apply to the second and subsequent renewals of the certificate for each certificate holder. CE is NOT required for any renewal of a PT license.**