

Alabama Board of Physical Therapy Newsletter

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REMINDER

As we begin the 2014 license renewal period I would like to remind all licensees of two new requirements for license renewal this year.

All licensees MUST **submit a completed Citizenship Verification form and the required documentation prior to renewing their license.** The completed form and required documentation may be submitted to the board's office via mail, email, or fax. Please ensure all submitted documents are clear and legible.

Failure to submit the required form and documentation will result in your license renewal being delayed they are received in the board's office. Please contact the board's office with any questions concerning the completion/submission of this required form.

All licensees MUST **register with aPTitude, share your information with the board, record your continuing education courses, and upload a copy of the certificate of completion received when the course was completed.** The purpose of this is to create a record which will enable licensees to keep up with the continuing education they have completed and to also assist the board's staff in completing a continuing education audit of 10% of renewal applications. **For assistance with aPTitude please contact the aPTitude staff at 800-881-1430 (option #5).**

We appreciate your efforts to comply with the above listed requirements. Please contact us if we can be of assistance. Our contact information is as follows:

Glenn A. Davis – glenn.davis@pt.alabama.gov (334) 242-4064

Sheila Wright – sheila.wright@pt.alabama.gov (334) 242-3603

Regina McGhee – regina.mcghee@pt.alabama.gov (334) 242-3602

Glenn A. Davis, Executive Director

Message From The Board Treasurer

My name is Richard Vincent Molyneux and I am currently serving my second term on the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy. I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to all of the people of our great State of Alabama. It has been an enlightening experience to serve and protect the public. I am honored and humbled to serve in this capacity.

With new board members every year this board is constantly evolving and improving itself to better protect the public. With constant changes taking place to our Practice Act and Administrative code I encourage all licensees to check the board's website at least on a bi-weekly if not weekly basis. Our newest change is utilizing Aptitude on the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy website to monitor our continuing education hours and compliance with Alabama's rules and regulations. Also, a committee has been appointed to address, and hopefully better, our continuing education process.

Please remember that we, the board, are here to serve and protect the public foremost. Our responsibilities, amongst other things, include informing our licensees of the laws that govern our practice as well as any changes to our laws, rules and regulations. I believe that our board's executive director and staff are very approachable and willing to help our licensees and the public with and questions or concerns they may have.

In closing, I would like to say thanks to all of you who work to better the lives of our patients and strive to educate the public about our profession. It has been, and is, a very humbling yet gratifying experience. I am available at any time to address any questions that you might have. You may contact me by calling my listed number or by contacting our board's office who will forward the question to me.

Richard Vincent Molyneux, PTA

Please keep your mailing address and email address
updated with the
Alabama Board of Physical Therapy



Wellness Program **You Can Help?**

The Wellness Program is operating smoothly. There are several licensees in the program, and they are all compliant. Dr. Garver is monitoring their progress and has not come across any problems. He is beginning to enter the next phase of the program, which is the focus of this article. As individuals recover from their problem, there is a need to not only monitor their progress but to mentor them. The Wellness Committee is looking for mentors.

The ultimate success of the Wellness Program is dependent on the prevention of recidivism. To do this, we need to work closely with these individuals over an extended period of time. Mentors are the key to doing this. A mentor is an individual who can communicate with these individuals, with understanding, caring, and empathy. Empathy is the feeling that you understand and share another person's experiences and emotions. The best way to do this is to have actually had their experience. So, the Wellness Committee is looking for individuals who have had a substance abuse problem in the past and has recovered. The preference is that they have been through a program somewhere and they are in the profession of physical therapy. These individuals would be working directly with Dr. Garver and their identity would be known only to him and the person they work with.

Please contact Dr. Garver directly, if you are interested, at:

Michael C. Garver, DMD
19260 North Mobile Street
PO Box 426
Citronelle, AL 36522

fax: 251.866.5570
phone: 251.866-5585
cell phone: 251.605.2883
email: abptwellness@gmail.com

This is a critical part of this program and I encourage you to help us and your fellow professionals. If you possess this unique combination of experience and willingness to share, please contact Dr. Garver.

Jay H. Segal, P.T.
Board Member and Wellness Committee Member

Check out our new website at:

www.pt.alabama.gov

Find us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Alabamaboardphysicaltherapy>

What's Up with ProCert, aPTitude & Continuing Competence in General?

As we approach licensure renewal season, continuing education or continuing competence, as it is now called, seems to be on everyone's mind. From ProCert to aPTitude to course approvals, the Board of Physical Therapy is listening to your feedback and responding. Also, many of you have questioned, "What was the Board thinking when making these changes?" This article will hopefully shed some light on these topics as well as give you a glimpse into what the future may hold.

For the past few years the Board has been seeking a solution to the issue of continuing education course approvals. Fifteen years ago, the course approval process was easier and certainly more easily managed by our small administrative staff. However, with the advent of online and non-traditional education, suddenly an entire world of potential courses became available to licensees and needed approval. As these diverse methods of learning became available, the challenge that confronted the Board was separating quality educational offerings from bogus opportunities. It was into this challenging environment that ProCert emerged as the potential solution. More than three years ago ProCert was marketed to the Board as an optimal solution for evaluating courses and awarding more or less credit based on the level of engagement or learning potential of a course. Thus the Board proposed and approved changes to the Administrative Code that made ProCert our sole approver for continuing competence courses. Unfortunately it quickly became apparent that ProCert was not going to be able to approve courses at a sufficient pace to meet the needs of Alabama licensees. Plus, continuing education/continuing competence providers were increasingly finding the course approval process to be too time consuming or expensive and therefore electing not to pursue ProCert approval. An amendment to the Administrative Code subsequently added pre-approved providers to include IACET (the course approval source used by the AP-TA), CAPTE-accredited schools (both college coursework and continuing education/ competence courses), FSBPT, and APTA components. Additionally, completion of an ABPTRFE residency or fellowship program also was recognized for credit. (See Administrative Code, 700-X-2-.09 Renewal of License for additional details.) Fearing a continued lack of sufficient courses, the Board also approved an Emergency Ruling that allowed the Alabama Board of PT to also approve courses. Thus, after a long struggle to get out of the course approval process, the Board unfortunately finds itself right back in the middle of it, having approved more than 170 during the months of June & July. In frustration both you, and we, have asked ourselves if the Board has accomplished anything through these changes.

However, as challenging as the past year has been, the Board still has high expectations for aPTitude. The aPTitude system, free to all licensees, is an online "filing cabinet" – a permanent place to store your continuing education/competence activities and certificates. It is far superior to that manila file in a drawer that is never on hand when you need it, that random box under the bed, the kitchen junk drawer or that jumble of papers on your desk! (Not to mention, that random black hole into which CEU certificates seem to mysteriously vanish on a regular basis.) And, because you permit access to the Board, the audit process (should you be chosen) is completely online and not bogged down by the need to find, copy and mail certificates. It is far superior to that manila file in a drawer that is never on hand when you need it, that random box under the bed, the kitchen junk drawer or that jumble of papers on your desk! (Not to mention, that random black hole into which CEU certificates seem to mysteriously vanish on a regular basis.) And, because you permit access to the Board, the audit process (should you be chosen) is completely online and not bogged down by the need to find, copy and mail certificates. (cont.)

Granted, finding your approved continuing education/competence courses within the aPTitude listings can be challenging – particularly if your course provider has not set up their aPTitude account and “claimed” their courses – but uploading a course and certificate is a quick and easy process. Ultimately, the important thing to remember is **do not wait** until the last minute to set up your aPTitude account. Do it today! Follow the provided instructions carefully, particularly if you have carry-over hours of continuing education from last year. If you need assistance, the aPTitude staff is readily available, friendly and competent. Keep in mind that email assistance may be easier than playing phone tag during your busy clinical day.

Looking forward, the Board readily acknowledges that there is much work left to be done in this area. To that end, a Continuing Education/Continuing Competence Task Force has been appointed to carefully study the overall continuing education/competence process and to ultimately propose comprehensive language to the Administrative Code that will provide a long-range solution that is forward-thinking, progressive and can weather the challenges of the next 20 years. Task Force members include current Board members Alina Adams, PT (Task Force Chair) and Nathan McGriff, PTA, former Board of PT member John Cormier, PT, as well as clinicians Dennis Fell, MD, PT, Jill Heitzman, PT, Christina Wilson, PTA, and Sheree York, PT. The goals of the Task Force are as follows:

1. Propose revised continuing education language to the Alabama Administrative Code that is progressive, based upon best practices and inclusive of significant public input.
2. Remove the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy from the continuing education course approval process.

The Task Force will be seeking significant public input into the process as we seek a simple, common sense approach to continuing education/competence. The first of those opportunities will be Saturday, August 23 at Ross Bridge Resort & Conference Center at approximately 1:30 p.m., following the Alabama PT Association’s business meeting. Please be attentive to other opportunities that will be announced through Board emails. You may also provide feedback directly to me through email or by email to the Board office. This Task Force looks forward to serving you as we move forward into the future of continuing education/competence.

Alina Adams, PT

A Message From The Board Chair

I would like to start by thanking each of you for allowing me to serve as the Chair for your Alabama Board of Physical Therapy. It has been a privilege working with 6 dynamic and unselfish professionals chosen by the Governor to serve you, the licensees, and the public. I encourage each of you to consider representing your district and serve on the Board at some point in your professional careers. It is a responsibility that I have taken seriously and have truly enjoyed over the past 5 years.

Many of the new programs and upgrades to your Board, such as the Wellness Program for impaired practitioners, the new Facebook page for improved communication to our licensees, online printing of your licenses after renewal, paperless board meetings for environmental conservation and cost reduction, and now our new, updated webpage to improve the visibility of your board to the public and licensees, are now in full effect. Our goal is to be more available and visible to our licensees and the public and provide valuable, useful tools to our licensees. We are all here for you and look forward to hearing from all of you whenever you need any assistance. Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail us with your thoughts, questions, or concerns.

As we are in the middle of the 3rd Quarter, it seems as if continuing education and license renewal are, understandably, the biggest concerns of licensees. As we enter our license renewal period, please take special care to follow the new processes that are in place. During this transition period, the process is not perfect, but it is in effect nonetheless. We, as a board, are working to make the process more streamlined in the future, but please do not wait until the last minute to renew your license. Remember, all processes must be followed to complete your renewal.

As always, if there is anything we, your Board, can do to help you with the process of your license renewal, please allow us to. Are you coming to the Alabama APTA Fall Conference in Birmingham? Come attend our Board meeting and visit us in the exhibit hall. We always look forward to seeing you.

Eric C. Dekle, PT

Disciplinary Actions

Case # 13-05-09
 Allegations: Grossly negligent in practice of Physical Therapy; Falsified visits, Forged signatures, & Violation of Consent Order
 Disposition: **License suspended Indefinitely**
 Fine & Cost of investigation
 Closed & Approved: Consent Agreement effective February 20, 2014
 Name: Elizabeth Williams, PT

Case # 13-09-20
 Allegations: Falsified Records
 Disposition: Fine, 1 year probation, 1 year restricted from working in Home Health Setting
 Closed & Approved: March 13, 2014
 Name: Edwin Villaespin, PT

Case # 14-01-01
 Allegations: Practiced with an expired license
 Disposition: Fine
 Closed & Approved: March 13, 2014
 Name: Wilbur F. Hanson, Jr, PT

Case # 14-04-10
 Allegation: Practiced with an Expired License
 Disposition: Fine
 Closed and Approved: April 11, 2014
 Name: Ganiyu A. Bello

Case # 14-05-11
 Allegation: Falsified Patient Records
 Disposition: Fine, Restricted from working in the Home Health environment for one (1) year
 Closed and Approved: April 11, 2014
 Name: Kelli D. Daniels