



NCBPTE Updates

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THE NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS

PTBoard@NCPTBoard.org



Regulatory Spotlight

Reflections from the Past Board Chair

by Leslie Kesler, PT, 2024 Board Chair, NC Board of PT Examiners



The North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners is an occupational licensing board which was created in 1951 by the North Carolina General Assembly to establish and maintain minimum standards for the practice of physical therapy to protect the safety and welfare of the citizens of North Carolina; to license physical therapists and physical therapist assistants to practice physical therapy in the State; to investigate complaints regarding unauthorized practice of physical therapy in the State and acts of licensees that violate the Practice Act and to issue interpretation of questions arising from the Physical Therapy Practice Act.

As we head into 2025, I reflect on the purpose of the North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. Having served on the Board for several terms, I can say that it has been an honor and a privilege to have had this opportunity. I would also add that I am ending my term with complete confidence in the high functioning Board members and Board staff to continue to meet the needs of the growing and varied populations of North Carolina as well as the ever-evolving practice of Physical Therapy.

In my most recent term, the pace of development of evidence-based therapy procedures, expanding practice into care of patients we have not routinely encountered in the past, and increases in the number of programs offering Physical Therapy education, has been amazing. As the landscape changes around us, the need to assure public protection and to help interpret questions about scope of practice becomes even more important. The Board is fortunate to have highly engaged and committed professionals serving as members, backed by excellence in highly capable Board staff, Executive Director, Deputy Director, and Board Attorney, as we navigate the current state while keeping an eye on the future.

Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants are key members of health care services, serving in roles that promote well-being for all ages and all ranges of health. The licensing process helps establish the standards for entry level practices and advanced practices across the

many settings in the provision of services, to promote patient/client safety and positive outcomes. The Board works diligently to assure that the Practice Act and Board Rules are the backbone of activities and decisions and work continually is happening to review and update rules as practice evolves. The Board serves as a valuable resource to licensees as well as to the public. Not only does the Board provide educational webinars, newsletters with information relevant to practice, a continually updated webpage full of resources, but the Board staff also provides personal service in responding to any inquiries by licensees, state and regulatory agencies, consumers, and others.

In recent years, NCBPTE has invested in considerable resources of time, money, training, equipment, and investigation, to move into a more sophisticated electronic system to support timeliness in response, management of data bases, and accuracy and accessibility of records. This progressive and proactive approach has been instrumental in providing the infrastructure to adapt to the rapidly changing environment we are currently in and sets the stage to be able to adequately address future needs. I am proud to have been a small part of this work and appreciate the efforts of many PT and PTA colleagues in their service in supporting the Board's growth.

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While I am saddened to no longer be a first-hand participant in Board activities, I am excited to see the impact of NCBPTE in the practice of Physical Therapy in the great state of North Carolina well into the future. I feel very fortunate to know that the North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners has a group of skilled professionals as members and staff, who are passionate about Physical Therapy and collaborating together, to help guide the future. As a licensee in NC, you can be confident that NCBPTE is strong and prepared in serving the public and you!

SELF-SERVICE LICENSE VERIFICATION

As of July 1, 2024, NC Board of PT Examiners offers Self-Service License Verification. If you are applying for a license in another state and need a License Verification or Letter of Good Standing, that state should visit the home page of the Board website and follow the prompts within the Licensee Lookup/License Verification button to print the required document.

If you receive a notification from the state or agency that they will not do self-service, click the button on your personal dashboard to request a license verification be sent. There is a \$30 fee plus credit card processing fee to process the request.

States currently participating in self-service license verification include: AL, AZ, CA, DE, FL, GA, HI, IL, IA, KY, LA, MD, MT, NH, OH, OR, PA, SC, SD, TX, VA, WA, WV, WY and the Virgin Islands. More states may be added later.

LICENSEE LOOKUP ON BOARD WEBSITE

This button on the home page of the Board website can be used by both licensees and the public for:

- Verifying status of a PT/PTA licensee, including whether the license is active or has any restrictions. (Particularly useful for employers of a PT/PTA to verify license renewal after February 1 of each year.)
- Locating contact information of a licensee.

(NOTE: Licensees may choose what information is displayed here by updating their contact information via their personal dashboard.)

License Renewal -Updating Contact Information

Board rule: 21 NCAC 48F. 0105 states that it is your responsibility to notify the board within 30 days of any changes in relevant contact information (name, home and/or business address, email, phone numbers) to ensure timely receipt of important correspondence related to licensure and physical therapy regulation in North Carolina.

Contact information for home and/or business address, email, and phone numbers can be done directly from your personal dashboard.

Name changes require legal documentation showing the name change.

- Send an email to PTBOARD@ncptboard.org with "Name Change" in the subject line.
- Include your full name as it currently appears on your license, your license number, your new name, and date of birth.
- **Attach ONE of the following supporting documents as a PDF:**
 - Copy of a government-issued photo ID card, military identification, passport, or driver's license.
 - Copy of official receipt of social security change of name. Do not send a copy or picture of your social security card.
 - Copy of an official divorce decree noting the change of name.
 - Copy of a court order noting the change of name (adoption, legal name change, federal identity change, etc.).
- A new wall certificate can be ordered from your personal dashboard. Cost is \$30 paid online.
- A new wallet card can be printed from your personal dashboard.

NOTE: In order for the Board to contact licensees about important licensure matters, **a licensee's full name (First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, Suffix) must be on file with the Board office.** Names used in clinical practice should be consistent with the name on file at the Board office and match the governmental ID used to verify your identity.

Board office staff hours are 7:30 am – 4 pm, Monday-Friday, to respond to calls and email inquiries. Please schedule office appointments in advance, Tuesday through Thursday, 10 am – 2 pm, by emailing PTBoard@NCPTBoard.org. Provide name, email address, best contact number, and a brief description of appointment needs.
