



NCBPTE Updates

#14 | Sept. 2024

THE NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS

PTBoard@NCPTBoard.org



Regulatory Spotlight

Is Vision Therapy within the Scope of Practice?

The Board considered this question at its meeting on September 18, 2024.

In responding to physical therapy scope of practice questions, the Board applies Rule 21 NCAC 48C .0101, Permitted Practice, and other factors.

21 NCAC 48C .0102 PERMITTED PRACTICE

(a) Physical therapy is presumed to include any acts, tests, procedures, modalities, treatments, or interventions that are **routinely taught in educational programs or in continuing education programs for physical therapists and are routinely performed in practice settings.**

After examining NC CAPTE-accredited DPT programs and sample curriculum taught jointly by a licensed OD and PT, consulting with the NC Occupational Therapy Licensure Board and a Raleigh-based Neuro-Developmental Optometrist, reviewing continuing education subject-specific course offerings, CAPTE standards and required elements, and policy and guidance documents from the American Optometric Association, the Board determined that aspects of vision therapy meet the requirements of the NC PT Practice Act and Board Rules.

Balance and gait disorders, vestibular and proprioceptive dysfunction, along with sensory and motor dysfunction are among the physical therapy issues which can arise from visual impairments and may be appropriately addressed within the context of a PT evaluation and PT plan of care. Physical therapists do not diagnose visual disorders or other medical conditions. Physical therapy licensees are often part of a team of healthcare professionals delivering vision therapy services. According to Board Rule **21 NCAC 48C .0103 (a) Prohibited Practice**, the physical therapist is responsible for the referral of any aspect of vision therapy beyond the scope of physical therapy.

PTAs and PT/PTA students always work under the supervision of a PT. The supervising PT is responsible for determining the competence of a PTA to perform any delegated activity, including

but not limited to student supervision. Delegated activities must be deemed safe and effective for the patient and within the PT patient care plan. The PTA is responsible for performing only those delegated activities within their personal scope of practice, and for which the individual PTA has the education and training to perform, ensuring compliance with Board Rules **21 NCAC 48C Sections .0100 -Physical Therapists and .0200 -Physical Therapist Assistants.**

**CHECK IT
OUT**
on the Website



Looking for information on related topics like responsibility for obtaining informed consent, or the definition of advanced training? Or maybe you want to know more about other resources such as APTA NC or FSBPT. Find it here on home page of Board website.

Note: Board Attorney, David Gadd, recently updated the [Business Entities/Corporate Information](#) brief.

Introducing New Board Member - Jerri Shepard, PT, DPT (Term 2024-2026)



Jerri Shepard has 19 years of experience in acute care and currently serves as acute rehabilitation services manager at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist – High Point Medical Center. Passionate about teaching, she also serves as adjunct professor at Winston-Salem State University and as a teaching assistant/instructor at High Point University for their DPT educational programs.

Jerri holds a BA in Communication Studies and Therapeutic Recreation from UNC-Wilmington, a certificate in Massage and Bodywork Therapy from Florida College of Natural Health, Masters degrees in Physical Therapy (MPT) from UNC-Chapel Hill, Adult Education (Med) from NC State University, and a degree in Business administration with Healthcare Management (MBA) from Fayetteville State University. She also completed her transitional DPT education at Winston-Salem State University. Jerri has continued training and certifications in clinical instruction (Level II), dementia care, and diversity, equity and inclusion.

Jerri is committed to making a positive difference in our amazing PT profession and serving our professionals, students, and the public. In addition to working and teaching, she is active with APTA-NC as chair of the Geriatric (formerly Falls Prevention) Special Interest Group and member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Jerri is excited and proud to serve North Carolina as a NCBPTE member for the term of 2024-2026. She takes the safety of our public seriously and strives to make an impact in this space. Jerri hopes that her diverse experiences with patient care, education, academic teaching, clinical instruction, business administration and management, regulatory affairs, and advocacy has and will continue to bring valued perspective to the table.

Annual License Renewal for 2025 Opens November 1, 2024

All new PTs and PTAs licensed in the current license year (from Feb. 1, 2024 - Jan. 31, 2025) must renew by January 31, 2025, 5 pm EST.

For the first renewal, there is NO continuing competence reporting required. After the first renewal, periodic reporting of continuing competence activities is required.

More information in next newsletter or at Board website under Continuing Competence tab on home page.

In preparation for annual license renewal, licensees should log into their personal dashboard and **update their contact information** (email, home address, and work address). NC PT Board Rule 21 NCAC 48F .0105 requires licensees notify the Board within 30 days of changes.

Upcoming Educational Opportunities

Registration will open soon for the following live, interactive webinars. An email with links for sign-up will be sent, and notices posted on home page of Board website. Each event will also be recorded for later viewing via the webinar library located on the licensee dashboard. Each webinar will equal one continuing competence point.

October 10, 6-7pm (EST) – Continuing Competence
November 7, 6-7pm (EST) – PTA Scope of Work and Supervision

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.