



Physical Therapy News

An online newsletter published by the South Carolina Board of Physical Therapy.

Updates from the Board Office

Legislation

- The year 2010 began with an active legislative agenda and has been eventful for the Board. Several Board members and staff attended numerous committee meetings. House Bill 4329 was introduced to amend Section 40-45-110 of the current code of laws relating to the licensure of physical therapists and the grounds for which they can be sanctioned.

The amendment to the Bill states that a licensee who is involved in the dividing, transferring, assigning, rebating or refunding of fees received for professional services by certain means by deleting the reference to "wages", as a means of engaging in the prohibited conduct, may not be considered conduct subject to sanctions by the Board. The Bill is still going through committee hearings.

- Senate Bill 1132 was filed to amend Section 40-45-230, of the current code of laws relating to physical therapy licensure application and examination requirements. This would provide for an applicant to take the examination a maximum of four times. The applicant would have to wait a year after failing three times to be allowed to take it a fourth time. The Bill is currently in the Senate Committee on Medical Affairs.

The South Carolina Board of Physical Therapy consists of nine members: six licensed physical therapists, two physical therapist assistants and one consumer member. The Board meets four times yearly, and the meetings are open to the public, with the exception of executive sessions. Executive sessions are held, if necessary, to discuss confidential matters where legal advice is given to the Board in matters pertaining to complaints, disciplinary issues and application hearings.

The minutes from Board meetings can be found on the Board's Web site at www.llonline.com/pol/physical-therapy/

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. How long does the licensing process take?

A. It could take several days up to weeks to receive a license.

The process is contingent upon the applicant requesting and having forwarded to the Board all required documents. Applications that require additional documents, such as criminal history background information and court documents, may take longer. Once the documents are received, the Board can issue a license. However, if there are issues that require Board review, applicants will be scheduled to appear before the full Board at its scheduled meeting.

Q. Can I begin working after I submit an application to become licensed in South Carolina when holding a license in another state?

A. No. You are required by law to be licensed in South Carolina to practice physical therapy.

Q. Will the Board issue a temporary license to practice while my application is pending?

A. No. The Board does not issue temporary licenses.

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Just a reminder!

All licenses will expire on December 31, 2010. It is illegal to practice physical therapy with an expired license. Official notifications to renew licenses will be mailed out in October 2010. Licensees, at the time of renewal, must have the required 30 hours of continuing education.

During the renewal period, you will be asked a



series of questions, including whether you have been arrested, convicted or received a Board sanction since your last renewal. It is important that you respond to each question.

If you have an address change, please notify the Board or go [online](#) to update your address.

RENEWING YOUR LICENSE ONLINE IS THE FASTEST WAY.

All Employers Must Comply with S.C. Immigration Act by July 1, 2010

The “South Carolina Illegal Immigration Reform Act” that was signed into law by Governor Mark Sanford on June 4, 2008 will soon be applicable to all businesses in South Carolina regardless of the number of employees.

Compliance with this law began July 1, 2009, for private employers who employ 100 or more employees. For private employers who employ less than 100 employees, the compliance date is July 1, 2010.

The law requires all employers to verify the legal status of new employees and prohibits employment of any worker who is not legally in this country and authorized to work. The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation’s Office of Immigrant Worker Compliance is charged with investigating complaints and conducting random audits of private employers to assure compliance. Failure to

comply can result in severe monetary penalties and revocation of an employer’s right to operate their business.



During the first year, LLR investigators found that most large employers (more than 100 workers) were in compliance with the law. When violations were found they generally were because

employers who were using E-Verify to verify their employees, did not do so within the five-day time-frame required by the law.

employers who were using driver’s licenses to verify employees, did so using a driver’s license from a state not on the approved list.

For more information on the law, visit www.llronline.com/immigration/.

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Q. I took the National Examination a long time ago. Will the Board accept a copy of my score report from another jurisdiction?

A. No. The Board requires the score report be sent directly from the National Testing Service, FSBPT. You may request your score report be transferred to the Board by contacting FSBPT via its Web site (www.fsbpt.org). If FSBPT does not have a record of your score report, you must request that the jurisdiction in which you were initially licensed send a copy of your score report to FSBPT for conversion and transfer to the South Carolina Board office.

Q. Once I take the National Physical Therapy Examination, can I contact the Board office for my scores?

A. No. The Board office will not give exam scores over the telephone; the score report will be mailed to the address on file.

Q. What is the process to have verification of my South Carolina license sent to another state?

A. Verification of your South Carolina license may be sent to another state by requesting it online at the Board’s Web page (www.llronline.com/pol/physical-

[therapy/](#)). The fee for this service is \$20 and can be paid by credit card or e-check. Your request should be processed within 48 hours.

Q. Can the Board recommend or get involved with how to bill for physical therapy services?

A. No. The Board does not regulate the rules or policies of insurance companies. Billing policies are set by contract with insurance companies. Therefore, questions related to billing and reimbursement for a specific patient should be directed to the insurance company for clarification. The Board does accept complaints concerning fraudulent billing, which generally involves charging fees for services not performed or for services that are inappropriate to the diagnosis. Physical therapists are responsible for patient care management, which includes proper and accurate billing of services provided.

Q. If the school issues a sealed transcript to me, can I send it with my application to speed up the process?

A. No. Statutes and regulations require the transcript be sent directly from the school.

2010 Board Meeting Dates

- April 8, 2010
- July 8, 2010
- October 14, 2010

All meetings start at 10 a.m. and are held at 110 Centerview Drive, Kingtree Building in Columbia.