



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

PLEASE SHARE THIS NOTICE WITH COLLEAGUES, EMPLOYERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

Licensure Information:

- As graduates (an individual no longer in a student/intern/practicum status) are preparing to enter the workforce, physical therapists must remember that **a physical therapy or physical therapy assistant license is required before an individual can provide services.**

Supervised Practice Approval – A Board approved status which allows an individual with a complete licensure application and negative criminal background check (CBC) results the opportunity to work, while the application is in the processing phase. A Request for Supervised Practice Form must be submitted to the Board and approved before any provision of services can begin.

***A complete application means, all required forms and documents have been received, meet the requirements, and there is no positive criminal background result.**

- If your information (name, mailing address, email address, phone number, etc.) has changed since your last renewal, please send your new contact information to ashley.balma@dc.gov. For name changes, please include copy of name change documents (marriage certificate, divorce decree, etc.).

Updated Continuing Education Information:

In order to renew your license, you must complete the required number of hours for your license type. Below is a detailed outline of the various CE requirements for each license type regulated by the Board of Physical Therapy.

The public health priorities requirement was established for all other health care professions regulated by the Department of Health, with the intent of going into effect starting with the 2018-2020 license cycle. Below are the updated established requirements:

- An applicant for renewal of a license expiring on January 31, 2021, and all subsequent licensure terms, shall complete forty (40) hours for physical therapists or thirty (30) hours for physical therapist assistants of approved continuing education (CEU) during the two (2) year period preceding the date the license expires. PT/PTA licensees participating in their first renewal are not required to complete CEUs.
- At least ten percent (10%) or four (4) hours or three (3) of the total required CEU shall be in the subjects determined by the Director as public health priorities of the District every five (5) years or less frequently as deemed appropriate.
- The following topics have been identified as key public health priorities:
 1. Responsible opioid prescribing and effective pain management;
 2. Nutrition and obesity prevention;
 3. Identifying and reporting abuse (child and adult), neglect (child and adult), human trafficking, and domestic violence;
 4. Sexual health (including taking sexual history, discussing sexual experiences with patients, sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS), HPV vaccines, connections to cancer, latent tuberculosis, safe sex, and birth control);
 5. Ethics and appropriate patient interactions (i.e. boundaries, patient privacy, and communications including telehealth);
 6. Smoking, vaping, and tobacco (including dangers, smoking cessation, and non-smoke tobacco products);
 7. Preparing your patients for an emergency and handling vulnerable populations in an emergency;
 8. Identifying impairment (physical or mental) in patients and providers (including complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Occupational Safety and Health Act);
 9. Vaccinations (including legal requirements and appropriate exemptions); and,
 10. Implicit bias, cultural competence and Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in health and health care.

- Two (2) hours of CEU of the forty (40) hours or the thirty (30) hours are required in cultural competence and appropriate clinical treatment specifically for individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender non-conforming, queer, or questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.
- No more than half of the required CEU shall be earned through online courses.
- Proof of successful completion shall be submitted within thirty (30) days after it is requested by the Board.

The new requirement regarding the four (4) hours of CE in the subjects determined by the Director as public health priorities are not required to be specific separate courses or classes, but may be included within courses/classes the health care practitioner has completed. As an example – Nutrition and Obesity Prevention may have been discussed during a 1 or more hour(s) course on diabetes; Ethics and Appropriate Patient Interaction may have been discussed during a 1 or more hour(s) class; Smoking, Vaping, and Tobacco may have been discussed in a course regarding the effects of such products on ocular health. The Board of Physical Therapy wants our licensees to be aware that many courses or classes taken in the past and in the future will address those priorities as listed above, and are therefore acceptable to meet the requirement.

Please note that the required 2 hours of CE for the LGBTQ cultural competence requirement are **NOT** included as part of the public health priorities, and must be completed in addition to those requirements.

Board Information:

- **Formation of Voluntary Subcommittee:** The Board is forming a voluntary subcommittee, who will review the current laws and regulations and make recommendations to the Board as it updates its laws and regulations for physical therapists and physical therapy assistants. The Board welcomes the participation from practitioners working in various settings as well as other stakeholders.

TIME COMMITMENT:

- The subcommittee work will begin in April 2020 and is expected to conclude in a year or less.
- The subcommittee will meet at least monthly for 2-4 hours.
- If selected to serve you will be notified by the Board and informed of meeting times and dates.
- If you are interested in being considered to serve on the voluntary subcommittee, please submit a resume along with a short statement indicating the current client population you work with and why you want to participate on the committee to ashley.balma@dc.gov by **March 9, 2020**.

- If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact the Mayor's office of Talent and Appointments: <https://motaboard.theresumator.com/apply/>.
- The public is invited to attend the Open Session of Board meetings, which are held the third Wednesday of every month (except August) at 3:00 p.m. at 899 North Capitol Street, NE, Second Floor, Washington, DC, 20002. View the web page at <https://dchealth.dc.gov/node/159572> for agendas and the meeting schedule.

Questions for the Board: Contact Ms. Ashley Balma, Health Licensing Specialist, at ashley.balma@dc.gov