



Physical Therapy Board of California

BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY - GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

## Physical Therapy Board of California

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### THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT LICENSE APPLICANT STATUS

#### **Business and Professions Code Section 2655.10. Graduate Practice**

Every graduate of an approved physical therapist assistant school who has filed an application for approval as a physical therapist assistant may, between the date of receipt of notice that his application is on file and the date of receipt of approval, assist in the provision of physical therapy under the direct and immediate supervision of a physical therapist.

During this period such an applicant shall identify himself only as A physical therapist assistant applicant.

If a person assisting in the provision of physical therapy pursuant to this section fails to take the next succeeding examination without due cause or fails the examination and receive approval, he shall no longer be authorized to perform the functions authorized by this section.

#### **Business and Professions Code Section 2655.93. Physical Therapy Assistant Reciprocity Applicant**

(a) If the committee uses computer administered testing for the administration of the examination, this section shall apply

and Section 2655.91 shall not apply.

(b) Every graduate of an approved physical therapist assistant education program who has filed a complete application with the committee for the first time, may, following receipt of a letter of authorization to take the examination and perform as a "physical therapist assistant applicant," assist in the provision of physical therapy under the direct and immediate supervision of a physical therapist licensed in this state, for 90 days pending the results of the first examination administered. During this period, the applicant shall identify himself or herself only as a "physical therapist assistant applicant." If the applicant passes the examination, the physical therapist assistant applicant status shall remain in effect until a regular renewable approval is issued, or approval is denied, by the committee.

(c) A person shall not be considered a graduate unless he or she has successfully completed all the clinical training and internships required for graduation from the program.

(d) If the applicant fails to take the examination within 90 days or fails to pass the examination or receive approval, all privileges under this section shall terminate. An applicant may only qualify once to perform as a physical therapist assistant applicant.

#### **Title 16, California Code of Regulations Section 1399.12. Supervision of Physical Therapist Assistant License Applicants**

Pursuant to Section 2655.91 of the code, a physical therapist assistant license applicant whose application for license has been filed and reviewed by the board may assist in the provision of physical therapy services if he or she is under the direct and immediate supervision of a physical therapist licensed by the board. "Direct and immediate" means a supervisor shall at all times be responsible for and provide adequate supervision of the work performed by the applicant and shall be in close proximity to the location where the applicant is assisting in the provision of physical therapy treatment. The physical therapist assistant license applicant shall document each treatment in the patient record, along with his or her signature. A supervising physical therapist shall countersign with his or her first initial and last name in the patient's record on the same day as patient related tasks were provided by the physical therapist assistant license applicant. A supervising physical therapist will conduct a weekly case conference and document it in the patient record. A supervising physical therapist shall document receipt of the letter authorizing physical therapist assistant license applicant status and record the expiration date of such status in the employee record. A supervising physical therapist shall require the applicant to provide documentation of the license issued at the conclusion of the physical therapist assistant license applicant status. If the applicant fails to pass the licensing examination all privileges to work as a physical therapist assistant license applicant shall terminate. Authorizing the physical therapist assistant license applicant to work after the conclusion of physical therapist assistant license applicant status constitutes unprofessional conduct.

#### **PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT EQUIVALENCY**

Please be advised that you are not authorized to work as a physical therapist assistant license applicant. You may only work as an aide as defined in the Requirements for the Use of Aides in section 1399 of the Physical Therapy Practice Act.