

Rules Changes for 2021

Here is a summary of significant Rule changes that take effect on August 20, 2021. This is not a comprehensive review of all rule changes. A comprehensive view of all Rule changes can be accessed in the [Louisiana State Register](#).

An updated PDF copy of the Practice Act and Rules is available on the [board website](#).

Applicants for Licensure

- **Paperless.** Rule change allows the Board to transition to completely paperless licensure applications.
- **Exam Eligibility.** Rule change allows applicants for the National Physical Therapy Exam may be made eligible as soon as the day after they register for the exam through the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT).
- **Six Attempts to Pass the NPTE.** Louisiana's NPTE limitations on examination are increased to six from four to align with the FSBPT's limitations.

Continuing Education Requirements & Practice

- **Traditional/Live Coursework is no longer mandated.** Rule change removes the requirement to take live/traditional continuing education for licensure renewal. Licensees may still take live coursework, but they are no longer required to do so.
- **Administrative Coursework Hours are no longer limited to 8 hours.** Rule change removes the limitation on administrative courses that can be counted toward licensure renewal. The biennial requirements for renewal are now as follows: 2 hours of Jurisprudence, 2 hours of Ethics and 26 hours of clinical and/or administrative for a total of 30 hours of continuing education hours.
- **More approved activities for obtaining CEU credit.** Licensees may now obtain up to 10 hours of CEU credit for teaching in a CAPTE-accredited program and up to 5 hours for serving in elected or appointed positions of national or state physical therapy organizations.

Highlights

Applicant Changes

- *Paperless Applications*
- *Exam Eligibility*
- *Exam Attempt Limitations*

Biennial Renewal Requirements

- *More Distance Learning allowed*
- *More Administrative Hours allowed*
- *More Approved Activities*

RULE CHANGES 2021

Treatment with Dry Needling

- **Reduced from 50 to 25 Coursework Hours required.** The number of required board-approved in-person contact hours changes from 50 to 25.
- **Students may take Dry Needling coursework prior to graduating.** PT students who have completed the requirements in §311.B are allowed to practice dry needling under continuous supervision. ****IMPORTANT**** Coursework completed must be board-approved continuing education and not a part of PT program curriculum.

Supervision

- **More licensees qualify to supervise foreign-educated licensees.** Removed the number of years of experience a licensee is required to have prior to serving as a clinical supervisor of foreign-educated licensees.
- **PTAs may work in home health and education sooner.** Removed the one-year of supervised work experience required prior to PTAs working in a school or home health setting. *****IMPORTANT***** There may be other rules and laws that maintain this restriction that govern the practice of PTAs in these settings.
- **Allow for a customized approach to assessing competence of licensees re-entering the practice.** Changed certain requirements for re-entry to practice after being out of the practice for four years or more.

School-based Workplace Setting Rules

- **School setting language added in Rule.** Early childhood services language was in Rule, but this language is not appropriate for school-based services for children age 3- 22. *****IMPORTANT***** If you work in the school-based setting and you are interested in networking with other physical therapists in your setting, email charlotte@laptboard.org.

Documentation Standards

- **Signature Stamps.** Signature stamps may be used in lieu of written signature.

Highlights

Dry Needling

- *25 Hours Required*
- *Students learn/practice*

Supervision

- *Foreign-educated supervisor qualifications*
- *PTAs may be able to work in Home Health & School Setting sooner*
- *Re-entry to the Practice changes.*

School-Based Setting

- *Includes language relevant to the setting.*

Documentation Standards

- *Signature Stamps*