



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021



Message from the Director

Dear Licensees,

The Louisiana State Register has [published](#) a revision to the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board Rules effective August 20, 2021. The Rule changes highlighted in this newsletter provide a summary of significant changes (pages 3–4). An updated PDF copy of the Practice Act and Rules is available on the [board website](#).

In my position, I am the contact person responsible for questions related to the Practice Act and Rules. It is my job to direct licensees to where they can find the answer in the Practice Act or Rules. It is not my job to interpret the Practice Act or Rules for licensees. More often than not, the answer to the questions asked is based on the knowledge, skill, education, training and experience of the licensee and whether or not they are competent to perform the procedure. Physical therapists are responsible for managing all aspects of physical therapy care of each patient. The decisions that you make need to be in the best interest of the patients and clients that you serve. If a complaint is filed on your license, you will have the opportunity to defend your decision before action is taken on your license. Be mindful of our decisions and if you are concerned about how you would defend your action before your peers, then consider whether or not what you are doing is right. It is your license and your responsibility.

Charlotte Martin, M.P.A.
Executive Director

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member	Term Expiration
Judith Halverson, PT Chairman	Jan 2024
Kathryn Brittain, PT Secretary/Treasurer	Sept 2021
Meredith Warner, M.D.	Jan 2021
Phillip Page, PT	Sept 2021
John Marius, PTA	July 2023
Oday Lavergne, PT	July 2023
Tyra Mitchell, PT	Sept 2023

Consumer Member Vacancy

Know someone who may be interested in public service?

The Consumer board member position is currently open. If you know someone who may be interested, please direct them [here](#). Visit our [Get Involved](#) page to learn about the Board's roles and responsibilities.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Judith Halverson, PT, Chairman of the Board

We are well into 2021, welcoming newly graduated physical therapists and physical therapist assistants who persevered through a tumultuous year. As a profession over this past year plus, we navigated changes in how we practiced, such as embracing telehealth, and the changing directives from our national, state and local leaders. I think about those we lost due to the pandemic. We look to the remainder of 2021 with hope that the health of our state, our nation, and the world will improve.

Your board has responded through this past year by adapting the delivery of our meetings and work, while continuing to meet the needs of the public and our licensees. In 2021, licensees renewing their license became the first to participate in the Minimum Data Set (MDS) survey. While the introduction of the survey came with its challenges, Board staff have learned from the experience and have already addressed necessary changes to make the process smoother moving forward. We appreciate all licensees' patience as we worked through these challenges and adapted.

As we continue to watch our state recover from the pandemic, we will look for ways that we can continue to improve our processes. Licensees may see future changes to their dashboards as new features are introduced to further streamline work and bring convenience to your fingertips. We always encourage feedback on our website. Licensees should always feel free to share feedback or ideas with staff.

Licensees responded with enthusiasm and positive feedback to the Jurisprudence requirement provided via Zoom. Given this positive response, the Board is excited to continue to offer opportunities to complete the Jurisprudence requirement via Zoom. Offering a safe alternative to the traditional traveling live jurisprudence met the needs of our licensees and ensured the safety of our Board staff, and we even saw our attendance grow! Board meetings were also held using Zoom. The pandemic shined a spotlight on the issue of accessibility and the Board does not wish to hinder the participation of the public and licensees in these matters.

A new normal can be a good thing. More exciting changes are on the horizon. As you read this newsletter, you'll find a breakdown of the most significant rules changes. The Board is confident that these changes will provide for more clarity in the practice of physical therapy in Louisiana and reduce the burden of previous inefficiencies. As always, I encourage licensees to reach out to Board staff whenever you have questions or concerns. Staff will work diligently to address your concerns within a timely manner and to the best of their abilities.

Judith Halverson, PT, DPT, MHA
Chairman of the Board



A Common Misconception

Question:

Must a licensee who is providing services on a cash pay basis follow the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board Practice Act & Rules?

Answer:

Yes, all licensed PTs and PTAs in Louisiana must follow and comply with the Practice Act and Rules. The manner in which a provider receives payment for service (cash, insurance, attorney, etc.) does not exempt the provider from compliance with the Practice Act and Rules.

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*

(Continued on page 4)

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*

Licenses Not Renewed

Notice of licensees who choose not to renew their Louisiana license is provided to the public. Non-renewal is not grounds for disciplinary action and should not be interpreted as such.

The following PTs and PTAs have not renewed their license to practice physical therapy in the state of Louisiana, which resulted in expiration of their license on April 30, 2021 (LAC46:LIV179).

Whitney Atchetee, PT	Emmalea Dugas, PTA	Auroarah Johnson, PTA	Sarah Ohm, PT
Michael Babjak, PT	Susan Dugas, PT	Jordan Johnson, PT	Isabelle Omijie, PTA
Mariesa Barbara, PT	Cody Dunklin, PT	Amy Johnston, PTA	Sybil Palmer, PT
Margaret Barbera, PT	Myra Dunn, PTA	Gregory Jones, PT	Allison Parker, PTA
Shelby Barker, PT	Karen Durbin, PT	Cecilia Juarez, PT	Gail Pearce, PT
Travis Barlow, PT	Ashlee Ellard, PT	Justin Juneau, PTA	Jennifer Peters, PT
Sheridan Barno, PTA	Louis Eron, PT	Reagan Kaiser, PT	Ettore Pittore, PT
Theresa Becnel, PT	Crystal Everett, PT	Kelli Keaton, PT	Anna Powell, PT
Dustin Bernard, PT	Diane Ezernack, PT	Kelli Keaton, PT	Heather Randle, PT
Christopher Blackstone, PT	Jeffrey Faber, PT	Katie Kern, PT	Stephanie Ravalese, PT
Grace Blackwelder, PTA	Ashley Federico, PT	Tucker Kincaid, PTA	Ashley Rodriguez, PTA
Sara Blackwell, PT	Allison Field, PT	Ashley Klitz, PTA	Sunny Rush, PT
Valicia Brohimer, PTA	Kaitlin Foley, PT	Aaron Knight, PTA	Kimberly Sample, PTA
Janice Brown, PT	Angela Ford, PTA	Jessica Korab, PT	Jordan Schorlemmer, PT
Melissa Bryant, PTA	Terry Foster, PTA	Matthew Ladner, PTA	Ryan Schuler, PT
Jordan Buras, PT	Betty Founds, PT	Linda Lafauci, PT	Shelby Schultz, PT
Sherry Burchard, PTA	Priscilla Franco, PT	Brittany Landry, PTA	Scott Seybold, PT
Timothy Burnell, PT	Allison Friel, PT	Catherine Lane, PT	Jennifer Smith, PTA
Michael Busby, PT	Alanna Fyalkowski, PT	Amanda Lauer, PT	Anne-Laure Sojos, PT
Emily Buttery, PTA	Warren Gambino, PTA	Jennifer Lauer, PT	Sydney Strickland, PTA
Matthew Cameron, PT	Alberto Garcia, PT	Chelsea Lawrence, PT	Kelsey Sutherland, PT
Kylie Campbell, PT	Leah Geheber, PT	Lori LeBlanc, PTA	Mark Suthoff, PT
Jonathan Cancienne, PT	Conway Geoffroy, PT	Rebecca Leedy, PT	Morgan Thomas, PT
Michelle Chellew, PT	Julie Ghormley, PT	Rebecca Lege', PT	Christopher Thompson, PT
Elizabeth Clark, PT	Sarah Gibson, PT	Natalee Lewis, PT	Leslie Thompson, PTA
Russell Clark, PT	Stephanie Gioe, PT	Barbara Malbrough, PTA	John Regis Tibayan, PT
Donna Comeaux, PTA	William Gonzaba, PT	Amy Marshall, PT	Lauren Timphony, PTA
Glenda Cook, PT	Ashley Gonzalez, PT	Shannon Martin, PT	Benjamin Tull, PTA
Kanaiyalal Dave, PT	Peter Guarisco, PTA	Dustin McConnell, PT	Allison Vain, PT
Jade Davenport, PT	Veronica Guidry, PT	Margaret McGee, PT	Jennifer Vaughn, PT
Andrew David, PTA	Kaitlin Haerle, PT	Cassandra McGowan, PT	Brandon Wallace, PTA
Karen Davis, PT	Ma'Corius Harris, PT	Sarah McInnes, PT	Steven Ward, PT
Mariana Dawidaj, PT	Kelly Henagan, PT	Jessica Molyet, PTA	Richard White, PT
Arthur deLeon, PT	Brian Henry, PTA	Justin Moore, PTA	Maeve Williams, PT
Ashton Dewey, PTA	Tyler Herman, PT	Alex Moyers, PTA	Melissa Wilson, PTA
Adam Disbrow, PTA	William Holmes, PTA	Michelle Muirhead, PTA	Sara Wriborg, PT
Joanne Doan, PTA	Whitney Howard, PTA	Kathryn Nance, PT	Stephanie Wriborg, PT
Jenny Dodson, PTA	Tony Hoyle, PT	Alaina Newman, PT	
Ramona Downs, PTA	Taylor Hudson, PT	Holly O'Mara, PT	
Amanda Doyle, PTA	Stefanie Jemison, PT	Chad Oakley, PT	

RECENT BOARD ACTIONS

Christopher Blackstone, License No. 05051, Baton Rouge, LA

Administrative Complaint 2021-I-003

On December 18, 2020, a bill of information was filed against physical therapist on the charge of conspiracy to commit health care fraud, a felony. Physical therapist pled guilty to said allegations on 2/24/2021. Charges of conspiracy to commit health care fraud are pending in the US District Court for the Eastern District of La. Effective April 14, 2021, physical therapist is indefinitely suspended while this interim consent agreement is in effect and precluded from practicing physical therapy in any capacity.

Chasity Popillion, PT License No.09186, Lafayette, LA.

Administrative Complaint 2020-I-019

Physical Therapist provided physical therapy services to a patient which were inappropriate for patient's condition and documented services which were not provided as documented, which caused billing for services that were not performed. Licensee is placed on probation for a minimum of two (2) years. During the probationary period, licensee is subject to monitoring visits. The employers, direct supervisors and all co-worker must review and acknowledge licensee's Consent Order.

Christian Stafford, PT. License No. 08847, New Orleans, LA.

Administrative Complaint 2020-I-017

Physical Therapist documented for services that were not performed, which caused billing for services to the physical therapy patient that were not performed, including procedures requiring one-on-one supervision. Licensee is placed on probation for a minimum of two (2) years. During the probationary period, licensee is subject to monitoring visits. The employers, direct supervisors and all co-workers must review and acknowledge licensee's Consent Order.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chris Franks, PT
Lake Charles

Marie Morgan, PT
Shreveport

Michael Hildebrand, PT
Monroe

Jason Douglas, PT
Larose

Ben McRae, PTA
Monroe

Lindsey Robinson, PT
New Orleans

Jeremy Dye, PT
Shreveport

Shaina Goudeau, PT
Pineville

Michael Laudadio, PT
Boerne, Tx

Staff Members

Charlotte Martin, MPA
Executive Director
Charlotte@laptboard.org

Danielle Linzer
Licensing Analyst 2
Danielle@laptboard.org

Jessica Alwell, MHRE
Assistant Executive Director
Jessica@laptboard.org

Stephanie Boudreaux
Compliance Officer & CEU Specialist
Stephanie@laptboard.org

FILE A COMPLAINT ON THE BOARD

Individuals may file a complaint about board actions or procedures with one or more of the following:

1. LPTB, 2110 W. Pinhook Rd, Ste. 202; 337-262-1043; info@laptboard.org;
2. House & Gov Affairs; P.O. Box 94062, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, 225-342-2403, h&ga@legis.la.gov
3. Senate & Gov Affairs; P.O. Box 94183, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, 225-342-9845; s&g@legis.la.gov

UPCOMING EVENTS



BOARD MEETINGS 2021 SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

*Board Meeting time and dates are subject to change.
Check our website for the most up-to-date information.
www.laptboard.org/Meetings*

LIVE JURISPRUDENCE

2021 SCHEDULE

To register for a Live Jurisprudence Seminar, email your name, license number, and desired Jurisprudence location to ceu@laptboard.org. Your certificate will be emailed to you following the completion of the seminar.

Please click on the schedule below to see current live jurisprudence offerings for 2021. Due to the interest and success of the virtual options, the Board will also continue to utilize this medium.

[Click here to view the 2021 Schedule](#)

Louisiana Physical Therapy Board

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