

CHAPTER 5601

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

PHYSICAL THERAPY

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5601.0100 DEFINITIONS.

Subpart 1. **Scope.** For the purposes of this chapter the terms defined in this part have the meanings given them.

Subp. 2. **Board.** "Board" means the Board of Medical Examiners.

Subp. 3. **Physical therapist assistant.** "Physical therapist assistant" means a skilled technical worker who is a graduate of a physical therapist assistant educational program accredited by the American Physical Therapy Association or a comparable accrediting agency. The physical therapist assistant performs selected physical therapy treatments and related duties as delegated by the physical therapist to assist the physical therapist in patient-, client-, and resident-related activities.

Subp. 4. **Physical therapy aide.** "Physical therapy aide" means a supportive worker who has been trained on the job to perform tasks assigned by a supervising registered physical therapist.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.70*

History: 8 SR 2573

5601.0200 APPLICATION.

An applicant for admission to a registration examination to practice physical therapy shall file an application with the board. If the board finds that the application is complete and that all of the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 148.70 and this chapter have been met, it shall advise the applicant of the date and place of the examination.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.70*

History: 8 SR 2573

5601.0300 CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.

The application must be submitted on forms prepared by the board. To be complete, the application must include the following information:

A a notarized or certified copy of the original diploma, degree, or certificate or evidence satisfactory to the board, taking into consideration the qualifications for applicants set out in Minnesota Statutes, section 148.70, indicating that the applicant has satisfactorily completed an approved curriculum in physical therapy as set out in Minnesota Statutes, section 148.705, clauses (a) and (b) and has been graduated from a school of physical therapy approved by the board;

B. a recommendation by one physician duly licensed to practice medicine in the United States or Canada and one physical therapist duly registered to practice physical therapy in the United States or Canada;

C. a recent full-faced notarized photograph attached to the application; and

D. an accounting of time beginning with high school education.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.70*

History: *8 SR 2573*

5601.0400 APPLICATION DEADLINE.

All applications for examination must be fully completed in accordance with part 5601.0300 and forwarded to the secretary of the board. An application must be postmarked not later than 30 days before the date of the examination.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.70*

History: *8 SR 2573*

5601.0500 EXAMINATION.

The examination, as described in Minnesota Statutes, section 148.72, subdivision 3, must be the professional examination service physical therapy examination or a comparable nationally recognized examination. The passing score is one standard deviation below the mean of all persons taking the examination.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.70*

History: *8 SR 2573*

5601.0600 INELIGIBILITY FOR EXAMINATION.

If the board determines that an applicant is ineligible for examination, the board shall notify the applicant of this determination and the grounds for it. The applicant may be granted a hearing in accordance with the provisions of part 5615.0300 of the Board of Medical Examiners by filing a statement of issues with the board within 20 days after receiving notice from the board. After the hearing, the board shall notify the applicant in writing of its decision.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.70*

History: *8 SR 2573*

5601.0700 REGISTRATION WITHOUT EXAMINATION.

The board may register a person as a physical therapist in this state without examination if that person completes or presents evidence satisfactory to the board of having passed an examination in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 148.70 administered by a state licensing agency. An applicant for registration without examination shall submit an application on forms provided by the board with the following information:

A. a notarized or certified copy of a current license or certificate to practice physical therapy, if any, issued by the duly accredited examining agency of the state or foreign country in which the applicant has been licensed or certified;

B. an original or certified copy of a diploma, degree, or certificate or evidence satisfactory to the board indicating that the applicant has satisfactorily completed an approved curriculum in physical therapy as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 148.70 and has been graduated from a school of physical therapy approved by the board; and

C. a list of the applicant's physical therapy employment during the past five years.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.70*

History: *8 SR 2573*

5601.0800 REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN-TRAINED APPLICANTS.

Subpart 1. **Scope and documentation.** An applicant for registration who is a foreign-trained physical therapist must fulfill the requirements in subparts 2 to 5, providing certified English translations of board-required relevant documentation.

Subp. 2. **Education evaluation.** The applicant must present evidence of completion of physical therapy schooling equivalent to that required in Minnesota Statutes, section 148.705 and part 5601.0500. This evidence will be evaluated by the Physical Therapy Council with the assistance of a credentials evaluation service familiar with educational standards and professional qualification. Agencies providing evaluation services must be approved by the American Physical Therapy Association or meet its standards. The applicant shall be responsible for the expenses incurred as a result of the evaluation.

Subp. 3. **English test.** The applicant must achieve a score of at least 550 on the test of English as a foreign language, or a score of at least 85 percent on the Minnesota battery test.

Subp. 4. **Experience.** The applicant must have practiced satisfactorily for at least six months under the supervision of a registered physical therapist at a board-approved facility. A facility that offers such practice must provide a broad base of experience including a variety of physical agents, therapeutic exercises, evaluation procedures, and patient diagnoses. Supervision must be provided by a registered physical therapist with at least three years of clinical experience. A proposed outline of clinical experiences must be approved by the Physical Therapy Council before the facility begins offering the experience.

Subp. 5. **Examination.** The applicant must satisfactorily complete the board-approved examination as stated in Minnesota Statutes, section 148.72, subdivision 3.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.70*

History: *8 SR 2573*

5601.0900 ADDRESS.

Every physical therapist shall provide the board with a current address. A physical therapist who moves from the address on the physical therapist's registration shall notify the board of the change within 30 days.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.70*

History: *8 SR 2573*

5601.1000 INITIATION AND TERMINATION OF TREATMENT.

A physical therapist may not, without the express direction of the prescribing physician, initiate or terminate treatment. In an emergency, however, the physical therapist may modify or terminate treatment that is not beneficial to the patient or that is not tolerated by the patient. In that case the physical therapist shall notify the prescribing physician promptly.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.70*

History: *8 SR 2573*

5601.1100 PHYSICAL THERAPY

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5601.1100 DURATION OF TREATMENT PLAN.

The duration of a physical therapy treatment plan shall be designated by the prescribing physician.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.70*

History: *8 SR 2573*

5601.1200 REPORTS.

The physical therapist shall submit written reports to the prescribing physician at intervals determined by the prescribing physician concerning the condition and progress of the patient in therapy. Reports should include an initial evaluation, progress notes, and a discharge note. Reports must be made more frequently than designated by the prescribing physician if the patient's condition warrants.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.70*

History: *8 SR 2573*

5601.1300 RETENTION OF PATIENT RECORDS.

All patient records including directions and orders within the control of the physical therapist shall be retained for at least seven years, or six years after the patient's majority. The physical therapist shall provide access to these records to the board.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.70*

History: *8 SR 2573*

5601.1400 DELEGATION OF DUTIES.

The physical therapist may delegate patient treatment procedures only to a physical therapist assistant who has sufficient didactic and clinical preparation. The registered physical therapist may not delegate the following activities to the physical therapist assistant or to other supportive personnel: patient evaluation, treatment planning, initial treatment, change of treatment, and initial or final documentation.

The registered physical therapist must observe the patient's status before and after the treatment administered by a physical therapy aide. The physical therapy aide may perform tasks related to preparation of patient and equipment for treatment, housekeeping, transportation, clerical duties, departmental maintenance, and selected treatment procedures. The tasks must be performed under the direct supervision of a registered physical therapist who is readily available for advice, instruction, or immediate assistance.

The registered physical therapist is responsible for all duties delegated to the physical therapist assistant or tasks assigned to the physical therapy aide.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.70*

History: *8 SR 2573*

5601.1500 OBSERVATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF DELEGATED DUTIES.

When components of a patient's treatment are delegated to a physical therapist assistant, a registered physical therapist must provide on-site observation of the treatment and documentation of its appropriateness at least every six treatment sessions.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.70*

History: *8 SR 2573*

5601.1600 SUPERVISION OF PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS.

A registered physical therapist may supervise no more than two physical therapist assistants.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.70*

History: *8 SR 2573*

5601.1700 RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION.

When they renew their registrations each year in compliance with Minnesota Statutes, section 148.73, physical therapists must submit lists of locations or institutions where they have practiced during the past five years. Applicants for reregistration who have not practiced the equivalent of eight full weeks during the past five years are required to achieve a passing score on retaking the registration examination or complete no less than eight weeks of council-approved clinical experience with a broad base of treatment modalities and patient diagnoses.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 148.70*

History: *8 SR 2573*