

1 State Board of Medical Examiners

2

3 Adopted Rule Regarding the Practice of Physical Therapy

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5 Rules as Adopted

6 7 MCAR S 4.013 Definitions.

7 A. Scope. For the purposes of 7 MCAR SS 4.013-4.030 the
8 terms defined in B.-D. have the meanings given them.

9 B. Board. "Board" means the Board of Medical Examiners.

10 C. Physical therapist assistant. "Physical therapist
11 assistant" means a skilled technical worker who is a graduate of
12 a physical therapist assistant educational program accredited by
13 the American Physical Therapy Association or a comparable
14 accrediting agency. The physical therapist assistant performs
15 selected physical therapy treatments and related duties as
16 delegated by the physical therapist to assist the physical
17 therapist in patient/client/resident-related activities.

18 D. Physical therapy aide. "Physical therapy aide" means a
19 supportive worker who has been trained on the job to perform
20 tasks assigned by a supervising registered physical therapist.

21 7 MCAR S 4.014 Application.

22 An applicant for admission to a registration examination to
23 practice physical therapy shall file an application with the
24 board. If the board finds that the application is complete and
25 that all of the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section
26 148.70 and 7 MCAR SS 4.013-4.030 have been met, it shall advise
27 the applicant of the date and place of the examination.

28 7 MCAR S 4.015 Contents of application.

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

32 A. a notarized or certified copy of the original diploma,
33 degree, or certificate or evidence satisfactory to the board,
34 taking into consideration the qualifications for applicants set
35 out in Minnesota Statutes, section 148.70, indicating that the

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1 applicant has satisfactorily completed an approved curriculum in
2 physical therapy as set out in Minnesota Statutes, section
3 148.705, clauses (a) and (b) and has been graduated from a
4 school of physical therapy approved by the board;

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

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

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

13 7 MCAR S 4.016 Application deadline.

14 All applications for examination must be fully completed in
15 accordance with 7 MCAR S 4.015 and forwarded to the secretary of
16 the board. An application must be postmarked not later than 30
17 days before the date of the examination.

18 7 MCAR S 4.017 Examination.

19 The examination, as described in Minnesota Statutes,
20 section 148.72, subdivision 3, must be the Professional
21 Examination Service Physical Therapy Examination or a comparable
22 nationally recognized examination. The passing score is one
23 standard deviation below the mean of all persons taking the
24 examination.

25 7 MCAR S 4.018 Ineligibility for examination.

26 If the board determines that an applicant is ineligible for
27 examination, the board shall notify the applicant of this
28 determination and the grounds for it. The applicant may be
29 granted a hearing in accordance with the provisions of rule ME
30 63 of the Board of Medical Examiners by filing a statement of
31 issues with the board within 20 days after receiving notice from
32 the board. After the hearing, the board shall notify the
33 applicant in writing of its decision.

34 7 MCAR S 4.019 Registration without examination.

1 The board may register a person as a physical therapist in
2 this state without examination if that person completes or
3 presents evidence satisfactory to the board of having passed an
4 examination in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section
5 148.70 administered by a state licensing agency. An applicant
6 for registration without examination shall submit an application
7 on forms provided by the board with the following information:

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

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

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

20 7 MCAR S 4.020 Requirements for foreign-trained applicants.

21 An applicant for registration who is a foreign-trained
22 physical therapist must fulfill the following requirements,
23 providing certified English translations of board-required
24 relevant documentation:

25 A. The applicant must present evidence of completion of
26 physical therapy schooling equivalent to that required in
27 Minnesota Statutes, section 148.705 and 7 MCAR S 4.017. This
28 evidence will be evaluated by the Physical Therapy Council with
29 the assistance of a credentials evaluation service familiar with
30 educational standards and professional qualification. Agencies
31 providing evaluation services must be approved by the American
32 Physical Therapy Association or meet its standards. The
33 applicant shall be responsible for the expenses incurred as a
34 result of the evaluation.

35 B. The applicant must achieve a score of at least 550 on the
36 Test of English as a Foreign Language, or a score of at least 85

1 percent on the Minnesota Battery Test.

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

12 D. The applicant must satisfactorily complete the
13 board-approved examination as stated in Minnesota Statutes,
14 section 148.72, subdivision 3.

15 7 MCAR S 4.021 Address.

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

20 7 MCAR S 4.022 Initiation and termination of treatment.

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

27 7 MCAR S 4.023 Duration of treatment plan.

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

30 7 MCAR S 4.024 Reports.

31 The physical therapist shall submit written reports to the
32 prescribing physician at intervals determined by the prescribing
33 physician concerning the condition and progress of the patient
34 in therapy. Reports should include an initial evaluation,

1 progress notes, and a discharge note. Reports must be made more
2 frequently than designated by the prescribing physician if the
3 patient's condition warrants.

4 7 MCAR S 4.025 Prescriptions.

5 ~~Every-physical-therapist-shall-retain-all-patient-records~~
6 ~~including-prescriptions-received~~ All patient records including
7 directions and orders within the controls of the physical
8 therapist shall be retained for at least seven years, or six
9 years after the patient's majority. The physical therapist
10 shall provide access to these records to the board.

11 7 MCAR S 4.026 Delegation of duties.

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

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

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

32 7 MCAR S 4.027 Observation and documentation of delegated duties.

33 When components of a patient's treatment are delegated to a
34 physical therapist assistant, a registered physical therapist
35 must provide on-site observation of the treatment and

1 documentation of its appropriateness at least every six
2 treatment sessions.

3 7 MCAR S 4.028 Supervision of physical therapist assistants.

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

6 7 MCAR S 4.029 Renewal of registration.

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

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18 Repealer. Rule ME 9 of the Board of Medical Examiners is
19 repealed.