

RULES OF GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

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CHAPTER 490-1

ORGANIZATION OF BOARD

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All Rules and Regulations pertaining to the Administration of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy shall be administered by the Joint Secretary of the Examining Boards Division of the Office of the Secretary of State. The office of the Joint Secretary is located at 166 Pryor Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-33-2; 43-33-9.

490-1-.01 Organization of Board.

The Board of Physical Therapy is composed of eight members who are appointed by the Governor. Members of the public may obtain information from the Board and make submissions or requests to the Board by contacting the Joint Secretary of the Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Dr., Macon, GA 31217.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-2, 43-1-3, 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-5, 50-18-70. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Organization of Board" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 20, 1973; eff. May 10, 1973. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Jan. 18, 1984; eff. Feb. 7, 1984. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Aug. 20, 2004; eff. Sept. 9, 2004.

490-1-.02 Officers. Amended.

(1) The Board shall elect annually from its members a president and vice president, who shall have the privilege of re-election. Elections shall be held at the regular December meeting, with officers to preside at the following meeting, unless otherwise determined by the Board.

(2) The president shall call and preside at all meetings, except that four members may call a meeting, providing all members are adequately notified.

(3) The vice president shall call and preside at all meetings in the absence of the president.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-1-2. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Officers" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 20, 1973; eff. May 10, 1973. **Amended:** F. Jan. 18, 1984; eff. Feb. 7, 1984. **Amended:** F. Jan. 28, 1994; eff. Feb. 17, 1994.

490-1-.03 Joint Secretary, Records, Fees. Amended.

The Joint Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings and submit a report at each meeting; be custodian of all records; carry on the official correspondence of the Board; and collect and disburse all fees.

Authority Ga. L. 1972, pp. 388-396. **History.** Original Rule entitled “Joint Secretary, Records, Fees” adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 20, 1973; eff. May 10, 1973.

490-1-.04 Repealed.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-2, 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-7. **History.** Original Rule entitled “Meetings” adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 20, 1973; eff. May 10, 1973. **Amended:** F. Jan. 18, 1984; eff. Feb. 7, 1984. **Amended:** F. May 26, 1993; eff. June 15, 1993. **Repealed:** F. Aug. 19, 2004; eff. Sept. 8, 2004.

CHAPTER 490-2

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490-2-.01 Application For Licensure And Examination.

(1) A completed application for examination must be submitted and approved prior to taking the examination.

(2) Any physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who plans to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in the State of Georgia must be licensed by the Board prior to beginning said practice.

(3) Any applicant who does not submit required documentation within one year of initial filing date will not be given further consideration by the Board until submission of new application and payment of appropriate fees.

(4) All applicants for licensure and examination are also subject to the provisions of O.C.G.A. §§43-1-19 and 43-33-18.

Authority O.C.G.A Secs. 43-1-3, 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-10 to 43-33-14, 43-33-18. **History.** Original Rule entitled “Application for Registration and Examination” adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled “Application for Licensure and Examination” adopted. F. June 6, 1983; eff. June 26, 1983. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Mar. 22, 1989; eff. Apr. 11, 1989. **Amended:** F. July 17, 1989; eff. Aug. 6, 1989. **Amended:** F. May 26, 1993; eff. June 15, 1993. **Amended:** F. Jan. 24, 1995; eff. Feb. 13, 1995. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Aug. 20, 2004; eff. Sept. 9, 2004.

490-2-.02 Licensure: Examination.

(1) All physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are required to submit a completed application, the appropriate fee, and pass an examination for licensure to practice the profession in Georgia except as provided for in O.C.G.A. Sec. [43-33-15](#). The Board may at its discretion grant a license to an applicant who has previously taken and completed, within the requirements as set by the Board, the examination required.

(a) All applicants who are graduates of Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) accredited schools and are applying for licensure must submit:

1. passing scores from the national licensing examination; and
2. passing scores from examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy; and
3. official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation.

(b) Verification of licensure in all states in which the licensure candidate holds a license or has ever held a license may be conducted by board staff.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-1, 43-1-3, 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-10 to 43-33-14, 43-33-17, 43-33-18. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Registration Examination" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 7, 1981; eff. Apr. 27, 1981. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Licensure Examination" adopted. F. June 6, 1983; eff. June 26, 1983. **Amended:** F. Jan. 18, 1984; eff. Feb. 7, 1984. **Amended:** F. Feb. 4, 1985; eff. Feb. 24, 1985. **Amended:** F. Feb. 28, 1986; eff. Mar. 20, 1986. **Amended:** F. July 22, 1986; eff. Aug. 11, 1986. **Amended:** F. Dec. 8, 1988; eff. Dec. 28, 1988. **Amended:** F. Mar. 22, 1989; eff. Apr. 11, 1989. **Amended:** F. May 13, 1991; eff. June 1, 1991. **Amended:** F. July 1, 1993; eff. July 21, 1993. **Amended:** F. Nov. 22, 1996; eff. Dec. 12, 1996. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Jan. 19, 2005; eff. Feb. 8, 2005.

490-2-.03 Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants.

(1) All applicants who are graduates of educational programs conducted in a foreign country that are not accredited by CAPTE and approved by the Board must submit credentials prescribed by the Board in order to be considered for approval to take the licensing examination.

(a) Transcripts must be evaluated by a credential evaluation agency approved by the Board, to determine if the professional instruction is substantially equivalent to that of entry-level United States-educated therapists. The credentialing evaluation agency shall send its evaluation and a copy of the official transcript directly to the Board. A list of credentialing agencies approved by the Board shall be included in each application packet. Additional lists may be obtained from the Board office.

(b) Proof of licensure/certification/registration, that is current and in good standing, to practice physical therapy, or proof of appropriate eligibility to practice physical therapy, in the country of education must be submitted.

(c) Verification of licensure/certification/registration in all jurisdictions in which the candidate holds or has ever held a license/certification/registration must be submitted.

(d) Applicants educated in a non-English speaking physical therapy program must take and receive passing scores on three (3) language proficiency examinations to include the Test of Spoken English (TSE): passing score of 50; Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): passing score of 560 pencil & paper/220 computerized; and Test of

Written English (TWE): passing score of 4.5, before being allowed to sit for the licensure examination. Official score results must be submitted to the Board.

(e) Applicants educated in an English speaking physical therapy program must have a school official submit an official letter to the Board attesting that the physical therapy curriculum was taught in English.

(f) All foreign-educated applicants must complete a Board-approved traineeship consisting of a minimum of 480 hours, which must be completed within three (3) months of the issuance of the traineeship permit.

(2) Applicants educated in a foreign physical therapy program that is accredited by CAPTE and approved by the Board, do not have to submit a credentials evaluation and must meet the conditions of Board Rule 490-2-.02.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-10, 44-33-12 to 43-33-15, 43-33-18. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Board Action Upon Application for Registration" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants" adopted. F. Jan. 19, 2005; eff. Feb. 8, 2005.

490-2-.04 Training Permits.

(1) A training permit may be issued pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 43-33-10 and 43-33-17 of the Georgia Physical Therapy Act to a qualified applicant following Board-approval of a properly submitted application.

(a) Qualified applicants are:

1. individuals who have not failed the licensing examination in this or any other jurisdiction; and
2. unlicensed graduates of entry-level programs for physical therapists or physical therapy assistants from a CAPTE-accredited school; or
3. foreign-educated physical therapists who are deemed eligible by the Board to take the licensing examination; or
4. applicants for reinstatement, who have been unlicensed in this jurisdiction and have not practiced for two (2) or more years; or
5. applicants for reinstatement who have been unlicensed in this jurisdiction for five (5) or more years and who have been approved to take the licensing examination within 30 days of satisfactory completion of this traineeship; and
6. able to initiate a traineeship program in the State of Georgia within three months of issuance of such permit.

(b) Initial Applications and Reinstatement Applications.

1. A notarized training permit application form must be submitted by the trainee's supervisor specifying:

(i) the name and license number of the trainee supervisor who will be responsible for the conduct of the traineeship as defined under section (f) of this rule; and

(ii) the name, address, phone, fax number and e-mail address of all sites where the trainee and supervisor may be working during the course of the traineeship; and

(iii) the effective dates of the traineeship; and

(iv) acceptance of responsibility for trainee supervision and completion of the performance evaluation; and

(v) termination of the traineeship as defined herein; and

(vi) type of facility.

(c) Renewal.

1. A training permit may be renewed one time, for no more than six (6) months, upon written request and with approval of the Board, and only for one good and exceptional reason as determined by the Board. Failure to pass the licensing examination is not considered a good and exceptional reason. For purposes of this rule, good and exceptional reasons include but are not limited to:

(i) Death of an immediate family member; or

(ii) Illness or incapacitation of the applicant or immediate family member (a physician's statement is required); or

(iii) Jury duty (proof required).

(d) Validity of Permit.

1. The validity of any training permit is subject to the following conditions:

(i) A training permit will not be issued, reissued or renewed for any applicant who has failed the licensing examination in this or any other jurisdiction until the licensing examination has been successfully passed.

(ii) An approved training permit which is not used must be returned to the Board by the trainee with a brief explanation of why it was not used.

(iii) A training permit may be valid for any time period approved by the Board not to exceed six (6) months, unless the training permit becomes invalid as provided in this rule.

(iv) A training permit shall become invalid and must be returned to the Board office by the trainee immediately:

(I) On the date the applicant is notified by letter that he/she has failed the examination; or

(II) Any time the applicant does not exhibit performance satisfactory to the supervisor.

(e) Traineeship Permit Time Requirement

1. The training permit of an unlicensed graduate of entry-level programs for physical therapist and physical therapist assistant, whether from a CAPTE or non CAPTE-accredited school, must successfully complete a minimum of 480 hours within a three (3) month period. At the end of the traineeship period and upon receipt of a final performance evaluation, the applicant will be approved to sit for the licensing examination.

(f) Supervision.

1. The supervisor named on the training permit application holds full responsibility for direct, continuous, on-site supervision of the trainee at all times. The supervisor must assure that the trainee does not perform any patient care activities in his/her absence.

2. If the supervisor cannot continue for any reason, the traineeship must be terminated and practice must cease. The training permit must be returned to the Board and a new application submitted.

3. The supervisor must be a licensed physical therapist in good standing under T. 43, Chapter 33, who has practiced full time for not less than one continuous year.

4. If any supervisor has not practiced in this state for one continuous year, information about licensure and employment in another state must be provided.

5. The supervisor must evaluate trainee performance on an ongoing basis in the following areas:

(i) evaluation skills;

(ii) treatment skills;

(iii) documentation;

(iv) written, oral and non-verbal communication skills;

(v) compliance with safety requirements, ethical and legal standards and professional behavior at all times;

(vi) compliance with the rules and laws in the State of Georgia governing the practice of physical therapy; and

(vii) ability to be a contributing member of the health care system.

6. The supervisor must notify the Board of any unsatisfactory performance.

7. The supervising therapist(s) will supervise no more than two (2) trainees during any one time period.

8. The supervisor must submit a performance evaluation at the end of the traineeship period.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-25, 43-33-10, 43-33-12, 43-33-13, 43-33-17, 43-33-24. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Temporary Registration" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** F. Mar. 8, 1971; eff. Mar. 28, 1971. **Amended:** New Rule entitled "Temporary Registration" adopted. F. May 1, 1973; eff. May

21, 1973. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 31, 1974; eff. June 20, 1974. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Nov. 27, 1984; eff. Dec. 17, 1984. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled “Temporary License” adopted. F. Feb. 28, 1986; eff. Mar. 20, 1986. **Amended:** F. Jan. 28, 1987; eff. Feb. 17, 1987. **Amended:** F. Dec. 30, 1987; eff. Jan. 19, 1988. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled “Training Permits” adopted. F. May 26, 1993; eff. June 15, 1993. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Nov. 22, 1996; eff. Dec. 12, 1996. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. June 19, 1998; eff. July 9, 1998. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 26, 2005; eff. June 15, 2005.

490-2-.05 Repealed.

Authority O.C.G.A Secs. 43-1-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-14, 50-13-4. **History.** Original Rule entitled “Time of Examinations” adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 31, 1974; eff. June 20, 1974. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Nov. 27, 1984; eff. Dec. 17, 1984. **Amended:** F. Jan. 24, 1995; eff. Feb. 13, 1995. **Repealed:** F. Aug. 20, 2004; eff. Sept. 9, 2004.

490-2-.06 Fees.

Fees are maintained by schedule and may be reviewed and changed at the discretion of the Board. Returned checks will be dealt with in accordance with Code Section [16-9-20](#) of the Criminal Code of Georgia. All fees shall be submitted with the application, request for other services or upon notification by the Board.

Authority O.C.G.A Secs. 16-9-20, 43-1-7, 43-1-9, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-10. **History.** Original Rule entitled “Written Examinations, Time of, Place, Notice” adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled “Fees” adopted. F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973. **Amended:** F. Oct. 17, 1975; eff. Nov. 6, 1975. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Mar. 19, 1982; eff. Apr. 8, 1982. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Nov. 27, 1984; eff. Dec. 17, 1984. **Repealed:** F. Aug. 20, 2004; eff. Sept. 9, 2004.

490-2-.07 Repealed.

Authority O.C.G.A Secs. 50-13-4. **History.** Original Rule entitled “Examination Fee” adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Mar. 8, 1971; eff. Mar. 28, 1971. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled “Examination Proctors” adopted. F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973. **Repealed:** F. Aug. 19, 2004; eff. Sept. 8, 2004.

490-2-.08 Practical and Oral Examination.

In addition to the national physical therapy examination, the Board has the right to require a practical and/or oral examination in cases where the Board deems it necessary to establish the qualifications of an individual.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-10, 43-33-12 to 43-33-15, 43-33-18. **History.** Original Rule entitled “Examination of Foreign Trained Therapists” adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled “Practical and Oral Examinations” adopted. F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Oct. 21, 2004; eff. Nov. 10, 2004.

490-2-.09 Licensure: Endorsement.

(1) The Board may, in its discretion register a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant without an examination as set forth in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 43-33-15 upon payment of applicable fees. (Refer to fee schedule)

(2) Any applicant applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-33-15 and who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program accredited by the

Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) and approved by the Board, must provide:

- (a) a list of all states where the applicant holds an active license; and
- (b) verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has actively practiced in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and
- (c) official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; and
- (d) scores from the national licensing examination.

(3) Any applicant applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-33-15 who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or approved by the Board, must provide:

- (a) a list of all states where the applicant holds an active license; and
- (b) verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has actively practiced in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and
- (c) official evaluation and transcript from a credential evaluation organization approved by the State of Georgia; and
- (d) scores from the national licensing examination.

(4) Proper proof of licensure in good standing from the state(s) where the applicant practiced in the two years immediately preceding this application, proof of graduation from an accredited physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program or credential evaluations deemed substantially equivalent to the professional degree, and satisfactory completion of the licensing examination shall be deemed to be prima facie evidence of compliance with Code Section 43-33-15. The Board, however, may request further verification of any credential submitted if deemed necessary to evaluate the application.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-33-15. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Examination Proctors" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973. **Amended:** New Rule entitled "Licensure: Endorsement" adopted. F. June 27, 1995; eff. July 17, 1995.

490-2-.10 Repealed.

Authority Ga. L. 1972, pp. 388-396. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Practical and Oral Examinations" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973.

CHAPTER 490-3

EVALUATION OF EXAMINATIONS: APPLICANTS

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490-3-.01 Evaluation of Examinations.

The passing level for the physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant licensing examinations shall be determined by the Board.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-2, 43-33-14. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Evaluation of Examinations" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 20, 1973; eff. May 10, 1973. **Amended:** F. Jan. 18, 1984; eff. Feb. 7, 1984. **Amended:** F. May 27, 1987; eff. June 16, 1987. **Amended:** F. Mar. 22, 1989; eff. Apr. 11, 1989. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 13, 1991; eff. June 2, 1991.

490-3-.02 Re-examination.

(1) An applicant who fails the examination on the first attempt may submit a re-examination application to the Board to be made eligible to test a second time.

(2) An applicant who fails the examination on the second attempt must submit the following before being made eligible to test a third time:

(a) A copy of his/her "Examination Performance Feedback Report" obtained from the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT), and pay all costs associated with acquiring the report.

(b) A remediation plan addressing each area of weakness/failure. Examination preparation courses will be considered provided that such course addresses the area(s) of weakness/failure. The remediation plan must be developed in consultation with an appropriately licensed physical therapist or physical therapy assistant, or by a faculty member of a CAPTE-accredited program.

(c) Proof of satisfactory completion of such remediation plan.

1. An applicant may be approved administratively to take the examination a third time after the above outlined procedure has been completed and approved.

(3) An applicant who fails the examination three (3) or more times must submit a remediation plan as outlined above in 490-3-.02(2)(a) and (b). The remediation plan must be approved by the Board prior to the applicant's beginning or initiating the plan. An applicant may be approved to take the examination only after proof of satisfactory completion of the approved plan has been submitted.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-2, 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-12 to 43-33-14, 43-33-18. **History.** Original Rule entitled “Re-examination” adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Mar. 8, 1971; eff. Mar. 28, 1971. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Sept. 15, 1971; eff. Oct. 5, 1971. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 29, 1973; eff. May 10, 1973. **Amended:** F. Oct. 17, 1975; eff. Nov. 6, 1975. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled “Re-examinations” adopted. F. Mar. 19, 1982; eff. Apr. 8, 1982. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled “Re-examination” adopted. F. Nov. 27, 1984; eff. Dec. 17, 1984. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Mar. 22, 1989; eff. Apr. 11, 1989. **Amended:** F. May 13, 1991; eff. June 2, 1991. **Amended:** F. Jan. 24, 1995; eff. Feb. 13, 1995. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 26, 2005; eff. June 15, 2005.

490-3-.03 Hearings.

An applicant to whom the Board has refused examination may have a hearing before the Board.

Authority Ga. L. 1972, pp. 338 - 396. **History.** Original Rule entitled “Hearings” adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 20, 1973; eff. May 10, 1973.

490-3-.04 Repealed.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-33-15. **History.** Original Rule entitled “Endorsement” adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 20, 1973; eff. May 10, 1973. **Amended:** F. Oct. 17, 1975; eff. Nov. 6, 1975. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Jan. 18, 1984; eff. Feb. 7, 1984. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Nov. 29, 1984; eff. Dec. 19, 1984. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Aug. 25, 1986; eff. Sept. 14, 1986. **Amended:** F. Mar. 22, 1989; eff. Apr. 11, 1989. **Repealed:** F. June 27, 1995; eff. July 17, 1995.

CHAPTER 490-4

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490-4-.01 Renewal of License and Penalties.

(1) Every licensed physical therapist and physical therapist assistant shall biennially apply to the Board for renewal of his/her license, submit proof of continuing competency requirements and pay a renewal fee by October 31st of odd years. Refer to fee schedule and 490-4-.02.

(2) A license that is not renewed on or before October 31st shall be assessed a late fee. Refer to fee schedule for penalty fee.

(3) A license that is not renewed on or before December 31st of the renewal year shall lapse and be of no force and effect and shall by operation of the law be revoked.

(4) A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who has been previously licensed in this State who has allowed his/her license to become revoked due to failure to renew, shall be required to submit an application for reinstatement, pay appropriate fee (refer to fee schedule), and shall also be required to meet requirements as provided below:

(a) An applicant who is able to document that he/she has practiced as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant within 2 years shall be required to submit proof of continuing competence requirements as established by the Board;

(b) An applicant, who is unable to document that he/she has practiced as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant within 2 years but able to document such practice within 5 years, shall be required to submit proof of continuing competence (Refer to 490-4-.02), and shall be required to work under the supervision of a physical therapist licensed in this state for 1,000 hours of continuous supervised practice to be completed in no more than 1 year and no less than 4 months with specific stipulations as deemed necessary by the Board; or

(c) An applicant who is unable to document that he/she has practiced as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant within 5 years shall be required to work under the supervision of a physical therapist licensed in this state for 1,000 hours of continuous supervised practice to be completed in no more than 1 year and no less than 4 months with specific stipulations as deemed necessary by the Board and shall be required to take and pass the next licensing examination. Any applicant exempted from the requirement of taking the examination pursuant to Rule [490-4-.01](#)(6) shall be required to submit proof of continuing competence unless such person holds a current license in good standing in another state or such person is currently employed as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant by the United States Government if such person provides physical therapy services under the direction or control of the employing organization.

(5) Applicants subject to Rule [490-4-.01](#)(4)(a) may in the discretion of the Board be exempted from continuing competence requirements if such person holds a current license in good standing in another state or if such person is currently employed as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant by the United States Government if such person provides physical therapy services under the direction or control of the employing organization.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-7, 43-1-10, 43-1-19, 43-33-10, 43-33-16. **History.** Original Rule entitled “Renewal of Registration and Penalties” adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 20, 1973; eff. May 10, 1973. **Amended:** F. Oct. 17, 1975; eff. Nov. 6, 1975. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Nov. 27, 1984; eff. Dec. 17, 1984. **Amended:** F. July 19, 1985; eff. Aug. 8, 1985. **Amended:** F. Nov. 25, 1985; eff. Dec. 15, 1985. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled “Renewal of License and Penalties” adopted. F. Aug. 25, 1986; eff. Sept. 14, 1986. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Jan. 28, 1987; eff. Feb. 17, 1987. **Amended:** F. Mar. 14, 1988; eff. Apr. 3, 1988. **Amended:** F. July 20, 1988; eff. Aug. 9, 1988. **Amended:** F. Mar. 22, 1989; eff. Apr. 11, 1989. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Aug. 24, 1989; eff. Sept. 13, 1989. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Jan. 13, 1992; eff. Feb. 2, 1992. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. July 22, 1999; eff. Aug. 11, 1999. **Amended:** F. Nov. 7, 2003; eff. Nov. 27, 2003.

490-4-.02 Continuing Competence Requirements.

(1) The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy requires each licensed physical therapist and physical therapist assistant to participate in a minimum number of thirty (30) clock hours of experience per licensure period to promote continuing competence. The Board has defined the requirements for competence as planned learning experiences which the licensee can show is intended to increase their present skill level and that the content is beyond the licensee’s present level of knowledge and competence, which may be subject to audit by the board. Content of the experience must relate to patient care in physical therapy whether the subject is research, treatment, documentation, education, management, or some other content area. The purpose of this requirement is to assist in assuring safe and effective practices in the provision of physical therapy services to the citizens of Georgia. In the event that a licensee does not meet this requirement, the license will not be renewed.

(a) Continuing competence requirements may be met through the mechanisms identified in the categories, Class I and Class II.

(b) The thirty (30) hours of continuing competence requirements per biennium include a minimum of four (4) contact hours specifically in ethics and jurisprudence as defined in the Georgia Physical Therapy Act or by passage of the Georgia Jurisprudence Examination. Passage of the examination is equivalent to the four (4) hour requirement.

(c) The total hours required biennially for continuing competence may be distributed between Class I and Class II activities. A maximum of 10 hours may be obtained through Class II activities. All required hours may be met through Class I activities. Competence credit is the clock hours spent in an activity except as noted below. Any Class I activity without a stated maximum number of hours may be used to accrue all required hours.

(d) A maximum of ten (10) continuing competence credit hours will be accepted per calendar day.

(2) Class I and Class II acceptable continuing competence credit shall be awarded to programs sponsored by Continuing Competence providers as noted in the board by policy, provided that the content is beyond the licensee's present level of knowledge and competence which may be subject to audit by the Board.

(3) Unacceptable activities for continuing competence include, **but are not limited to**:

(a) Orientation and in-service programs;

(b) Meetings for purposes of policy decisions;

(c) Non-educational meeting at annual association, chapter or organization meetings;

(d) Entertainment or recreational meeting or activities;

(e) Committee meetings, holdings of offices, serving as an organization delegate;

(f) Visiting exhibits;

(g) CPR.

(4) Continuing competence requirements shall apply within the first biennium that a physical therapist/physical therapist assistant is licensed in Georgia. However, licensees who have graduated during the current renewal biennium and who have passed the National Physical Therapy Examination are exempt from the continuing competence requirement during the biennium in which they have graduated and successfully passed the exam.

(5) Individuals licensed during the last six (6) months of a biennium renewal period will not be required to meet continuing competence requirements for that biennium.

(6) Individuals who have been reinstated within the last six (6) months of a biennium renewal period may use the continuing competence coursework used for reinstatement, thereby making them exempt from the requirement for that biennium renewal period.

(7) Those licensees selected for audit shall submit the Verification of Continuing Competence form and documentation of compliance upon receipt of notice. Acceptable documentation shall include:

(a) An official program or outline of the course attended or taught or a copy of the publication which clearly shows that the objectives and content were related to patient care in physical therapy and shows the number of contact hours, as appropriate. The information also should clearly identify the licensee's responsibility in teaching or authorship; and,

(b) A certificate or verification of completion of home study which identifies the sponsoring entity or maintain a copy of the final grade report in the case of a University credit course(s), or specialization certificate, or proof of attendance with a copy of the program for the other acceptable activities, or documentation of self-instruction or reading professional literature; or,

(c) Verification of a peer review of practice with verification of acceptable practice by a recognized entity. An example of a recognized entity is the American Physical Therapy Association Board Policy (See APTA Policy G03-05-15-40).

(8) Responsibilities of the Licensee:

(a) To maintain the documents identified in number (5) above for no less than three (3) years from the beginning date of the licensure period. These records should be maintained in the licensee's personal files for no less than three (3) years from the beginning date of the licensure period through the even numbered year after the license is renewed.

(b) To submit a properly completed and notarized "Verification of Competence Education" form to the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy, if audited.

(c) To complete all steps necessary to meet the relicensure requirements on or before December 31st of the odd numbered years.

(d) To provide the Board with information requested during an audit.

(e) To keep a current mailing address on file with the Licensing Board Office at all times.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-10, 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-10, 43-33-14, 43-33-16, 43-33-18. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Revocation, Refusal to Renew" was filed and effective on June 30, 1965. **Amended:** Rule repealed and a new Rule of the same title adopted. Filed April 20, 1973; effective May 10, 1973. **Amended:** Rule repealed and a new Rule entitled "Disciplinary Sanctions" adopted. Filed December 15, 1982; effective January 4, 1983. **Amended:** Rule repealed and a new Rule of the same title adopted. Filed February 4, 1985; effective February 24, 1985. **Amended:** Filed February 28, 1986; effective March 20, 1986. **Amended:** Rule renumbered as Rule 490-4-.03 and a new Rule entitled "Continuing Education Requirements" adopted. Filed January 28, 1987; effective February 17, 1987. **Amended:** Filed June 26, 1987; effective July 16, 1987. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Mar. 22, 1989; eff. Apr. 11, 1989. **Amended:** F. Aug. 24, 1989; eff. Sept. 13, 1989. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Jul. 22, 1999; eff. Aug. 11, 1999. **Amended:** F. May 9, 2000; eff. May 29, 2000. **Amended:** F. May 19, 2004; eff. June 8, 2004. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. June 22, 2007; eff. July 12, 2007.

490-4-.03 Reserved.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-13.1, 43-33-18, 43-33-19. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Disciplinary Sanctions" adopted. F. Jan. 28, 1987; eff. Feb. 17, 1987. **Amended:** F. Mar. 22, 1989; eff. Apr. 11, 1989. **Amended:** F. Feb. 26, 1990; eff. Mar. 18, 1990. **Amended:** F. Dec. 6, 1990; eff. Dec. 26, 1990. **Amended:** F. Mar. 28, 1994; eff. Apr. 17, 1994. **Amended:** F. Mar. 7, 2002; eff. Mar. 27, 2002. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Mar. 16, 2005; eff. Apr. 5, 2005. **Repealed:** Rule reserved. F. Jan. 25, 2007; eff. Feb. 14, 2007.

490-4-.04 Inactive License.

(a) Any licensee who is no longer practicing as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in the State of Georgia may request an Inactive License status by filing an application for inactive status and paying the appropriate fee. Refer to fee schedule.

(1) An individual holding inactive status may not practice as a physical therapist or work as a physical therapist assistant within the State of Georgia.

(2) Any individual holding inactive status is not subject to the biennial renewal fees or continuing competence requirements.

(3) An individual whose license is under any sanction may not transfer to inactive status while sanctions are in effect.

(4) Any individual holding inactive status may return to active status by meeting all requirements for reinstatement as outlined herein.

(b) A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who has been granted an Inactive License may reinstate the license by submitting an application for reinstatement, pay appropriate fee (refer to fee schedule), and shall also be required to meet requirements as provided below:

(1) An applicant who is able to document that he/she has practiced as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant within 2 years shall be required to submit proof of continuing competence requirements as established by the Board;

(2) An applicant, who is unable to document that he/she has practiced as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant within 2 years but able to document such practice within 5 years, shall be required to submit proof of continuing competence (Refer to 490-4-.02), and shall be required to work under the supervision of a physical therapist licensed in this state for 1,000 hours of continuous supervised practice to be completed in no more than 1 year and no less than 4 months with specific stipulations as deemed necessary by the Board; or

(3) An applicant who is unable to document that he/she has practiced as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant within 5 years shall be required to work under the supervision of a physical therapist licensed in this state for 1,000 hours of continuous supervised practice to be completed in no more than 1 year and no less than 4 months with specific stipulations as deemed necessary by the Board and shall be required to take and pass the next licensing examination.

(c) Applicants subject to Rule [490-4-.04\(b\)](#) may in the discretion of the Board be exempted from continuing competence and supervision requirements if such person holds a current license in good standing in another state or if such person is currently employed as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant by the United States Government if such person provides physical therapy services under the direction or control of the employing organization.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-25, 43-33-10, 43-33-16. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Inactive License" adopted. F. Nov. 7, 2003; eff. Nov. 27, 2003.

CHAPTER 490-5

SUPERVISION AND DIRECTION OF PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

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490-5-.01 Responsibility of the Licensed Physical Therapist in Supervision and Direction of the Physical Therapy Assistant

490-5-.02 Adequate Supervision Defined

490-5-.01 Responsibility of the Licensed Physical Therapist in Supervision and Direction of the Physical Therapy Assistant. Amended.

(1) A licensed physical therapist shall at all time be responsible for providing adequate supervision of the assistant supervised by him, as defined in Rule 490-5-.02.

(2) The licensed physical therapist shall be present in the same institutional setting, as defined in paragraph (3) of this section, 50 percent of any work week or portion thereof that the assistant is on duty, and shall be readily available to the assistant at all other times for advice, assistance and instruction.

(3) "Institutional setting" means any nursing home, acute hospital, convalescent hospital, rehabilitation center, other in-patient facility by any other name and out-patient clinic which would include private office.

(4) The licensed physical therapist in the home health setting responsible for the patient shall supervise the physical therapist assistant working with the patient and shall:

(a) perform the initial patient evaluation to establish a physical therapy diagnosis, treatment goals, frequency, duration, and plan of care;

(b) meet with the assistant no less than once weekly to review all patients being treated;

(c) document all meetings with the assistant and subsequent decisions;

(d) make an on-site visit to each patient being treated by the assistant as appropriate based on the need to alter the treatment plan and no less than every sixth visit;

(e) document the on-site visit, changes in the treatment plan, and communication to the assistant;

(f) be available to the assistant at all times for advice, assistance, and instructions.

(5) A licensed physical therapist shall be designated as the physical therapist assistant's supervisor in the school setting and shall:

(a) perform all physical therapy evaluations to develop or amend physical therapy interventions stated on the student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) for the purpose of assisting with the achievement of educational goals and objectives, including frequency and duration of physical therapy services.

(b) make an on-site visit to each student scheduled for direct weekly services from the physical therapist assistant no less than every fourth scheduled week, and no less than once every three months for students who are scheduled with the physical therapist assistant once monthly or less. The on-site visit shall include, but not be limited to, a case review, reassessment of the program and physical therapy services and review of documentation prepared by the physical therapist assistant.

(c) document the on-site visit including status of case(s), program or services status or change and indicate instructions given to the physical therapist assistant.

(d) interact with the physical therapist assistant in appropriate ways specific to the goals and objectives stated in the IEP of the student who is scheduled for sessions with the physical therapist assistant.

(e) be available to the physical therapist assistant at all times for advice, assistance and instructions.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-33-3(6); 43-33-10(9). **History.** Original Rule entitled "Responsibility of the Licensed Physical Therapist in Supervision and Direction of the Physical Therapy Assistant" was filed on April 7, 1978; effective April 27, 1978. **Amended:** Filed November 27, 1984; effective December 17, 1984. **Amended:** F. May 26, 1993; eff. Jun. 15, 1993. **Amended:** F. Nov. 22, 1996; eff. Dec. 12, 1996. **Amended:** F. Feb. 27, 1998; eff. Mar. 19, 1998.

490-5-.02 Adequate Supervision Defined. Amended.

Adequate supervision by a licensed physical therapist shall include the following:

(a) evaluate each patient and interpret the results to determine and document a physical therapy diagnosis;

(b) plan each patient's treatment program and determine which elements thereof can be delegated to the assistant;

(c) provide periodic reevaluation of the treatment program and of the assistant's performance in relation to the patient;

(d) perform and record an evaluation of the patient and his response to treatment at the termination thereof;

(e) Interact with the assistant in appropriate ways specific to the plan of care of the patients being treated by the assistant.

Authority Ga. L. 1972, p. 395; O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-33-3(6); 43-33-10(9). **History.** Original Rule entitled "Adequate Supervision Defined" was filed on April 7, 1978; effective April 27, 1978. **Amended:** Filed

November 27, 1984; effective December 17, 1984. **Amended:** F. Feb. 26, 1990; eff. Mar. 18, 1990.
Amended: F. May 26, 1993; eff. Jun. 15, 1993.

CHAPTER 490-6

PROCEDURAL RULES

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490-6-.01 Procedural Rules

490-6-.01 Procedural Rules.

The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy hereby adopts by reference as its permanent rules Chapters 295-3 through 295-13, and any future amendments thereto, Rules and Regulations of the Office of the Joint Secretary, State Examining Boards, relating to procedure for hearings before the several State Examining Boards. The Board in accordance with the licensing Act (O.C.G.A. Section 43-33-18 which enumerates grounds for sanctions), shall have authority to refuse to grant a license to any applicant, and refuse to renew a license, and may restrict, suspend or revoke the registration of any licensed person. The Board hereby adopts and incorporates by reference herein the provisions of O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-1-19.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-19, 43-33-10, 43-33-18. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Procedural Rules" adopted. F. Apr. 7, 1978; eff. Apr. 27, 1978. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Jan. 25, 2007; eff. Feb. 14, 2007.

CHAPTER 490-7

VERIFICATION OF LICENSE AND EXAMINATION SCORES

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490-7-.01 License Verification and/or Charge for Furnishing Scores

490-7-.01 License Verification and/or Charge for Furnishing Scores. Amended.

The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy will verify licensure and provide examination scores, when applicable, to another state upon receiving written request from the applicant accompanied by the ascribed fee. Refer to fee schedule for license verification fee.

Authority O.C.G.A. 43-33-10(9); 43-1-7. **Administrative History.** Original Rule entitled "Charge for Furnishing Scores" was filed on June 29, 1979; effective July 19, 1979. **Amended:** Rule repealed and a new Rule entitled "License Verification and/or Charge for Furnishing Scores" adopted. Filed January 18, 1984; effective February 7, 1984. **Amended:** Rule repealed and a new Rule of the same title adopted. Filed November 27, 1984; effective December 17, 1984.

CHAPTER 490-8

PHYSICAL THERAPY AIDES: DEFINITION AND REQUIREMENTS

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490-8-.01 Definition

490-8-.02 Supervision

490-8-.03 Duties

490-8-.01 Definition.

A physical therapy aide, or anyone who holds himself out as being a physical therapy aide, is an individual other than a licensee under O.C.G.A. 43-33 who aids the licensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in the licensee's provision of physical therapy services and whose activities do not require technical training through a formal course of study.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-33-3(9), 43-33-3(8), 43-33-13.1. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Definition" adopted. F. Mar. 28, 1994; eff. Apr. 17, 1994. **Amended:** F. Aug. 15, 2000; eff. Sept. 4, 2000.

490-8-.02 Supervision.

The physical therapy aide must have direct supervision on the premises at all times when providing supportive activities for the physical therapist or the physical therapist assistant.

(a) For purposes of this rule, "direct supervision" shall mean on the premises and immediately available at all times.

(b) For purposes of this rule, "on the premises" shall mean the immediate area of the patient.

(c) A licensee of this chapter may supervise a maximum of two (2) physical therapy aides when they are aiding the licensee's provision of patient evaluation and intervention.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-33-3(9), 43-33-3(8), 43-33-13.1. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Supervision" adopted. F. Mar. 28, 1994; eff. Apr. 17, 1994. **Amended:** F. Aug. 15, 2000; eff. Sept. 4, 2000.

490-8-.03 Duties.

For purposes of this Rule, the term, "designated physical therapy tasks," as referenced in O.C.G.A. 43-33-13.1, shall be limited to the following:

(a) Physical therapy aides may perform the following tasks independent of supervision by a licensed physical therapist or licensed physical therapist assistant:

1. Clerical tasks excluding treatment documentation.

(i)"Treatment Documentation" is defined for purposes of this Rule as the creation, generation, composition of any patient care report and shall include but not be limited to patient evaluations, assessment, plans of care, goals, progress notes, consultation reports, discharge summaries and any other written materials related to patient management.

(ii) Nothing in this Rule shall preclude a physical therapy aide from transcribing, recording or copying treatment documentation generated by a licensee of this chapter. Any treatment documentation prepared in this or any manner, however, must be signed by the supervising licensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant and by signing the treatment documentation, the licensee is representing that he or she either prepared the treatment documentation or supervised a physical therapy aide in the preparation of the treatment documentation consistent with the Laws and Rules Governing the Practice of Physical Therapy in the State of Georgia.

2. transporting patients;

3. assembling and disassembling equipment in treatment areas;

4. housekeeping activities

(b) The physical therapy aide, at the discretion of the licensee, may provide supportive activities to patient care when specifically meeting the criteria as set forth in 490-8-.02. Supportive activities or patient care tasks do not include the direct provision of any patient intervention, but do include only assisting a patient in preparation for treatment by a licensee, assisting a patient after cessation of treatment by a licensee, or assisting the licensee during treatment provided by that licensee. Licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are the only providers of physical therapy.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-33-3(8), 43-33-3(9), 43-33-3(10), 43-33-13.1. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Duties" adopted. F. Mar. 28, 1994; eff. Apr. 17, 1994. **Amended:** F. Nov. 29, 1995; eff. Dec. 19, 1995. **Amended:** F. Aug. 15, 2000; eff. Sept. 4, 2000.

CHAPTER 490-9

CODE OF ETHICS

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490-9-.02 Principles of Conduct for Licensed Physical Therapists

490-9-.03 Principles of Conduct for Licensed Physical Therapist Assistants

490-9-.04 Disciplinary Sanctions

490-9-.01 Purpose.

This code shall apply to all licensed physical therapists, physical therapists assistants, and all individuals recognized in the delivery of patient care under Chapter 33 of Title 43 in the State of Georgia. It is intended to provide guidelines by which the licensees and others can determine the propriety of conduct. Anyone found guilty of violating the ethical standards, as set forth in this chapter, shall be guilty of violating Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 43-33-18 (a) (6).

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-33-10. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Purpose" adopted. F. Jan. 29, 1997; eff. Feb. 18, 1997.

490-9-.02 Principles of Conduct for Licensed Physical Therapists.

Any individual who is licensed as a physical therapist shall abide by the following ethical standard:

(1) Act with consideration, within the scope of physical therapy, for the rights and dignity of all individuals.

(a) The physical therapist shall hold as confidential information obtained while acting in a professional capacity.

(b) The physical therapist shall provide optimal physical therapy care for all patients regardless of patient race, gender, age, religion, disability or sexual preference.

(c) The physical therapist should balance considerations of the patient's physical, psychological and socioeconomic welfare in professional decisions and actions and document these considerations in the patient's record of care.

(d) The physical therapist shall communicate and interact with patients and all persons encountered in a professional capacity with courteous regard and timeliness.

(e) The physical therapist shall not engage in any behavior that constitutes harassment or abuse of a patient, professional colleague or associate.

(2) Comply with the laws and regulations governing the practice of physical therapy in the State of Georgia.

(a) Physical therapists are to practice (consultation, evaluations, treatment, research, education, administration and preventive care) in accordance with the state practice act.

(3) Accept responsibility for the exercise of sound judgment.

(a) When implementing treatment, physical therapists shall assume the responsibility for evaluating that individual; planning, implementing, and supervising the therapeutic program; reevaluating and changing the program; and maintaining adequate records of the case, including progress reports.

(b) When performing wellness and preventative services, physical therapists shall assume responsibility for providing optimal patient care.

(c) When the individual's needs are beyond the scope of the physical therapist's expertise, the physical therapist shall so inform and assist the individual in identifying a qualified person to provide the necessary services.

(d) When the physical therapists judge that benefit can no longer be obtained from their services, they shall so inform the individual receiving the services. It is unethical to initiate or continue services that, in the therapist's judgment, either cannot result in beneficial outcome or are contraindicated.

(e) The physical therapist's ability to make independent judgment must not be limited or compromised by professional affiliations, including employment relationships.

(f) Physical therapists are not to delegate to a less qualified person any activity which requires the unique skills, knowledge, and judgment of a physical therapist.

(g) The primary responsibility for physical therapy care assisted by supportive personnel rests with the supervising physical therapist. Adequate supervision requires, at a minimum, that a supervising physical therapist perform the following activities:

1. Establish effective channels of written and oral communication;
2. Interpret and communicate critical information about the patient to the supportive personnel;
3. Perform an initial evaluation of the patient;
4. Develop a plan of care, including short and long-term goals;
5. Delegate appropriate tasks to supportive personnel;
6. Assess the supportive personnel's competence to perform assigned tasks;
7. Provide supervision in accordance with the law, the patient's condition, and the specific situation;
8. Identify and document precautions, special programs, contraindications, goals, anticipated progress, and plans for re-evaluation;

9. Re-evaluate the patient, modify the plan of care when necessary, perform the final evaluation, and establish a follow-up plan.

(h) Physical therapists are obligated to advise their employer(s) of any practice which causes a physical therapist to be in conflict with the ethical principles of this section. Physical therapists are to attempt to rectify any aspect(s) of their employment which is in conflict with the principles of this section.

(4) Seek remuneration for their services that is deserved and reasonable.

(a) Fees for physical therapy services should be reasonable for the service performed, considering the setting in which it is provided, practice costs in the geographic area, judgment of other organizations, and other relevant factors.

(b) Physical therapists shall not:

1. directly or indirectly request, receive, or participate in the dividing, transferring, assigning, or rebating of an unearned fee;

2. profit by means of a credit or other valuable consideration, such as an unearned commission, discount, or gratuity in connection with furnishing of physical therapy services;

3. use influence upon individuals, or families of individuals under their care for utilization of any product or service based upon the direct or indirect financial interest of the physical therapist.

(5) Provide accurate information to the consumer about the profession and the services provided.

(a) Physical therapists are not to use, or participate in the use of, any form of communication containing false, plagiarized, fraudulent, misleading, deceptive, or unfair statements.

(6) Accept the responsibility to protect the public and the profession from unethical, incompetent, or illegal acts.

(a) Physical therapists shall report any activity which appears to be unethical, incompetent, or illegal to the proper authorities.

(b) Physical therapists shall not participate in any arrangement in which patients are exploited due to the referring sources enhancing their personal incomes as a result of referring, prescribing, or recommending physical therapy or a specific physical therapy practice.

(c) If a physical therapist is involved in an arrangement with a referring source in which income is derived from the services, the physical therapist has an obligation to disclose to the patient, within the scope of the state law, the nature of the income.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-13.1, 43-33-18. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Principles of Conduct for Licensed Physical Therapists" adopted. F. Jan. 29, 1997; eff. Feb. 18, 1997. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Jan. 19, 2005; eff. Feb. 8, 2005.

Repealed: New Rule title “Principles of Conduct for Physical Therapists” adopted. No change in Rule text. F. Jan. 25, 2007; eff. Feb. 14, 2007.

490-9-.03 Principles of Conduct for Licensed Physical Therapist Assistants.

Any individual who is licensed as a physical therapist assistant shall abide by the following ethical standards:

(1) Act with consideration, within the scope of physical therapy, for the rights and dignity of all individuals.

(a) The physical therapist assistant shall hold as confidential information obtained while functioning as a physical therapist assistant.

(b) The physical therapist assistant shall provide optimal physical therapy care for all patients delegated by the physical therapist regardless of patient race, gender, age, religion, disability or sexual preference.

(c) The physical therapist assistant should be aware of the patient's physical, psychological and socioeconomic welfare in decisions and actions taken while rendering treatment.

(d) The physical therapist assistant shall communicate and interact with patients and all persons encountered with courteous regard and timeliness.

(e) The physical therapist assistant shall not engage in any behavior that constitutes harassment or abuse of a patient, professional colleague or associate.

(2) Comply with the laws and regulations governing the practice of physical therapy in the State of Georgia.

(a) Physical therapist assistants are to practice only under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist.

(3) Accept responsibility for the exercise of sound judgement.

(a) Upon accepting delegation from a physical therapist, the physical therapist assistant shall provide services within the plan of care established by the physical therapist.

(b) When the individual's needs are beyond the scope of the physical therapist assistant's expertise, the physical therapist assistant shall inform the supervising physical therapist.

(c) When the physical therapist assistant determines that a change in the plan of care is needed, the assistant will contact the supervising physical therapist and request reevaluation of the patient's status.

(d) When the physical therapist assistant determines that the patient has received maximum benefits from physical therapy, he/she shall so inform the supervising physical therapist.

(e) Physical therapist assistants are not to delegate to a less qualified person any activity which requires the unique skills, knowledge, and judgement of a physical therapist assistant.

(f) The primary responsibility for physical therapy care assisted by supportive personnel rests with the supervising physical therapist. Adequate supervision is the responsibility of both the physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant. To insure appropriate supervision, the physical therapist assistant is expected to:

1. Maintain effective channels of written and oral communication.
2. Communicate critical information about the patient to the supervising physical therapist in a timely manner.
3. Function within the established plan of care.
4. Identify and document treatment activities and all special occurrences.
5. Request re-evaluation of the patient and/or modification of the plan of care when necessary.

(g) Physical therapist assistants are obligated to advise their employer(s) of any practice which causes a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant to be in conflict with the ethical principles of this section. Physical therapist assistants are to attempt to rectify any aspect(s) of their employment which is in conflict with the principles of this section.

4. Seek remuneration for their services that is deserved and reasonable.

(a) Physical therapist assistants shall not:

1. Directly or indirectly request, receive, or participate in the dividing, transferring, assigning, or rebating of an unearned fee;
2. Profit by means of a credit or other valuable consideration, such as an unearned commission, discount, or gratuity in connection with furnishing of physical therapy services;
3. Use influence upon individuals, or families of individuals under their care for utilization of any product or service based upon the direct or indirect financial interest of the physical therapist assistant;

(5) Provide accurate information to the consumer about the profession and the services provided.

(a) Physical therapist assistants are not to use, or participate in the use of, any form of communication containing false, plagiarized, fraudulent, misleading, deceptive, or unfair statements.

(6) Accept the responsibility to protect the public and the profession from unethical, incompetent, or illegal acts.

(a) Physical therapist assistants shall report any activity which appears to be unethical, incompetent, or illegal to the proper authorities.

(b) Physical therapist assistants shall not participate in any arrangement in which patients are exploited due to the referring sources enhancing their personal incomes as a result of referring, prescribing, or recommending physical therapy or a specific physical therapy practice.

(c) If a physical therapist assistant is involved in an arrangement with a referring source in which income is derived from the services, the physical therapist assistant has an obligation to disclose to the patient, within the scope of the State Law, the nature of the income.

Authority O.C.G.A. Section 43-33-10. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Principles of Conduct for Licensed Physical Therapists Assistants" adopted. F. Feb. 27, 1998; eff. Mar. 19, 1998. **Repealed:** New Rule title "Principles of Conduct for Physical Therapist Assistants" adopted. No change in Rule text. F. Jan. 25, 2007; eff. Feb. 14, 2007.

490-9-.04 Disciplinary Sanctions.

When providing physical therapy treatment following appropriate consultation, unprofessional and unethical conduct shall include but is not limited to the following:

(a) Failing to adhere to the Code of Ethics for Physical Therapists and Physical Therapists Assistants, as codified in Rules 490-9-.01 through 490-9-.03.

(b) Delegating to an aide or unlicensed person any physical therapy task other than those codified in Chapter 490-8.

(c) Failing to provide continuous, immediate and physically present supervision of the aide or unlicensed person when designated tasks are performed.

(d) Failing to provide an evaluation on each patient and establishing a physical therapy diagnosis.

(e) Failing to formulate and record in the patient's record a treatment program based upon the evaluation and any other information available.

(f) Failing to perform periodic evaluation of the patient and documenting the evaluations in the patient's record and to make adjustments to the patient's treatment program as progress warrants.

(g) Failing to formulate and record a patient's discharge plan.

(h) Directly or indirectly requesting, receiving or participating in the division, transferring, assigning, rebating or refunding of fees or remuneration earned, in cash or kind, for bringing or referring a patient. For purposes of this Rule:

1. No physical therapist, physical therapy assistant, employee or agent thereof acting on his behalf, shall enter into or engage in any agreement or arrangement with any individual, entity, or an employee or agent thereof acting on his behalf, for the payment or acceptance or compensation in any form for the referral or recommending of the professional services of either. This prohibition includes any form of fee division or charging of fees solely for referral of a patient.

2. This prohibition shall include a rebate or percentage of rental agreement or any arrangement or agreement whereby the amount received in payment for furnishing space, facilities, equipment or personnel services.

3. Provided further, that this Rule shall not preclude a discount, waiver of co-payment or other reduction in price of services by a physical therapist if the reduction in price is properly disclosed to the consumer and third party payers and appropriately reflected in the costs claimed or charges made.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-10, 43-33-18. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Disciplinary Sanctions" adopted. F. Jan. 25, 2007; eff. Feb. 14, 2007.

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CHAPTER 490-10

PREVENTATIVE SERVICES

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490-10-.01 Preventative Services.

A licensed physical therapist or a licensed physical therapist assistant under the supervision of an appropriately licensed physical therapist may perform Preventative services that are not considered “implementing a program of physical therapy treatment without consultation.” For purposes of this rule, “Preventative services” is defined as the use of physical therapy knowledge and skills by a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant to provide education or activities in a wellness or community setting for the purpose of injury prevention, reduction of stress and or the promotion of fitness, but does not include administration of physical therapy treatment.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-33-3, 43-33-18. **History.** Original Rule entitled “Preventative Services” adopted. F. Dec. 1, 2005; eff. Dec. 21, 2005.

CHAPTER 490-11

CONSULTATION

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490-11-.01 Consultation

490-11-.01 Consultation.

(1) For purposes of Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Section 43-33-18(a)(1):

(a) "Consultation" shall mean provision of professional advice;

(b) "Appropriate Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts" shall include properly licensed practitioners in this or another state, whose consultation falls within the practitioner's legally authorized scope of practice;

(c) For purposes of determining whether a licensed practitioner is appropriate, the physical therapist shall consider, but not be limited to, the following factors:

1. Physical condition of the patient;

2. Nature of ailment;

3. Extent to which the consulting practitioner has knowledge of the patient's history and condition such that an informed judgment can be made concerning course of treatment.

(b) Physical therapists shall document the consultation with the appropriate licensed practitioner of the healing arts prior to implementing a program of physical therapy treatment.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-33-18. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Consultation" adopted. F. Jan. 26, 2007; eff. Feb. 15, 2007.