

NOTICE: The following is the proposed Continuing Competence Policy that the Georgia Board of Physical Therapy will be considered for adoption at its next meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. on June 19, 2007, at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy Continuing Competence Policy

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 to promote continuing competence per licensure period. **The Board has defined the requirements for competence as planned learning experiences which have content 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. The following are programs which may be included for approval; however, this list is not limited to these suggested programs.

The following programs may be considered for Class I approval, but are not limited to:

- (a) Programs approved by the American Physical Therapy Association and its affiliate components; or
- (b) Programs approved by the Physical Therapy Association of Georgia or any other state chapters; or
- (c) Programs approved by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy; or
- (d) Programs provided at CAPTE-Accredited colleges and universities with programs in physical therapy when the continuing competency course is held under the auspices of the school of physical therapy; or
- (e) Programs provided by the American Academy of Physical Therapy; or
- (f) Programs approved by another state board; or
- (g) Programs provided at JCAHO-accredited healthcare organizations; or
- (h) Programs provided by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons; or
- (i) Programs provided by the National Athletic Trainers Association; or
- (j) Programs provided by the American Dental Association; or
- (k) Programs provided by the American Association of Nurses; or
- (l) Programs provided by the American Occupational Therapy Association; or
- (m) Fifteen (15) hours for undergoing a peer review; or
- (n) Ten (10) hours for conducting a peer review when that activity is an adjunct responsibility and not the primary employment; or
- (o) Participation as a presenter for continuing education courses, workshops, seminars or symposia which have been approved by the approved list above; Continuing competence credit is based on contact hours and may not exceed 10 hours per topic;
- (p) Authorship of a presented scientific poster, scientific platform presentation or published article; Continuing competence credit is 10 hours per event and may not exceed 20 hours;
- (q) Teaching a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant credit course when that

teaching is an adjunct responsibility and not the primary employment; Continuing competence credit is based on contact hours not to exceed 20 hours;

(r) Certification of clinical specialization by the America Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. Continuing competence credit is 30 hours and is recognized only in the biennium in which certification or recertification is awarded.

The following programs may be considered for Class II approval (limited to 10 hours):

- (a) Self- instruction from reading professional literature; Continuing competence credit is limited to a maximum of five (5) hours; or
- (b) Attendance at a scientific poster session, lecture, panel, symposium or university course that does not meet the criteria for Class I; Continuing competency credit is one hour per contact hour of activity; or
- (c) Acting as a clinical education instructor for an accredited physical therapist or physical therapist assistant educational program; Continuing competence credit is one (1) hour per eight (8) contact hours; or
- (d) Acting as a clinical instructor for an intern for a formal, nonacademic, advanced clinical internship or as a mentor or a learner for a formal, nonacademic mentorship.