

INFORMATION ACCESS

Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Trainers Board

Volume VI, Fall 2003

Physical Therapy Section Members

Donna Baker, P.T.
Hamilton, Ohio

**Anna Lou Goldblatt,
P.T.**
Toledo, Ohio

**Amy Heilmann-Rocco,
P.T.**
Columbus, Ohio
Secretary, PT Section
President, Joint Board

Michael Herbert, P.T.
Tiffin, Ohio

Janet Howells, P.T.
Gahanna, Ohio

James Hull, P.T.
Mansfield, Ohio

Barbara Kraynik, P.T.
Canton, Ohio

**Averell Overby, Ph.D.,
P.T.**
Athens, Ohio

Sandra Pomeroy, P.T.
Franklin, Ohio
Chairperson, PT
Section

From The Chairperson Sandra Pomeroy, P.T.

With this issue of Information Access, I would again like to welcome you to our latest newsletter to inform and update you on the activities of the Physical Therapy Section and your responsibilities in maintaining your physical therapy licenses. I encourage you to read all the information that the Section is making available to you to help you in your professional endeavors. You may be aware that the Section is now requiring you to list your continuing education and the Ohio approval numbers that correspond with the courses on all renewal applications. This requirement will continue and the Section encourages you to read the information regarding the renewal process presented in this newsletter. If you are audited, you will be required to submit additional documentation as well. Please read all renewal instructions very carefully to maintain your ability to practice. Incomplete renewal applications will not be reviewed and those with incomplete applications will not be renewed. The Physical Therapy Section continues to work very diligently to ensure that the renewal process runs as smooth as possible.

Urgent Renewal Message

The Physical Therapy Section will be taking a stronger stance toward licensees who fail to meet the deadline for renewal and continue to practice as a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant once his/her license has expired.

The Physical Therapy Section will consider a license renewed only after a properly completed renewal application is received, processed and approved by the Section. If you have not properly completed the renewal process by January 31, 2003, your license will expire. If you continue to practice with an expired license you will be sanctioned by the Physical Therapy Section and that sanction will be a public record.

It is the responsibility of the physical therapist to ensure that the physical therapist assistant to whom they are delegating patient care has a current license. Likewise, it is the physical therapist assistant's responsibility to ensure that the physical therapist who is delegating and supervising patient care has a current license.

For those of you whose licenses will expire January 31, 2004, license renewals will be mailed to the address on file in the Board office no later than November 1, 2003. After January 31, 2004, any request for current license verification may be delayed because processing takes approximately two weeks. The licensee bears the risk of not having a verifiable license if the renewal application is submitted on, or after January 14, 2004.

Meeting Schedule for 2003/2004

September 11, 2003	January 15, 2004	May 20, 2004
October 9, 2003	February 26, 2004	June 24, 2004
November 6, 2003	April 8, 2004	August 12, 2004

All meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Board office at 800-871-1921 prior to the date of the meeting to verify the time and place of the meeting.

Enforcement Actions

September, 2002-July 2003

Cease and Desist Letters

Bally Total Fitness
David Bodi, D.C.
Claire Dwyer, P.T.
Traci Hamilton, D.C.
Glenn Kirkwood
Rodney Oberdorf, D.C

Consent Agreements

Frank Ginnett, Jr., P.T.
Angela Prince, P.T.A.
Kevin Strayer, P.T.
Tracy Westbrook, P.T.A.

License Revocation

Dennis Cooke

Expired Licenses

As of July 22, 2003, the following licenses have expired. Please contact the Board office, as some of the licenses may have been reinstated since the publication date of this newsletter.

Physical Therapists

Jill Berry	Christina Mayer
Erin Bickert	Jennifer Mayer
Jonna Borgdorff	Susan McAtee
Barbara Bostad	Stacey McCusker
Bryan Carlton	Carolyn McCutcheon
Beverly Carr	Mark McDonough
Andrea Crish	Perry McFarland
Alethea Dix	Brenda McGahan
Reid Elam	Thomas McKean
Dawn Hindman	Marjo McLaughlin
Susan Israel	Eva Meaney
Derek Istre	Tad Melichar
Pamela Jacobson	Jami Mesecar
Stacey Klein	Barbara Michael
Allison Kloehs	Darrin Miller
Mary Ann Koenig	John Miller
Dana Lloyd	Robin Miller
Douglas MacKintosh	Trac Minor
Rebecca Maidment	Iftikhar Mirza
Shawn Malone	Carol Molitor
Sabira Mamdani	Kathleen Morgan
Elizabeth Manger	Susan Morgan
Carole Marchal	Careyann Morris
Diane Markis	Susan Motts
Deborah Marlier	Lisa Muckerheide
Kristie Marlow	Christine Munn
Sandra Marody	Beth Munoz
Joan Marsh	Tammy Munro
William Martinez	Gretchen Murphy
Elizabeth Mattocks	Jerret Murray
David May	Jason Musni
	Michele Myers
	Mary Myers-Bohn
	Jason Nachazel
	Divya Naryanan

Charles Mawrocki	Diane Schoentag
Curtis Neel	Roberta Schonfeld
Elizabeth Nesper	Trisha Schwartz
Devon Newkirk	Lyn Seiple
Camille Newlon	Diane Sell
Julie Novak	Jean Semler
Catherine Nuernberger	Sandra Senft
Lee Olson	Sandra Seuser
Barbara Oremland	Alisha Sexton
Marc Orlando	Elisha Shelly
Dane Osborne	Joanne Shermam
Marian Over	Laura Shields
Margaret Palcic	Regan Shipman
Laura Palumbo	Rosanne Shovlin
Junmei Pan	Narinder Sidhu
Lalita Pande	Teresa Siler
Margaret Pashkow	William Simon
Douglas Patch	Philip Slive
Karuna Patel	Barbara K. Smith
Donna Patrick	Cara J. Smith
Nancy Pay	Elizabeth A. Smith
Anne Peterlin	James R. Smith
Ellinor Petri	Molly M. Smith
James Petrola	Patricia J. Smith
Kathleen Phelan	Khrista Sohn
Bryan Phillips	Sue Song
Ann Pirronelli	Jean Soto
Williams Quillen	Curtis Speight
Rachel Rackers	Gail Spence
Martha Rader	Steven Spencer
Joan Ragusa	Libby Spicer
Amy Rakestraw	Emily St. John
Darrin Rakestraw	Lisa Stachler
Jera Ratliff	Mary Stachowski
Annie Raymond	Thomas Stadler
Denise Readence	Bradley Steele
Mary Regner	Victoria Stenulson
Troy Reid	Andrew Stern
Erin Reish	Jill Stockford
Terry Richardson	Charlotte Stoneburner
Colleen Roberts	Donna Stover
Denise Roberts	Arlene Stransky
Maisha Robinson	Lois Stroinski
Larmi Rodriguez	Franklin Stumbo
Jenna Rogers	Scott Swaldo
Gail Rood	David Swann
Lori Rorrer	Linda Swanson
Jonathan Rose	Colleen Sweeney
Rebecca Roush	Caroline Sweeney
Francy Rubin	Sherri Swenson
Kevin Ruddy	Mary Swope
Catherine Rudolph	Mary Syzek
Leslie Rudzinski	Luanne Szopa
Shiela Rufener Kries	Julie Tahmoush
Kelly Russell	Jill Tahyi
Shelley Ryan	Sarah Talbott
Colleen Sack	Maria Tansio
Jamie Sackett	Kerry Taylor
Keri Sands	Martha Taylor
Christie Savor	David Thomas
Tiffany Saylor	Judith Thomas
Michael Schaeffer	Micahel Timko
Alanna Schepley	Carol Tomasic
Elizabeth Schick	Talia Trapuzzano
Beverly Schinke	Elisa Travis
Erin Schirf	Catherine Trigg
Bridget Schlotman	Lisa Trimbach
Mary Schlueter	
Wendy Schmidt	

Tawiona Triplett
Ginger Tripp
Steven Trocchio
Georgia Tsarnas
Chad Ulmer
Susan Van Arsdale
Angela Vasser
Nancy Verhines
Roy Victorio
Geraldine Viergutz
David Village
Paula Wade
Marilyn Wagner
Kimberly Waidelich
Maria Wartenberg
Karin Watson
Alice Weiner
Pamela Weis
Karen Welling
Chana Wells
Dalmer Wells
John Welsheimer
Kimberly Wepler
John Werle
Faith Westerfield
Marni Wetzel
Joshua White
Rebecca White
Henry White II
Laura Whitson
Lance Whorton
Alicia Widner
Brianna Wiec
Pamela Wiesman
William Wilde
Joy Williams
Michelle Williams
Natasha Williamson
Elizabeth Wilson
Jean Wilson
Nancy Wilson
Mary Beth Winterhalter
Jennifer Wirtz
Virginia Wise
Charles Wolf
Catherine Wolfe
Laura Wolski
Jessie Wood
Shannon Wu
Shannan Yancsurak
Danielle Yassall
Chad Yoakam
Lisa Young
Lara Zelch

**Physical Therapist
Assistants**

Heather Harr
Tracey Huff-Stephens
Shelly Hughes
Jennifer Kemp
Ruth McCall
Kimberly McDermott
Terry McDonald
Brian McIntosh
Rachael McLaughlin
Rhonda McLin
Ekaterini Mermis
Rebecca Metheney
Dawn Miller
Jennifer Miller
Judith Miller
Aurelia Mino
John Mitchell
Andrea Montgomery
Ernest Moore
James Moore
Jessica Moore
Jo Anne Moore
Leah Moran
Anthony Morella
Leah Moritz
Mary Morris
Linda Morter
Julie Munn
Heather Murray
Dawn Naglich
Shannon Neumann
William Ogend
Joseph Ogle
Lorri Oldenburg
Vonda Orlando
Sarah Osborn
Douglas Ossege
Diana Page
Wilma Paternite
James Patterson
Jeffrey Paul
Kevy Paviadakis
Karen Payer
Aimee Payment
Michael Pehanic
B. Kristin Perry
Lynne Piefer
Lynea Pollock-Glaab
Linda Pompili
Patricia Powelson
Tmmy Powelson
Phil Quintin
Tahir Rafique
Tara Reger
Gregory Ring
Melisssa Rios
Edwin Rising
Joel Robinson
Krista Robinson
Terrence Roloff

Jennifer Rose
Sarah Rowe
Kathryn Runkel
Marilyn Rutherford
Eric Ryser
Sherry Sagggers
Silvia Sajcic
Terri Sayers
Mary Jo Schafer
R. Danna Schermbeck
Amy Schroth
Deborah Scordalakes
Susan Sechrist
Donna Seiber
Keith Shank
Susan Shearer
Amy Sheppard
Candis Sherman
James Shrout
Geri Simari
James Simeone
Karen Simons
Kerry Simpson
Rachel Singer
Narinderjit Singh
Dena Sitarski
Becky Slagle
Andrew Smith
Bridget Smith
Judy Sochko
Sandra Sowry
Nicole Stewart
Naomi Stiger
Branko Stojic
Bonnie Stottlemire
Julie Stratton
Nancy Stuckman
Barbara Suter
Jovita Sutherland
Joan Sutton
Kirk Sweger
James Taylor
Anonda Thatcher
Sharon Thomas
Robert Thompson
Lacinda Tidwell
Benjamin Tolosa
Maryann Tomkins
Timothy Toner
Kathryn Tressler
Melanie Trimble
Janet Turban
Cheryl Turek
Courtney Turner
Tammy Turner
Mave Urbany
Charles Van Hoose
Diane Vanevnhoven
Luis Vazquez
Amy Veasey
Donna Walsh
Susan Waltenbaugh
Jacob Weber
Nora Welsh

Eddie White
Sherry Wilcox
Liza Willey
Ryan Williams
Karla Wilson
Catherine Wllt
Sandra Windgassen
Farah Wisda
Yasemin Yasa
Wendy Young
Todd Zimish

Renewal Alert

Continuing education requirements must be completed by December 31st in the year preceding the biennial renewal of your license. For example, persons whose license must be renewed by January 31, 2004, must complete their continuing education on, or before December 31, 2003.

Each continuing education course **MUST** have an Ohio approval number, which can be obtained by contacting the Ohio Physical Therapy Association (OPTA).

To allow the OPTA time to review and approve a course for continuing education credit, you must allow 4-6 weeks to obtain an Ohio approval number.

You are required to complete the CEU Reporting Form that comes with the license renewal application, whether you are audited or not. This is not a new requirement. The Physical Therapy Section, by law, has the legislative authority to require proof that the continuing education requirements have been met. Courses that are offered nationally or are well known do not automatically have an Ohio approval number. It is your responsibility, as a licensee, to contact the sponsor or visit the OPTA website to see if the course has been approved. Either the sponsor or attendee is able to complete an application for continuing education approval.

Frequently Asked Questions

The Physical Therapy Section receives numerous letters requesting an interpretation of the laws and rules relating to the practice of physical therapy. These letters typically reflect current issues and problems experienced by licensees in the delivery of physical therapy services. The Physical Therapy Section responds only to those letters related to the Physical Therapy Practice Act.

The following is a list of frequently asked questions and general responses given by the Section. This is by no means a complete list. If you have questions related to physical therapy practice, please do not hesitate to forward them to the Physical Therapy Section.

Can a physical therapist / physical therapist assistant remove sutures or staples?

There is nothing in the Physical Therapy Practice Act that would prohibit a physical therapist from removing staples at the request of the physician referring the patient to your services. A physical therapist may delegate this to a physical therapist assistant, following the laws and rules related to the delegation of patient care. Both the physical therapist, whether performing the procedure or delegating it, and the physical therapist assistant must demonstrate competency in the performance of this task.

We are going to an electronic system for documentation. When the physical therapist assistant enters the information and only one signature can be recorded, how do we co-sign the documentation?

In accordance with Rule 4755-27-02 of the Ohio Administrative Code, a handwritten or electronic signature is acceptable by the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. Electronic signature means any of the following attached to or associated with an electronic record by and individual to authenticate the record:

- (A) A code consisting of a combination of letters, numbers, characters or symbols that is adapted or executed by an individual as that individual's electronic signature; or
- (B) A computer generated signature code created for an individual; or
- (C) An electronic image of an individual's handwritten signature created by using a pen computer.

A copy of the individual's name, handwritten signature and electronic signature shall be on file with the use of the electronic signature at the location using the electronic signature.

The annotate or analog picture for the electronic signature by the author of the documents such as the physical therapist assistant, must also permit in such cases the co-signature; that is an annotate or analogue picture for the co-signature by the physical therapist. Should your computer system or program not permit such countersignature, then you need to make arrangements with your vendor for the computer system to be revised or improved to permit such countersignatures, annotate or analog picture. Should you not be capable of dual annotate or analogue picture, you then shall be required to have a hard copy that is co-signed by the physical therapist.

Professional Liability

Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants must accept responsibility for their actions and judgments, not corporate administrative policy. Any professional practice decision regarding the provision of physical therapy services rests solely with the physical therapist. These provisions are outlined in the Ohio Physical Therapy Practice Act. You can access the most current copy on the Board's website at: www.state.oh.us/pyt.

Home Assessments

A physical therapist assistant may go into the patient's home, without the patient, to perform an environmental survey, (i.e. architectural barriers, floor plan of home, etc....) If the patient is going into his/her home environment and his / her function in the home is being assessed, this assessment must be performed by a physical therapist. A physical therapist assistant may continue an established treatment plan of functional activities in a non-clinical environment.

Do physical therapy practitioners have to transfer care of their patients every day in the medical record if they job share, are off for one day, or if a resource person works on the weekend and continues the care of the patient on Saturday?

Termination of care (transfer) does not include a physical therapist taking a regularly scheduled day off / job sharing or use of different staff to cover the weekends. It is expected that there is continuity of care for those patients and that the staff have a system of communication in place so that there is agreement on the course of care for that patient and everyone is working toward the same goals.

Patient Abandonment

Abandonment is the inappropriate termination of a physical therapist/patient relationship by the physical therapist. Generally, abandonment is alleged when the relationship is severed without reasonable notice at a time when there is still the necessity of continuing care. It is the position of the Physical Therapy Section that physical therapists have a legal and ethical obligation to make every effort to follow through with the plan of care established for any given patient. Principle 2.1 (E) of the American Physical Therapy Association's Code of Ethics states, " In the event the physical therapist or patient terminates the physical therapist/patient relationship while the patient continues to need physical therapy services, the physical therapist should take steps to transfer the care of the patient to another provider." A violation of the Code of Ethics is subject to sanction by the Physical Therapy Section under Section 4755.48 (5) of the Ohio Revised Code.

The issue of abandonment often arises when a facility replaces a physical therapist and when physical therapists move, are transferred, or sell their practice. The physical therapist has a responsibility to refer physical therapy patients elsewhere when they can no longer continue to treat a patient whom they have evaluated and/or set up a plan of care. A physical therapist should make every attempt to transfer their patients to eligible providers. The Section recommends informing patients that you can no longer offer care and provide patients with a list of eligible providers.

Complaints

If you wish to file a complaint, please write to:

The Physical Therapy Investigative Committee
77 South High, 16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108

You must include your name, address and telephone number. The Investigative Committee **cannot** respond to anonymous complaints. Your complaint will be held in confidence and your cooperation is valued.

Employer Verification

If you employ physical therapy practitioners, it is not only important to verify current licensure, but also to ensure that the licensee has not had disciplinary action taken against his/her license. Disciplinary actions are public record and may be accessed in two ways:

1) You may visit our agency website at www.state.oh.us/pyt and choose the "license verification" tab. Enter the name of the physical therapy practitioner you would like to check and look at the results under the "disciplinary action" section. If there has been no disciplinary action, it will be listed as "none". If disciplinary action has been taken, you will be instructed to contact the Board office. You must submit a public records request to the Enforcement Division, in writing, in order to obtain additional information.

2) Another way to obtain information regarding disciplinary action is to have your employees perform a "self-query" through the Federal Department of Health and Human Services' Healthcare Integrity Protection Data Bank (HIPDB) and provide you with the results. The "self-query" can be performed by accessing the HIPDB website at www.npdb-hipdb.com/queryat.html.

Did You Know?

As of August 27, 2003, the Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Trainers Board has 17,703 licensed professionals.

OT's - 3,774
OTA's - 2,172
PT's - 6,091
PTA's - 4,086
AT's - 1,580

License Verification

The cost of verifying your license to another state board is \$30.00. You can save time by forwarding a cashier's check or money order (no personal checks please) to the Board office with your request. The check or money order must be made payable to the "Treasurer, State of Ohio". Please be sure to enclose the appropriate forms to facilitate processing. Requests should be forwarded to the Board office at 77 South High Street, 16th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108. Processing takes approximately three weeks.

Are You In Violation of the PT Law?

It is your responsibility to provide the Physical Therapy Section with changes regarding mailing address, name and/or employment address. Rule 4755-23-07 of the Ohio Administrative Code states, "*A licensee shall notify the physical therapy section in writing of any change of name, place of employment or mailing address within thirty days after the change.*" Please contact the Board office to update your personal information within this 30 day window.

Board Website

Please visit the Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Trainers Board website at www.state.oh.us/pyt. The office staff has made numerous revisions to the website, including the addition of the most current copies of the practice acts (*laws and rules*) for all three Sections, applications, meeting minutes, new links and recent newsletters. Please use the website to obtain the following information: name/address change requests, duplicate wall certificate/pocket identification card requests, continuing education approval forms, application requests and meeting dates/locations.

Correspondence Regarding Physical Therapy Practice Questions

Professional concerns regarding the practice of physical therapy should be forwarded to the Physical Therapy Section in writing.

Please be sure to read the Physical Therapy Practice Act, meeting minutes and previous newsletters before forwarding any correspondence to the Physical Therapy Section. This information is available on our website at www.state.oh.us/pyt.

Correspondence must be received at least 10 days prior to the regularly scheduled Section meetings to be reviewed by the Section.

Spot Checks

To assure consumer protection, the enforcement staff conducts random/unannounced inspections of physical therapy personnel. These visits are a proactive approach to affirm compliance with Ohio laws and rules and include, but are not limited to: verifying the credentials of physical therapy personnel, reviewing patient documentation of physical therapy services, verifying proper supervision of unlicensed support personnel and checking the display of wall certificates. Spot check information is reviewed by the Physical Therapy Investigative Committee each month and a follow-up letter is sent to the licensee. The Committee clarifies any misinterpretation of the law, and makes necessary recommendations for change.

Board Staff

The Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Trainers Board is responsible for regulating and licensing Ohio's occupational and physical therapy practitioners and athletic trainers. When you contact the Board office, our highly dedicated and competent staff will assist you.

The Board's staff consists of nine employees:

Lisa Foor, MSA
Enforcement Division Supervisor

Kimberly Stein
Investigator

Stephanie Youst
Executive Secretary

Gina Longstreth
Administrative Assistant

Mary Jane Langlois, Diane Moore and
Thanh "Mai" N. Vo
Certification Licensing Examiners

Please contact any staff person for assistance at 800-871-1921 or (614) 466-3774.

Special Thank You's

The Physical Therapy Section would like to thank Carl Williams for his nine years of service to the physical therapy community. Mr. Williams has left the Board as Executive Director to pursue other interests. The Section wishes Carl the best of luck!

The Physical Therapy Section would also like to thank Anna Lou Goldblatt for her service to the Board. Anna Lou's term expired August 27, 2003 and she did not seek reappointment. The Section wishes Anna Lou the best of luck in all her future endeavors!

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