

Chapter Med 7

LICENSE TO PRACTICE PHYSICAL THERAPY

Med 7.01 Authority and purpose  
 Med 7.02 Applications and credentials  
 Med 7.03 Application deadline and fees  
 Med 7.04 Panel review of applications; examinations required  
 Med 7.05 Conduct of examinations

Med 7.06 Failure and reexaminations  
 Med 7.07 Temporary license prior to regular license  
 Med 7.08 Temporary license to practice under supervision  
 Med 7.09 Locum tenens license  
 Med 7.10 Physical therapist assistants

**Med 7.01 Authority and purpose.** The rules in this chapter are adopted by the medical examining board pursuant to the authority delegated by ss. 15.08 (5), 227.11, and 448.40, Stats., and govern the issuance of license to practice physical therapy under s. 448.04 (1) (e), Stats.

*History:* Cr. Register, February, 1977, No. 254, eff. 3-1-77; correction made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7, Stats., Register, May, 1989, No. 401.

**Med 7.02 Applications and credentials.** Every person applying for any class of license to practice physical therapy shall make application therefor on forms provided for this purpose by the board, and shall submit to the board the following:

(1) A completed and verified application form.

(2) An unmounted photograph approximately 8 by 12 cm. of the applicant taken not more than 60 days prior to the date of application and bearing on the reverse side the statement of a notary public that such photograph is a true likeness of the applicant.

(3) Verified documentary evidence of graduation from a school of physical therapy approved by the board.

(4) In the case of a graduate of a foreign school of physical therapy, verification of educational equivalency to a board-approved school of physical therapy. The verification shall be obtained from a board-approved foreign graduate evaluation service.

*Note:* The board annually reviews and approves foreign graduate evaluation services. A list of board-approved evaluation services is available from the board upon request.

(a) A verified copy of transcripts from the schools from which secondary education was obtained;

(b) A verified copy of the diploma from the school at which professional physical therapy training was completed;

(c) A record of the number of class hours spent in each subject, for both pre-professional and professional courses. For subjects which include laboratory and discussion sections, the hours must be described in hours per lecture, hours per laboratory and hours per discussion per week. Information must include whether subjects have been taken at basic entry or advanced levels; and

(d) A syllabus which describes the material covered in each subject completed.

(4m) The board shall determine whether the applicant's educational training is equivalent to that specified in sub. (3). In lieu of its own evaluation, the board may use, as it

deems appropriate, evaluations prepared by the university of Wisconsin-Madison. The cost of an evaluation shall be paid by the applicant.

*Note:* The board approves those schools of physical therapy that are at the time of the applicant's graduation recognized and approved by the American physical therapy association or the council on medical education of the American medical association, or their successors.

*History:* Cr. Register, February, 1977, No. 254, eff. 3-1-77; renum. (2) to (3) to be (3) and (2) and am. (3), cr. (4), Register, February, 1981, No. 302, eff. 3-1-81; r. and recr. (4), Register, May, 1989, No. 401, eff. 6-1-89.

**Med 7.03 Application deadline and fees.** The fully completed application and all required documents must be received by the board at its office not less than 3 weeks prior to the date of examination. The required fees must accompany the application, and all remittances must be made payable to the Wisconsin medical examining board.

*History:* Cr. Register, February, 1977, No. 254, eff. 3-1-77.

**Med 7.04 Panel review of applications; examinations required.** (1) (a) The medical examining board designates the physical therapy examining council as its agent for conducting examinations.

(b) All applicants shall complete a written examination. In addition, an applicant shall complete an oral examination if the applicant:

1. Has a history of alcohol or drug abuse or impairment;

2. Has a history of psychological impairment;

3. Has been disciplined or had licensure denied by a licensing or regulatory authority in Wisconsin or another jurisdiction;

4. Has been convicted of a crime the circumstances of which substantially relate to the practice of physical therapy;

5. Has not practiced physical therapy for a period of 3 years prior to application, unless the applicant has been graduated from a school of physical therapy within that period;

6. Has been graduated from a physical therapy program not approved by the board.

(c) An application filed under s. Med 7.02 shall be reviewed by the application review panel of at least 2 physical therapy examining council members designated by the chairperson of the council. The panel shall determine whether the applicant is eligible for a regular license without completing an oral examination.

## Med 7.04

(d) All examinations shall be conducted in the English language.

(e) Where both written and oral examinations are required they shall be scored separately and the applicant shall achieve a passing grade on both examinations to qualify for a license.

(2) The board will notify each applicant found eligible for examination of the time and place scheduled for that applicant's examination. Failure of an applicant to appear for examination as scheduled will void that applicant's application and require the applicant to reapply for licensure unless prior scheduling arrangements have been made with the board by the applicant.

(3) (a) The score required to pass the written physical therapy examination shall be based on the board's determination of the level of examination performance required for minimum acceptable competence in the profession and on the reliability of the examination. The passing grade shall be established prior to giving the examination and shall be designated by a grade of 75.

(b) An applicant who has received passing grades on written examinations for a license to practice physical therapy conducted by another licensing jurisdiction of the United States may submit to the board verified documentary evidence thereof. The board will review such documentary evidence to determine whether the scope and passing grades of such examinations are equivalent to those of this state at the time of the applicant's examination, and if the board finds that such equivalence exists, the board will accept this in lieu of requiring further written examination of the candidate. The burden of proof of such equivalence shall lie upon the applicant.

(4) Oral examinations of each candidate are conducted by members of the physical therapy examining council and are scored as pass or fail.

(5) Any applicant who is a graduate of a school in a program in physical therapy in which English is not the primary language of communication may be examined by the board on his or her proficiency in the English language. The applicant shall take and pass the test of English as a foreign language in order to qualify for a license (TOEFL).

History: Cr. Register, February, 1977, No. 254, eff. 3-1-77; cr. (5), Register, October, 1984, No. 346, eff. 11-1-84; r. and recr. (1), Register, May, 1989, No. 401, eff. 6-1-89; r. and recr. (3) (a), Register, June, 1990, No. 414, eff. 7-1-90; am. (5), Register, September, 1993, No. 453, eff. 10-1-93.

**Med 7.05 Conduct of examinations.** (1) At the opening of the examinations each applicant will be assigned a number which shall be used by that applicant on all examination papers, and neither the name of the applicant nor any other identifying marks shall appear on any such papers.

(2) At the opening of the examinations the proctor will read and distribute to the assembled applicants the rules of conduct to be followed during the course of the examinations. Any violation of these rules of conduct by any applicant will be cause for the board to terminate the examination of such applicant and to exclude the applicant from continuing the examinations, and will also be cause for the

Register, January, 1994, No. 457

board to find that such applicant has failed the examinations.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1977, No. 254, eff. 3-1-77.

**Med 7.06 Failure and reexamination.** An applicant who fails to achieve passing grades on the examinations required under this chapter may apply for re-examination on forms provided for that purpose by the board. For each such re-examination the application therefor shall be accompanied by the re-examination fee. An applicant who fails to achieve passing grades on examinations required under this chapter may be re-examined twice at not less than 4 month intervals, and if such applicant fails to achieve passing grades on the second such re-examination, that applicant shall not be admitted to further examination until such applicant reapplies for licensure and also presents to the board evidence of further professional training or education as the board may deem appropriate in such applicant's specific case.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1977, No. 254, eff. 3-1-77.

**Med 7.07 Temporary license prior to regular license.** (1) An applicant who is a graduate of a board approved physical therapy school and of whom the board will require no further written examinations under the provisions of s. Med 7.04 (3) (b) may also apply to the board for temporary license prior to regular license. Such application shall be made not less than 30 days prior to the date set by the board as specified in s. 15.08 (3) (b), Stats., for the granting of a license. The applications and required documents will be reviewed by 2 members of the physical therapy examining council, and upon the finding by such 2 members that the applicant is qualified for regular license except for having taken and passed an oral examination if required under s. Med 7.04, the board, acting through such 2 members, may issue a temporary license prior to regular license to practice physical therapy to such applicant.

(2) The required fees must accompany the application, and all remittances must be made payable to the Wisconsin medical examining board.

(3) A temporary license prior to regular license to practice physical therapy granted under this chapter shall expire on the earlier of the following, either on the date on which the board grants or denies such applicant a regular license to practice physical therapy or, on the date the applicant is notified that he or she has failed any of the required examinations for regular license to practice physical therapy.

(4) A temporary license prior to regular license to practice physical therapy shall be issued only once to the same applicant.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1977, No. 254, eff. 3-1-77; am. (1), Register, June, 1990, No. 414, eff. 7-1-90; am. (1), (3), Register, January, 1994, No. 457, eff. 2-1-94.

**Med 7.08 Temporary license to practice under supervision.** (1) An applicant for regular license to practice physical therapy who is a graduate of an approved school of physical therapy and is scheduled to take the next written physical therapy licensure examination or has taken the written physical therapy licensure examination and is awaiting results, may also apply to the board for a temporary license to practice physical therapy under supervision. The applications and required documents for regular

license and for such temporary license will be reviewed by 2 members of the physical therapy examining council, and upon the finding by such 2 members that the applicant is qualified for admission to examination for regular license to practice physical therapy, the board, acting through such members, may issue a temporary license to practice physical therapy under supervision to such applicant.

(2) The required fees must accompany the application, and all remittances must be made payable to the Wisconsin medical examining board.

(3) The holder of a temporary license to practice physical therapy under supervision may practice physical therapy as defined in s. 448.01 (1) (e), Stats., providing that the entire such practice is under the supervision of a person validly holding a regular license to practice physical therapy in this state. No physical therapist may supervise more than 2 physical therapists who hold temporary licenses. Such supervision shall be direct, immediate, and on premises.

(4) A temporary license to practice physical therapy under supervision granted under this chapter shall expire on the date the applicant is notified that he or she has failed any of the required examinations for regular license to practice physical therapy. However, a temporary license to practice physical therapy under supervision shall automatically expire on the first day the physical therapy examining council begins its examination of applicants for regular license to practice physical therapy after such license is issued, unless the holder thereof submits to examination on such date.

(5) A temporary license to practice physical therapy under supervision may not be renewed.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1977, No. 254, eff. 3-1-77; am. (1), Register, February, 1981, No. 302, eff. 3-1-81; am. (3), Register, June, 1992, No. 438, eff. 7-1-92; am. (1), (4), (5), Register, January, 1994, No. 457, eff. 2-1-94.

**Med 7.09 Locum tenens license.** (1) A person who holds a valid license to practice physical therapy issued by another licensing jurisdiction of the United States may apply to the board for a locum tenens license to practice physical therapy and shall submit to the board the following:

(a) A completed and verified application form supplied by the board for this purpose.

(b) A letter of recommendation from a physician or supervisor or present employer stating the applicant's professional capabilities.

(c) A verified photostatic copy of a license to practice physical therapy issued by another licensing jurisdiction of the United States to the applicant.

(d) A recent photograph of the applicant as required under s. Med 7.02 (3).

(e) The required fees must accompany the application, and all remittances must be made payable to the Wisconsin medical examining board.

(2) The application and documentary evidence submitted by the applicant will be reviewed by an officer of the

physical therapy examining council, and upon the finding of such officer that the applicant is qualified, the board, acting through such officer, may issue a locum tenens license to practice physical therapy to such applicant.

(3) The holder of a locum tenens license to practice physical therapy may practice physical therapy as defined in s. 448.04 (1) (e), Stats., providing such practice is confined to the geographical area for which the license is issued.

(4) A locum tenens license to practice physical therapy shall expire 90 days from the date of its issuance. For cause shown to its satisfaction, the board, acting through an officer of the physical therapy examining council, may renew such locum tenens license for additional periods of 90 days each, but such license may not be renewed within 12 months of the date of its original issuance, nor again renewed within 12 months of the date of any subsequent renewal.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1977, No. 254, eff. 3-1-77.

**Med 7.10 Physical therapist assistants.** A physical therapist assistant, as defined in s. 448.03 (2) (fm), Stats., may practice physical therapy under the general supervision of a physical therapist. In providing general supervision, the physical therapist shall do all of the following:

(1) Have primary responsibility for physical therapy care rendered by the physical therapist assistant.

(2) Have direct face-to-face contact with the physical therapist assistant at least every 14 calendar days.

(3) Remain accessible to telecommunications in the interim between direct contacts while the physical therapist assistant is providing patient care.

(4) Supervise no more than 2 physical therapist assistant full-time equivalents at a time.

(5) Establish a written policy and procedure for written and oral communication. This policy and procedure shall include a specific description of the supervisory activities undertaken for the physical therapist assistant.

(6) Provide initial patient evaluation and interpretation of referrals.

(7) Develop the patient treatment plan and program.

(8) Delegate appropriate portions of the treatment plan and program to the physical therapist assistant consistent with the physical therapist assistant's education, training and experience.

(9) Provide on-site assessment and reevaluation of each patient's treatment a minimum of one time per calendar month or every tenth treatment day, whichever is sooner, and adjust the treatment plan as appropriate.

(10) Coordinate discharge plan decisions and the final assessment with the physical therapist assistant.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1992, No. 439, eff. 8-1-92.