

P E N N S Y L V A N I A

STATE BOARD OF

Physical Therapy

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2006

Inside:



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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Governor

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Secretary of the Commonwealth

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*Commissioner,
Bureau of Professional
and Occupational Affairs*

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Chairman's Message 2

Meet Our Board Members 3-4

Disciplinary Actions 5

Mobilization 6

Special Notice
Regarding Home Health Care
Services Ordered by
Out-of-State Physicians 7

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www.dos.state.pa.us/physther

Chairman's Message

Charles E. Meacci, EdD, PT

To conduct its business, the State Board of Physical Therapy meets every other month. The 2006 meeting schedule appears in this newsletter. These meetings are open to the public and interested parties are encouraged to attend. The meetings are generally held in Harrisburg, start at 10:00 A.M. and last 3-4 hours. In an attempt to stimulate meeting attendance and to further educate the public as to the functions of the board, we will occasionally move a meeting to a different location throughout the state and encourage educational institutions that educate physical therapists and physical therapist assistants, to host the meeting and have their students attend. Meetings are normally attended by board members, administrative staff and legal staff from the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs who support the work of the board.

Over the past year, the board has been implementing the "direct access" regulations. There are 10,605 licensed physical therapists in the State and as of this writing the board has issued 1,037 direct access certificates. These certificates are issued in addition to your PT license and do not replace your PT license. The Certificates of Authorization are issued to qualified physical therapists, allowing them to treat patients without the requirement of a physician's referral. This "direct access" option was created in July of 2004. If you are unaware of the revisions to the practice act, see the "Special Notice on the Board's website www.dos.state.pa.us/physther.

Continuing Education and a Current PT License are Required to Renew the Certificate of Authorization

In October 2004, the State Board of Physical Therapy began issuing Certificates of Authorization to qualified physical therapists, allowing them to treat patients without the requirement of a physician's referral ("direct access"). In order to maintain the certificate, continuing education (CE) is the requirement set forth in Section 40.63(b) of Board regulations "a physical therapist shall have completed during the preceding biennium (January 1 of odd year through December 31 of next even year), a minimum of 20 contact (instructional) hours of physical therapy continuing education related to keeping the certificate holder apprised of advancements and new developments in the practice of the physical therapy profession. At least 10 or the 20 contact hours shall be in evaluative procedures to treat a person with a referral."

Section 40.63(b) also indicates that the requirement will become effective **after** the first renewal of the certificate. Therefore, certificates issued since October 2004 will expire December 2006 and the renewal of these certificates will NOT require CE. However, to renew these certificates in December 2008, the requirements of section 40.63(b) must be completed during 2007-2008. This CE requirement will be applicable to all subsequent renewals. **Certificate holders must also maintain their PT license, but there is NO CE requirement for the renewal of your license as a Physical Therapist.** Separate renewals will be mailed for the certificate and PT license, however **the certificate cannot be renewed unless the PT license of the certificate holder is concurrently renewed.**

The complete regulations and practice act are available at www.dos.state.pa.us/physther. For "direct access" information, see sections 40.61, 40.62 and 40.63 of the regulations and section 9 of the practice act.

AGAIN, NOTE THAT A CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED IN ADDITION TO YOUR PT LICENSE. THE CERTIFICATE DOES NOT REPLACE YOUR PT LICENSE AND IS NOT VALID UNLESS YOU MAINTAIN A CURRENT PT LICENSE.

Meet Our Board Members

Cindy L. Best, PTA

Ms. Best received her Associates degree in Physical Therapy in 1985 from Lehigh Carbon Community College. She worked as a Physical Therapy Aide while in High School, and during college. Following college, she worked in Acute Rehab for 9 years, followed by 2 years of Acute care, 2 years of subacute rehab, and the past 7 years in long term care. She also taught rehab lab and lectured 2nd year students on wound care at Penn State Mont Alto for 2 years. She is currently providing Physical Therapy for Albright Care Services at Normandie Ridge Retirement Community in York, PA.

A member of APTA and PPTA, she has held positions on the Education Committee for the APTA Affiliate assembly, and served on the Ethics Committee for the PPTA as well as held the position of PTA Special Interest Group Treasurer for 6 years. Additionally she has served as a member of the Patient Service Committee for the Arthritis Foundation and was Co-Chair of the Arthritis Self Help Sub Committee.

Ms. Best was appointed to the State Board of Physical Therapy in November 2004 and is currently serving a four-year term. Cindy resides in Etters PA with her Husband Dennis and children Collin and Spencer.

James L. Clahane, PT

Mr. Clahane received his Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy from the University of Utah in 1992. He began his therapy career in pediatrics with Shriner's Hospital in Salt Lake City and San Francisco. In 1994 he began working in the outpatient orthopedic and Sportsmedicine setting. Jim currently manages an outpatient therapy center for Drayer Physical Therapy Institute in Harrisburg, PA. He specializes in the treatment of various musculoskeletal disorders specializing in the Jones Strain-Counterstrain technique. He also works extensively with throwing athletes, especially baseball and softball players.

Mr. Clahane was appointed to the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Board in July of 2002. Jim resides in Camp Hill with his wife Tamara and three children Luke, Madeleine and Emma.

Dale J. Cordial, PT

Mr. Cordial received his Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Pittsburgh in 1977, graduating Summa Cum Laude. He is one of the founding partners of THE pt GROUP. While THE pt GROUP continues to grow in the ever changing world of healthcare, Dale continues to balance his various duties. He is currently serving his second term on the State Board.

Dale resides in Greensburg. His daughter, Jamie, is a graduate of Penn State University and owns and operates a hair and nail salon. His son Nicholas, a graduate of Penn State University, and his son Chad, are both working in his practice. His youngest son Jason is still attending Penn State University. In his spare time, Dale enjoys playing the piano, sports and spending time with his children.

Z. Annette Iglarsh, PT, PhD, MBA

Dr. Iglarsh has been an active physical therapist and professional for over 28 years. Dr. Iglarsh received her Bachelor's of Sciences Degree in Physical Therapy from the State University of New York, Upstate Medical Center in 1975. Prior to that time, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the City College of New York in 1970 and a Masters of Arts in Teaching from the Alaska Methodist University in 1972. She received her Doctoral Degree in Health Education with an emphasis on Stress management and Psychophysiological Medicine from the University of Maryland in 1983 and an MBA in Executive Health Care Management from Loyola College in Baltimore in 1987.

She has practiced in outpatient, acute, industrial, long-term care facilities and national health care corporations. Since 1997 she has served as Chair and Professor of the Masters and DPT Programs in Physical Therapy at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia and, as an academic with the faculty members of the program, guides the students to success in the changing physical therapy environment. She stepped down as Department Chair in June 2004, but continues to teach at USP in the areas of leadership, mentorship and ethics.

Dr. Iglarsh was an active member of the Maryland Chapter of the APTA until she relocated to Philadelphia in 1997. During this time she was elected to state (MD Delegate and Treasurer) and national (President of the Orthopaedic and

Meet Our Board Members, con't

Women's Health Sections) association positions and she has recently completed her second term as a Director on the APTA Board. She has served in many appointed capacities in Chapter, Section and National levels. She continues to contribute to the development of the profession through her writings and numerous presentations in her nationally respected clinical expertise in the areas of Business Management, Orthopedics and Education. She is currently serving in the first year of a four-year term on the Pennsylvania PT Board. She resides in Philadelphia with her husband, Gary.

Charles E. Meacci, Ed.D, PT

Charles E. Meacci received his physical therapy training at the University of Pennsylvania in 1968 after graduating from West Virginia University with a Bachelor's degree. He served in the Army as a physical therapist and was Chief Physical Therapist at Lyster Army Hospital. He left the service in 1971 as a Captain and proceeded to complete a Masters of Science degree from Boston University in 1972. During that year he started his academic career as an instructor in the Division of Physical Therapy at West Virginia University while managing the physical therapy department at the university hospital. At West Virginia University he completed his doctorate degree in education and moved through the academic ranks to associate professor.

In 1982 he moved to Syracuse, New York, to chair the physical therapy department and educational program at the SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse. During this time in became actively involved with consumer protection and was appointed to the New York State Board for Physical Therapy where he served for ten years, the last two years in a leadership role as Chairman of the State Board. He moved to Gannon University in 1996 and currently is Chairman of the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. Dr. Meacci currently serves as chair of the Pennsylvania PT board and Vice President of the FSBPT. He resides in McDonald, Washington County with his wife, Delilah.

Deborah W. Piper, Public Member

Mrs. Piper resides in Carlisle, Cumberland County with her husband, William and daughter, Brekan. She is a 1976 graduate of Susquehanna University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. She worked for 16+ years in the banking industry prior to her current career in public service. Mrs. Piper has held the position of Tax Collector for West Pennsboro Township in Cumberland County for the past 9 years. She also serves on the local Community Chest Board.

Cynthia N. Potter, PT, DPT, PCS

Cindy Potter has been in practice in Pittsburgh for 24 years. A Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Pediatrics since 1993, she has been in private practice for many years and currently treats children in various settings. She was an Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Physical Therapy at Slippery Rock University for 5 years. She continues to teach as a guest lecturer in the physical therapy programs at St. Francis University and Duquesne University and the physical therapist assistant program at the Community College of Allegheny County. She is also an adjunct assistant professor at Robert Morris University where she teaches health policy.

She received her B.S. degree from Allegheny College in Meadville, PA with majors in biology and English. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Health Related Professions with a Certificate in Physical Therapy and M.S. in Health Related Professions and earned a DPT from Slippery Rock University.

Very active in the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association over the years, she received the PPTA Service Award for service to the profession in 1998. She currently serves at the Pennsylvania Federal Government Affairs Liaison for PPTA. She served as Southwest District director and member of the PPTA Board of Directors for 7 years and has been chair of the History and Legislative Committees of PPTA.

Active in her community, she was recently elected as a council member of the Town of McCandless. She also serves as a local committee woman for her political party. She has three children and is married to Robert H. Potter, Jr., MD.

Marla J. Wasson, Public Member

Ms. Wasson is in her second term with the State Board of Physical Therapy. She is a 1975 graduate of Gannon University in Erie with a B.S. degree in Business Administration/Accounting and a 1992 graduate of Rosemont College with a B.A. in Studio Art. Ms. Wasson is employed as Controller at National Abrasive Sales, Inc. in Lewisberry.

She currently serves as Treasurer for Fishing Creek Salem United Methodist Church and volunteers at various art association functions.

Ms. Wasson resides in Lewisberry, is mother of three children, Matt, Tyler and Ann and is married to Edward Murak.

Disciplinary Actions

Following is a chronological listing of disciplinary actions taken by the Board from August 2004 through August 2005. Each entry includes the name, certificate or registration number (if any), and last known address of the respondent; the disciplinary sanction imposed; a brief description of the basis of the disciplinary sanction and the effective date of the disciplinary sanction.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the following information is correct. However, this information should not be relied on without verification from the Prothonotary's Office of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. One may obtain verification of individual disciplinary action by writing or telephoning the Prothonotary's Office at P.O. Box 2649, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649; (717) 772-2686. Please note that the names of persons listed below may be similar to the names of persons who have not been disciplined by the Board.

Gwendolyn Gamble, P.T., license no. **PT-003736-L**, of Johnstown, Cambria County, was indefinitely suspended for no less than 3 years, such suspension to be immediately stayed in favor of no less than 3 years probation, subject to her successful participation in the Professional Health Monitoring Program's Disciplinary Monitoring Unit, because Gamble excessively indulged in the use of alcoholic liquors. (07-22-04)

Lynn Johnston, P.T., license no. **PT-008328-L**, of Cheyney, Delaware County, was ordered to pay a civil penalty of \$750, because she practiced physical therapy in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from January 1, 2003 to August 20, 2003 without a current license. (07-22-04)

Michael G. Schmitt, P.T., license no. **PT-008177-L**, of Frederick, Maryland, had a public reprimand placed on his permanent Board record, because he had a license to practice physical therapy disciplined by the proper licensing authority of another state. (07-22-04)

Kathleen Lyons Biles, P.T., license no. **PT-005546-L**, of Malvern, Chester County, was ordered to pay a civil penalty of \$750 and had a public reprimand placed on her permanent Board record, because she practiced physical therapy in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from January 1, 2003 to September 2, 2004 without a current license. (11-18-04)

Michael A. Chipman, P.T., license no. **PT-005190L**, of Wexford, Allegheny County, was suspended pursuant to the Order of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County dated December 10, 2004 that the court issued under section 4355 of the Domestic Relations Code. The suspension is effective immediately. (01-26-05)

Kevin Paul Strayer P.T., license no. **PT-015979**, of Troy, Ohio, was ordered to pay a civil penalty of \$500 and had a public reprimand placed on his permanent Board record, because he had a license to practice physical therapy disciplined by the proper licensing authority of another state. (03-24-05)

Scott Brian Wasserman, P.T., license no. **PT-002843-E**, of Perry Hill, Maryland, was issued a final order indefinitely suspending his license for failure to pay his civil penalty of \$250. (07-13-05)

Cynthia L. Paulter, P.T., license no. **PT-005469-L**, of Lancaster, Lancaster County, was ordered to pay a civil penalty of \$500 for practicing physical therapy on an expired license. (07-26-05)

UNETHICAL OR UNLICENSED ACTIVITY

If you believe the practice or service provided by a licensed professional to be unethical, below an acceptable standard or out of the scope of the profession; or if you are aware of unlicensed practice, please call the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs complaints hotline at:

In Pennsylvania:
1-800-822-2113

Out of State:
1-717-783-4854

A complaint form is available on the Department of State's internet site.
www.dos.state.pa.us

Mobilization

Mobilization was defined in Act 27 of 2002 as follows: “Mobilization/Manual therapy” shall mean a group of techniques comprising a continuum of skilled passive movements to the joints and/or related soft tissues throughout the normal physiological range of motion that are applied at varying speeds and amplitudes, without limitation.

Mobilization/manual therapy is a skill that physical therapists are trained to perform. These techniques require not only the technical skills that a physical therapist possesses through the appropriate training in theory and technique but also require ongoing evaluation to determine the appropriate mobilization/manual therapy techniques including the correct position of the joint and the correct amplitude and direction of the applied forces and ongoing evaluation of the effects of the techniques on the patient. In addition, the evaluation process that occurs during mobilization/manual therapy provides the physical therapist with information concerning modifications that are required in the patient’s plan of care.

As defined in the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Practice Act, mobilization/manual therapy is a skill that requires the skill and knowledge of a physical therapist and as such is within the scope of practice for a physical therapist. **However, mobilization/manual therapy is not delegable to a physical therapist assistant** because of the level of training necessary to perform the techniques safely and appropriately as well as the ongoing process of evaluation and interpretation that occurs, prior to, during, and after performance of the techniques. Physical therapist assistants are permitted to perform passive joint range of motion through a patient’s available range of movement. However, physical therapist assistants are not able to engage in the evaluation and interpretation of findings that are necessary to effectively and safely perform mobilization/manual therapy techniques.

Even though physical therapist assistants may be exposed to mobilization/manual therapy during their training, mobilization/manual therapy is not included in the evaluative criteria for physical therapist assistant education programs by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapist Education (CAPTE) and as such should not be included in the curriculum for training physical therapist assistants. CAPTE is obligated to sanction any physical therapist assistant program that teaches skills outside the scope of practice for a physical therapist assistant, which would include mobilization and manual therapy skills as defined in the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Practice Act.

The second issue that seems to lead to a great deal of confusion is that physical therapist assistants can become qualified to perform mobilization/manual therapy techniques by taking continuing education courses. Continuing education cannot be used to change one’s credentials and scope of practice. A physical therapist assistant cannot become proficient in skills necessary to provide mobilization/manual therapy through continuing education. Only through a formal education process can a physical therapist assistant obtain a degree in physical therapy that would provide him/her with skills and knowledge to perform mobilization/manual therapy.

2006 Board Meeting Dates

January 19

March 23

May 25

July 20

September 14

November 16

Special Notice Regarding Home Health Care Services Ordered by Out-of-State Physicians

Act 44 of 2004 amends the Medical Practice Act to address home health care services ordered for Pennsylvania residents by physicians from another state. This revision to the law permits a Pennsylvania home health agency, licensed by Pennsylvania Department of Health under the Health Care Facilities Act, to deliver home health care services to a patient who resides in Pennsylvania upon an order of a physician from another state who holds a license in good standing in the other state and who prescribes home health care services after the physician has performed an in-person physical examination of the patient in the state where the physician is licensed. This new law removes the former prohibition on Pennsylvania home health care services accepting prescriptions and orders from out-of-state doctors.

The intent behind the change is to permit individuals who live in or have recently moved to Pennsylvania to retain an out-of-state physician (such as a specialist from Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore or a trusted primary care physician) who may order home health care if the patient needs it. The change will eliminate the need for such a patient

to obtain an intermediary Pennsylvania physician to write for home health care services to be rendered in Pennsylvania.

Home health care services may include, but are not limited to, nursing services, respiratory therapy, occupational therapy, **physical therapy**, speech and hearing therapy. The practical effect on such home care providers is that Act 44 effectively modifies the general rule that Pennsylvania home health care providers may only execute medical regimens and orders as prescribed by a physician licensed in Pennsylvania. This change permits Pennsylvania home health care providers delivering home health care services under the auspices of a Pennsylvania licensed home health care agency to accept orders for home health care services from out-of-state physicians, if the above conditions have been met. This change is only in home health care. The change does not address any other health care setting or services nor does it include other types of ordering and prescribing practitioners, such as out-of-state certified registered nurse practitioners or physician assistants.

Board Members and Staff

Charles E. Meacci, PT
Chairman

Dale J. Cordial, PT
Vice Chairman

Cynthia N. Potter, PT
Secretary

Cindy L. Best, PTA
Professional Member

James L. Clahane, PT
Professional Member

Z. Annette Iglarsh, PT
Professional Member

Deborah W. Piper
Public Member

Marla J. Wasson
Public Member

Basil L. Merenda, Commissioner
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Beth Michlovitz
Board Counsel

Bridget Guilfoyle
Board Prosecutor

Robert Kline
Board Administrator

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