IC 25-27

ARTICLE 27. PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

IC 25-27-1

Chapter 1. Regulation of Physical Therapists by Medical Licensing Board

IC 25-27-1-1

Definitions

Sec. 1. For the purposes of this chapter:

(1) "Physical therapy" means the evaluation of, administration of, or instruction in physical rehabilitative and habilitative techniques and procedures to evaluate, prevent, correct, treat, alleviate, and limit physical disability, pathokinesiological function, bodily malfunction, pain from injury, disease, and any other physical disability or mental disorder, including:

(A) the use of physical measures, agents, and devices for preventive and therapeutic purposes;

(B) neurodevelopmental procedures;

(C) the performance, interpretation, and evaluation of physical therapy tests and measurements; and

(D) the provision of consultative, educational, and other advisory services for the purpose of preventing or reducing the incidence and severity of physical disability, bodily malfunction, and pain.

(2) "Physical therapist" means a person who practices physical therapy as defined in this chapter.

(3) "Physical therapist's assistant" means a person who assists in the practice of physical therapy as defined in this chapter.

(4) "Board" refers to the medical licensing board.

(5) "Committee" refers to the Indiana physical therapy committee established under section 4 of this chapter.

(6) "Person" means an individual.

(7) "Sharp debridement" means the removal of foreign material or dead tissue from or around a wound, without anesthesia and with generally no bleeding, through the use of:

(A) a sterile scalpel;

(B) scissors;

(C) forceps;

(D) tweezers; or

(E) other sharp medical instruments;

in order to expose healthy tissue, prevent infection, and promote healing.

(8) "Spinal manipulation" means a method of skillful and beneficial treatment by which a physical therapist uses direct thrust to move a joint of the patient's spine beyond its normal range of motion, but without exceeding the limits of anatomical integrity.

(Formerly: Acts 1957, c.198, s.1; Acts 1971, P.L.379, SEC.1.) As

amended by P.L.150-1986, SEC.4; P.L.259-1987, SEC.1; P.L.240-1989, SEC.1; P.L.98-2013, SEC.1.

IC 25-27-1-2
Unlawful practices

Sec. 2. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, it is unlawful for a person to:

(1) practice physical therapy;

(2) profess to be a physical therapist, physiotherapist, or physical therapy technician or to use the initials "P.T.", "P.T.T.", or "R.P.T.", or any other letters, words, abbreviations, or insignia indicating that the person is a physical therapist; or

(3) practice or assume the duties incident to physical therapy;

without first obtaining from the board a license authorizing the person to practice physical therapy in this state.

(b) Except as provided in section 2.5 of this chapter, it is unlawful for a person to practice physical therapy other than upon the order or referral of a physician, podiatrist, psychologist, chiropractor, dentist, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant holding an unlimited license to practice medicine, podiatric medicine, psychology, chiropractic, dentistry, nursing, or as a physician assistant, respectively. It is unlawful for a physical therapist to use the services of a physical therapist's assistant except as provided under this chapter. For the purposes of this subsection, the function of:

(1) teaching;

(2) doing research;

(3) providing advisory services; or

(4) conducting seminars on physical therapy;

is not considered to be a practice of physical therapy.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, it is unlawful for a person to act as a physical therapist's assistant or to use initials, letters, words, abbreviations, or insignia indicating that the person is a physical therapist's assistant without first obtaining from the board a certificate authorizing the person to act as a physical therapist's assistant. It is unlawful for the person to act as a physical therapist's assistant other than under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist who is in responsible charge of a patient or under the direct supervision of a physician. However, nothing in this chapter prohibits a person licensed or registered in this state under another law from engaging in the practice for which the person is licensed or registered. These exempted persons include persons engaged in the practice of osteopathy, chiropractic, or podiatric medicine.

(d) Except as provided in section 2.5 of this chapter, this chapter does not authorize a person who is licensed as a physical therapist or certified as a physical therapist's assistant to:

(1) evaluate any physical disability or mental disorder except upon the order or referral of a physician, podiatrist, psychologist, chiropractor, or dentist;

(2) practice medicine, surgery (as described in

IC 25-22.5-1-1.1(a)(1)(C)), dentistry, optometry, osteopathy, psychology, chiropractic, or podiatric medicine; or

(3) prescribe a drug or other remedial substance used in medicine.

(Formerly: Acts 1957, c.198, s.2; Acts 1971, P.L.379, SEC.2.) As amended by P.L.137-1985, SEC.8; P.L.157-1986, SEC.2; P.L.259-1987, SEC.2; P.L.240-1989, SEC.2; P.L.217-1993, SEC.4; P.L.98-2013, SEC.2.

IC 25-27-1-2.5

Evaluations and treatment without a referral; exceptions

Sec. 2.5. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a physical therapist may evaluate and treat an individual during a period not to exceed twenty-four (24) calendar days beginning with the date of the initiation of treatment without a referral from a provider described in section 2(b) of this chapter. However, if the individual needs additional treatment from the physical therapist after twenty-four (24) calendar days, the physical therapist shall obtain a referral from the individual's provider, as described in section 2(b) of this chapter.

(b) A physical therapist may not perform spinal manipulation of the spinal column or the vertebral column unless:

(1) the physical therapist is acting on the order or referral of a physician, an osteopath, or a chiropractor; and

(2) the referring physician, osteopath, or chiropractor has examined the patient before issuing the order or referral.

As added by P.L.98-2013, SEC.3.

IC 25-27-1-3

Repealed

(Repealed by P.L.150-1986, SEC.14.)

IC 25-27-1-3.1

Practice of certain occupations or professions and first aid not prohibited

Sec. 3.1. This chapter does not prohibit any of the following:

(1) The practice of any occupation or profession for which a person is licensed, certified, or registered in Indiana by a state agency. The persons who are exempted by this subdivision include persons licensed, certified, or registered to practice osteopathy, chiropractic, or podiatric medicine.

(2) The practice of any health care occupation or profession by a person who is practicing within the scope of the person's education and experience.

(3) The performance of any first aid procedure incidental to a person's employment or volunteer duties.

(4) The performance of an emergency first aid procedure by any person.

As added by P.L.150-1986, SEC.5.

IC 25-27-1-3.5

Sharp debridement referral

Sec. 3.5. A physical therapist may not perform sharp debridement unless the physical therapist is acting on the order or referral of a:

(1) physician or osteopath licensed under IC 25-22.5; or

(2) podiatrist licensed under IC 25-29.

As added by P.L.98-2013, SEC.4.

IC 25-27-1-4

Indiana physical therapy committee

Sec. 4. (a) There is created a five (5) member Indiana physical therapy committee to assist the board in carrying out this chapter regarding the qualifications and examinations of physical therapists and physical therapist's assistants. The committee is comprised of:

(1) three (3) physical therapists;

(2) a licensed physician; and

(3) one (1) member who is a resident of the state and who is not associated with physical therapy in any way, other than as a consumer.

(b) The governor shall make each appointment for a term of three (3) years. Each physical therapist appointed must:

(1) be a licensed physical therapist meeting the requirements of this chapter;

(2) have had not less than three (3) years experience in the actual practice of physical therapy immediately preceding appointment; and

(3) be a resident of the state and actively engaged in this state in the practice of physical therapy during incumbency as a member of the committee.

(Formerly: Acts 1957, c.198, s.4; Acts 1971, P.L.379, SEC.3.) As amended by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.195; P.L.150-1986, SEC.6.

IC 25-27-1-5

Determination of qualifications; administration of examinations; standards for competent practice

Sec. 5. (a) The committee shall:

(1) pass upon the qualifications of physical therapists who apply for licensure and physical therapist's assistants who apply for certification;

(2) provide all examinations either directly or by delegation under subsection (c);

(3) determine the applicants who successfully pass examinations;

(4) license qualified applicants; and

(5) propose rules concerning the competent practice of physical therapy to the board.

(b) The board shall adopt rules, considering the committee's proposed rules, establishing standards for the competent practice of physical therapy.

(c) The committee may approve and utilize the services of a testing company or agent to prepare, conduct, and score

examinations.

(d) The board shall adopt rules, considering the committee's proposed rules, concerning a continuing competency requirement for the renewal of a:

(1) license for a physical therapist; and

(2) certificate for a physical therapist's assistant.

(Formerly: Acts 1957, c.198, s.5; Acts 1971, P.L.379, SEC.4.) As amended by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.196; P.L.150-1986, SEC.7; P.L.259-1987, SEC.3; P.L.197-2011, SEC.116.

IC 25-27-1-6
Evidence of qualification

Sec. 6. (a) Each applicant for a license as a physical therapist or certification as a physical therapist's assistant must present satisfactory evidence that the applicant:

(1) does not have a conviction for a crime that has a direct bearing on the applicant's ability to practice competently; and

(2) has not been the subject of a disciplinary action initiated by the licensing agency of another state or jurisdiction on the grounds that the applicant was unable to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist's assistant without endangering the public.

(b) Each applicant for a license as a physical therapist must submit proof to the committee of the applicant's graduation from a school or program of physical therapy that meets standards set by the committee. Each applicant for a certificate as a physical therapist's assistant must present satisfactory evidence that the applicant is a graduate of a two (2) year college level education program for physical therapist's assistants that meets the standards of the committee. At the time of making application, each applicant must pay a fee determined by the board after consideration of any recommendation of the committee.

(c) An applicant may appeal the committee's decision to deny licensure to the committee within fifteen (15) days after the applicant receives notification of the committee's decision. Upon receiving an appeal under this subsection, the committee shall set the matter for an administrative hearing under IC 4-21.5.

(Formerly: Acts 1957, c.198, s.6; Acts 1971, P.L.379, SEC.5.) As amended by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.197; Acts 1982, P.L.113, SEC.66; P.L.150-1986, SEC.8; P.L.149-1987, SEC.78; P.L.152-1988, SEC.23; P.L.33-1993, SEC.48.

IC 25-27-1-7
Examination; reexamination

Sec. 7. (a) All examinations of the applicants for licensure as physical therapists or for certification as physical therapist's assistants shall be held in Indiana at least twice a year.

(b) Examinations shall include a written or computer examination which must test the applicant's knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences as they relate to physical therapy, physical therapy theory

and procedures, and such other subjects as the committee may deem useful to test the applicant's fitness to practice physical therapy or to act as a physical therapist's assistant.

(c) Any qualified applicant who fails an examination and is refused a license or certificate may take another examination within the time limits set by the committee upon payment of an additional fee determined by the board after consideration of any recommendation of the committee.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed as a prohibition against any qualified applicant who has failed an examination from making further application for a license to practice physical therapy or for a certificate to act as a physical therapist's assistant when the application is accompanied by the fee determined by the board after consideration of any recommendation of the committee.

(Formerly: Acts 1957, c.198, s.7; Acts 1971, P.L.379, SEC.6.) As amended by P.L.136-1984, SEC.1; P.L.150-1986, SEC.9; P.L.173-1996, SEC.14.

IC 25-27-1-8

Issuance of license; renewal; reinstatement; temporary nonrenewable permit; retirement from practice

Sec. 8. (a) The committee shall license as a physical therapist each applicant who:

(1) successfully passes the examination provided for in this chapter; and

(2) is otherwise qualified as required by this chapter.

(b) All licenses and certificates issued by the committee expire on the date of each even-numbered year specified by the Indiana professional licensing agency under IC 25-1-5-4. A renewal fee established by the board after consideration of any recommendation of the committee must be paid biennially on or before the date specified by the Indiana professional licensing agency, and if not paid on or before that date, the license or certificate becomes invalid, without further action by the committee. A penalty fee set by the board after consideration of any recommendation of the committee shall be in effect for any reinstatement within three (3) years from the original date of expiration.

(c) An expired license or certificate may be reinstated by the committee up to three (3) years after the expiration date if the holder of the expired license or certificate:

(1) pays a penalty fee set by the board after consideration of any recommendation of the committee; and

(2) pays the renewal fees for the biennium.

If more than three (3) years have elapsed since expiration of the license or certificate, the holder may be reexamined by the committee. The board may adopt, after consideration of any recommendation of the committee, rules setting requirements for reinstatement of an expired license.

(d) The committee may issue not more than two (2) temporary permits to a physical therapist or physical therapist's assistant. A

person with a temporary permit issued under this subsection may practice physical therapy only under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist who is responsible for the patient. A temporary permit may be issued to any person who has paid a fee set by the board after consideration of any recommendation of the committee and who:

(1) has a valid license from another state to practice physical therapy, or has a valid certificate from another state to act as a physical therapist's assistant; or

(2) has applied for and been approved by the committee to take the examination for licensure or certification, has not previously failed the licensure or certification examination in Indiana or any other state, and has:

(A) graduated from a school or program of physical therapy; or

(B) graduated from a two (2) year college level education program for physical therapist's assistants that meets the standards set by the committee.

The applicant must take the examination within the time limits set by the committee.

(e) A temporary permit issued under subsection (d) expires when the applicant becomes licensed or certified, or approved for endorsement licensing or certification by the committee, or when the application for licensure has been disapproved, whichever occurs first. An application for licensure or certification is disapproved and any temporary permit based upon the application expires when the applicant fails to take the examination within the time limits set by the committee or when the committee receives notification of the applicant's failure to pass any required examination in Indiana or any other state.

(f) A holder of a license or certificate under this chapter who intends to retire from practice shall notify the committee in writing. Upon receipt of the notice, the committee shall record the fact that the holder of the license or certificate is retired and release the person from further payment of renewal fees. If a holder of the license or certificate surrenders a license or certificate, reinstatement of the license or certificate may be considered by the committee upon written request. The committee may impose conditions it considers appropriate to the surrender or reinstatement of a surrendered license or certificate. A license or certificate may not be surrendered to the committee without the written consent of the committee if any disciplinary proceedings are pending against a holder of a license or certificate under this chapter.

(Formerly: Acts 1957, c.198, s.8; Acts 1971, P.L.379, SEC.7.) As amended by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.198; P.L.136-1984, SEC.2; P.L.150-1986, SEC.10; P.L.149-1987, SEC.79; P.L.48-1991, SEC.48; P.L.214-1993, SEC.59; P.L.244-1995, SEC.1; P.L.173-1996, SEC.15; P.L.1-2006, SEC.467.

IC 25-27-1-9

Foreign applicants; license or certificate by endorsement; fee

Sec. 9. (a) The committee may register and furnish a license or certify by endorsement any applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the committee of being duly licensed to practice physical therapy or to act as a physical therapist's assistant in another state if the applicant is otherwise qualified as required in section 6 of this chapter. However, the committee shall register and furnish a license or certificate by endorsement to any applicant who is licensed to practice physical therapy or to act as a physical therapist's assistant in another state if:

(1) the applicant is otherwise qualified as required under section 6(a) and 6(b) of this chapter; and

(2) the applicant has successfully passed a licensure examination in another state equal to or exceeding the examination standards of Indiana.

At the time of making an application, the applicant shall pay a fee determined by the board after consideration of any recommendation of the committee.

(b) The committee may license as a physical therapist or certify as a physical therapist's assistant any person who has graduated as a physical therapist or physical therapist's assistant, whichever is appropriate, in a foreign country from an educational program approved by the committee if the applicant presents satisfactory evidence to the committee that the applicant:

(1) does not have a conviction for:

(A) an act that would constitute a ground for disciplinary sanction under IC 25-1-9; or

(B) a crime that has a direct bearing on the applicant's ability to practice competently; and

(2) has not been the subject of a disciplinary action initiated by the licensing agency of another state or jurisdiction on the grounds that the applicant was unable to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist's assistant without endangering the public;

and that the applicant has successfully passed the physical therapy licensure or physical therapist's assistant certification examination provided for by this chapter. However, the committee, in evaluating an educational program under this subsection shall approve at least three (3) credential evaluating agencies acceptable to the board for the purpose of evaluating educational programs.

(c) At the time of making an application under subsection (b), the applicant shall pay a fee determined by the board after consideration of any recommendation of the committee.

(Formerly: Acts 1957, c.198, s.9; Acts 1971, P.L.379, SEC.8.) As amended by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.199; Acts 1982, P.L.113, SEC.67; P.L.136-1984, SEC.3; P.L.150-1986, SEC.11; P.L.259-1987, SEC.4; P.L.152-1988, SEC.24; P.L.96-1990, SEC.15; P.L.2-1995, SEC.97; P.L.244-1995, SEC.2.

IC 25-27-1-10

Repealed

(Repealed by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.296.)

IC 25-27-1-10.1
Repealed

(Repealed by P.L.152-1988, SEC.30.)

IC 25-27-1-11
Refund of fees

Sec. 11. The fees collected under this chapter shall under no circumstances be refunded to the applicant.

(Formerly: Acts 1957, c.198, s.11.) As amended by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.201; P.L.150-1986, SEC.13.

IC 25-27-1-12
Violation of chapter; injunction

Sec. 12. A person who violates this chapter commits a Class B misdemeanor. In addition the board may, in the name of the state, through the attorney general, apply in any court to enjoin any person from practicing physical therapy or acting as a physical therapist's assistant, in violation of IC 25-27-1-2.

(Formerly: Acts 1957, c.198, s.12; Acts 1971, P.L.379, SEC.10.) As amended by Acts 1978, P.L.2, SEC.2546.