Are You a Doctor of Physical Therapy?

Many physical therapists now have a doctoral degree. These degrees range from DPTs and DPT(t), to EdD and PhDs. All three physical therapy programs in Indiana grant a DPT as the first clinical degree in physical therapy.

The Physical Therapy Committee has been asked if persons with a doctoral degree may call themselves “Doctor”? Of course the answer is “Yes”, BUT the person must also identify themselves as a physical therapist. This is necessary as it is a violation of the physician's statute to purport to be a physician without a license to practice medicine. It can be quite confusing to patients or clients if a medical person introduces themselves as “Dr. Jane Smith” as patients/clients will naturally assume that the individual is a medical physician.

So, if you have your doctoral degree you must make sure that everyone understands that you are a doctor of physical therapy and not a medical doctor when you make an introduction. This should also apply to all medical settings, telephone conversations, as well as social settings, so that there is no chance that people can assume that the “doctor” has a medical degree. Obviously it is not necessary to use your doctoral degree unless you wish to do so, but as an increasing number of physical therapists have doctoral degrees, it becomes very important that the general public understand the difference between physical therapists and medical physicians.

Mary Bennett, P.T., Chair
Indiana Physical Therapy Committee
Physical Therapy News

November 2011

Helpful Links:
- FSBPT: [https://www.fsbpt.org](https://www.fsbpt.org)
- INAPTA: [http://www.inapta.org](http://www.inapta.org)
- APTA: [http://www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)

Disciplinary Action:
A list of board disciplinary actions may be found on our license litigation system at [http://www.in.gov/ai/appfiles/pla-litigation/](http://www.in.gov/ai/appfiles/pla-litigation/)

Free online licensure look-ups may be obtained at [https://extranet.in.gov/WebLookup/Search.aspx](https://extranet.in.gov/WebLookup/Search.aspx). This is a real time database and is the best resource for accurate data.

FSBPT Fixed Date Testing:
- **2011 NPTE-PT:**
  - December 5
- **2012 NPTE-PT:**
  - January 30
  - March 29
  - July 2
  - July 31
  - October 23
- **2012 NPTE-PTA:**
  - April 26
  - July 17
  - October 30

Newsletter Schedule:
- March
- July
- November

What’s Happening in your Profession?

- The Indiana PT Committee is in the final stages of drafting its [continuing competency rules](http://www.in.gov/pla/pt.htm). Continue watching our website at [http://www.in.gov/pla/pt.htm](http://www.in.gov/pla/pt.htm) for more information on the public hearing before the Medical Licensing Board.

- **2012 Annual Meeting & Delegate Assembly** for the FSBPT will be held in Indianapolis, IN and hosted by the Indiana Physical Therapy Committee. This meeting will be held at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown at 350 W. Maryland Street on September 20-22, 2012.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. I would like to renew my license which has been expired for more than three years.

A. The following is required by the committee for a licensee who has allowed their license to be expired over three years:

- Complete a new application (including passport quality photos).
- $200.00 renewal and reinstatement fee.
- Official transcripts sent directly from the granting institution.
- Verification of licensure from every state where you are or have been licensed.
- Resume/letter documenting professional and personal experiences since the license lapsed.
- A licensee whose license was expired for greater than three years and who has not actively practiced physical therapy in another state/jurisdiction may be required to retake the NPTE/ NPTE-PTA exam prior to reinstatement being granted.

This newsletter is offered as an information service and is not intended as legal advice. Anyone seeking licensure in a physical therapy related capacity uncertain of their legal standing should seek the advice of legal counsel. Information presented here was originally developed by the Indiana Physical Therapy Committee and can be copied and distributed without copyright restriction.
CMS Delays Enforcement of Version 5010 for 3 Months:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has delayed enforcement of Version 5010 transaction standards used for electronic health care claims for 90 days. January 1, 2012, remains the official deadline to adopt Version 5010. However, CMS will wait until March 31, 2012, to begin enforcing the new standards.

Implementation of Version 5010 is a prerequisite for using the updated ICD-10 CM diagnosis and ICD-10-PCS inpatient procedure code set in electronic health care transactions effective October 1, 2013. CMS' Office of E-Health Standards and Services (OESS) encourages all covered entities to work to become compliant with the new standards and to determine their readiness to accept the new standards as of January 1, 2012. While enforcement action will not be taken, OESS will accept complaints associated with compliance with Version 5010 transaction standards during the 90-day period beginning January 1, 2012. If requested by OESS, covered entities that are the subject of complaints must produce evidence of either compliance or a good faith effort to become compliant with the new standards during the 90-day period.

OESS is delaying the enforcement period based on industry feedback revealing that, with only about 45 days remaining before the January 1, 2012, compliance date, the number of submitters, the volume of transactions, and other testing data used as indicators of the industry’s readiness to comply with the new standards have been low across some industry sectors. OESS also has received reports that many covered entities are still awaiting software upgrades.

To help providers prepare for implementation of Version 5010 and ICD 10 code sets, CMS recently released several new resources, including enforcement FAQs, Version 5010 and ICD-10 transition basics fact sheets, a Version 5010 readiness fact sheet, and a timeline widget.

Sign up for industry e-mail updates and receive news and information about new resources to help ensure smooth transitions to Version 5010 and ICD-10.

Posted by APTA News Now Staff