

FINAL REGULATIONS

Board of Physical Therapy

Title of Regulations: 18 VAC 112-20-10 et seq. Regulations Governing the Practice of Physical Therapy

Statutory Authority: §§ 54.1-2400 and 54.1-3473 through 54.1-3483 of the Code of Virginia

Effective Date:

Summary: These regulations protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth by establishing educational and examination requirements, renewal and reinstatement requirements, and practice standards.

PART I.

General Provisions.

18 VAC 112-20-10. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Approved program" means an educational program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association.

"Board" means the Virginia Board of Physical Therapy.

"CLEP" means the College Level Examination Program.

"Direct supervision" means a physical therapist is present and is fully responsible for the activities performed by the non-licensed physical therapy personnel.

"Evaluation" means the carrying out by a physical therapist of the sequential process of assessing a patient, planning the patient's physical therapy treatment program, and recording appropriate documentation.

“*FCCPT*” means the Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy.

"*General supervision*" means a physical therapist shall be available for consultation.

“*Non-licensed personnel*” means any individual not licensed or certified by a health regulatory board within the Department of Health Professions who is performing patient care functions at the direction of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant within the scope of this chapter.

"*Physical therapist*" means a person qualified by education and training to administer a physical therapy program ~~under the direction of a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, podiatry, or dental surgery.~~

"*Physical therapist assistant*" means a person qualified by education and training to perform physical therapy functions under the supervision of and as directed by a physical therapist.

~~"*Referral and direction*" means the referral of a patient by a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, podiatry, or dental surgery to a physical therapist for a specific purpose and for consequent treatment that will be performed under the direction of and in continuing communication with the referring doctor.~~

"*TOEFL*" means the Test of English as a Foreign Language.

"*Trainee*" means a person undergoing a traineeship.

1. "*Foreign educated trainee*" means a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who graduated from a school not approved by an accrediting agency recognized by the board and who is seeking licensure to practice in Virginia.
2. "*Inactive practice trainee*" means a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who has previously been licensed and has not practiced for at least 320 hours within the past four years and who is seeking licensure or relicensure in Virginia.
3. "*Unlicensed graduate trainee*" means a graduate of an approved physical therapist or physical therapist assistant program who has not taken the state licensure examination or who has taken the examination but not yet received a license from the board.

"*Traineeship*" means a period of full time activity during which an unlicensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant works under the direct supervision of a physical therapist approved by the board.

PART V.

Practice of Physical Therapists.

18 VAC 112-20-90. Individual responsibilities to patients.

The physical therapist's responsibilities are to evaluate a patient, plan the treatment program, administer and document treatment within the limit of his professional knowledge, judgment and skills and communicate with the referring doctor of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, podiatry, or dental surgery to the extent required by § 54.1-3482 of the Code of Virginia.

Certification

I certify that this regulation is full, true, and correctly dated.

Elizabeth Young Tisdale
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Physical Therapy

Date: _____