

CHAPTER 200

LICENSURE OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AND PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS

[Prior to 3/6/02, see 645—200.3(147) to 645—200.8(147), 645—200.11(272C), and 645—202.3(147) to 645—202.7(147)]

[Prior to 12/24/03, see 645—ch 201]

645—200.1(147) Definitions. For purposes of these rules, the following definitions shall apply:

“*Active license*” means a license that is current and has not expired.

“*Assistive personnel*” means any person who carries out physical therapy and is not licensed as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. This definition does not include students as defined in Iowa Code section 148A.3(2).

“*Board*” means the board of physical and occupational therapy.

“*Department*” means the department of public health.

“*Grace period*” means the 30-day period following expiration of a license when the license is still considered to be active. In order to renew a license during the grace period, a licensee is required to pay a late fee.

“*Impairment*” means a mechanical, physiological or developmental loss or abnormality, a functional limitation, or a disability or other health- or movement-related condition.

“*Inactive license*” means a license that has expired because it was not renewed by the end of the grace period. The category of “inactive license” may include licenses formerly known as lapsed, inactive, delinquent, closed, or retired.

“*Licensee*” means any person licensed to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in the state of Iowa.

“*License expiration date*” means the fifteenth day of the birth month every two years after initial licensure.

“*Licensure by endorsement*” means the issuance of an Iowa license to practice physical therapy to an applicant who is or has been licensed in another state.

“*Mandatory training*” means training on identifying and reporting child abuse or dependent adult abuse required of physical therapists or physical therapist assistants who are mandatory reporters. The full requirements on mandatory reporting of child abuse and the training requirements are found in Iowa Code section 232.69. The full requirements on mandatory reporting of dependent adult abuse and the training requirements are found in Iowa Code section 235B.16.

“*On site*” means:

1. To be continuously on site and present in the department or facility where assistive personnel are performing services;
2. To be immediately available to assist the person being supervised in the services being performed; and
3. To provide continued direction of appropriate aspects of each treatment session in which a component of treatment is delegated to assistive personnel.

“*Physical therapist*” means a person licensed under this chapter to practice physical therapy.

“*Physical therapist assistant*” means a person licensed under this chapter to assist in the practice of physical therapy.

“*Physical therapy*” means that branch of science that deals with the evaluation and treatment of human capabilities and impairments, including:

1. Evaluation of individuals with impairments in order to determine a diagnosis, prognosis, and plan of therapeutic treatment and intervention, and to assess the ongoing effects of intervention;
2. Use of the effective properties of physical agents and modalities, including but not limited to mechanical and electrotherapeutic devices, heat, cold, air, light, water, electricity, and sound, to prevent, correct, minimize, or alleviate an impairment;
3. Use of therapeutic exercises to prevent, correct, minimize, or alleviate an impairment;
4. Use of rehabilitative procedures to prevent, correct, minimize, or alleviate an impairment, including but not limited to the following procedures:
 - Manual therapy, including soft-tissue and joint mobilization and manipulation;

- Therapeutic massage;
 - Prescription, application, and fabrication of assistive, adaptive, orthotic, prosthetic, and supportive devices and equipment;
 - Airway clearance techniques;
 - Integumentary protection and repair techniques; and
 - Debridement and wound care;
5. Interpretation of performances, tests, and measurements;
 6. The establishment and modification of physical therapy programs;
 7. The establishment and modification of treatment planning;
 8. The establishment and modification of consultive services;
 9. The establishment and modification of instructions to the patient, including but not limited to functional training relating to movement and mobility;
 10. Participation, administration and supervision attendant to physical therapy and educational programs and facilities.

“PT” means physical therapist.

“PTA” means physical therapist assistant.

“Reactivate” or “reactivation” means the process as outlined in rule 200.15(17A,147,272C) by which an inactive license is restored to active status.

“Reciprocal license” means the issuance of an Iowa license to practice physical therapy to an applicant who is currently licensed in another state which has a mutual agreement with the Iowa board of physical and occupational therapy to license persons who have the same or similar qualifications to those required in Iowa.

“Reinstatement” means the process as outlined in 645—11.31(272C) by which a licensee who has had a license suspended or revoked or who has voluntarily surrendered a license may apply to have the license reinstated, with or without conditions. Once the license is reinstated, the licensee may apply for active status.

645—200.2(147) Requirements for licensure. The following criteria shall apply to licensure:

200.2(1) The applicant shall complete a board-approved application packet. Application forms may be obtained from the board’s Web site (<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure>) or directly from the board office. All applications shall be sent to Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy, Professional Licensure Division, Fifth Floor, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075.

200.2(2) The applicant shall complete the application form according to the instructions contained in the application. If the application is not completed according to the instructions, the application will not be reviewed by the board.

200.2(3) Each application shall be accompanied by the appropriate fees payable by check or money order to the Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy. The fees are nonrefundable.

200.2(4) No application will be considered by the board until official copies of academic transcripts sent directly from the school to the board of physical and occupational therapy have been received by the board. An applicant shall have successfully completed a physical therapy education program accredited by a national accreditation agency approved by the board.

200.2(5) Notification of eligibility for the examination shall be sent to the applicant by the board.

200.2(6) The candidate shall have the examination score sent directly from the testing service to the board.

200.2(7) Licensees who were issued their initial licenses within six months prior to the renewal date shall not be required to renew their licenses until the renewal date two years later.

200.2(8) Incomplete applications that have been on file in the board office for more than two years shall be:

- a. Considered invalid and shall be destroyed; or
- b. Maintained upon written request of the candidate. The candidate is responsible for requesting that the file be maintained.

645—200.3(147) Requirements for practice prior to licensure. Rescinded IAB 12/19/07, effective 1/23/08.

645—200.4(147) Examination requirements for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. The following criteria shall apply to the written examination(s):

200.4(1) The applicant shall take and pass the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) or other nationally recognized equivalent examination as defined by the board.

200.4(2) The applicant shall abide by the following criteria:

a. For examinations taken prior to July 1, 1994, satisfactory completion shall be defined as receiving an overall examination score exceeding 1.5 standard deviations below the national average.

b. For examinations completed after July 1, 1994, satisfactory completion shall be defined as receiving an overall examination score equal to or greater than the criterion-referenced passing point recommended by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.

200.4(3) Before the board may approve an applicant for testing beyond three attempts, an applicant shall reapply for licensure and shall demonstrate evidence satisfactory to the board of having successfully completed additional clinical training or coursework, or both.

200.4(4) The applicant shall be notified by the board in writing of examination results.

645—200.5(147) Educational qualifications.

200.5(1) The applicant must present proof of meeting the following requirements for licensure as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant:

a. Educational requirements—physical therapists. Physical therapists shall graduate from a physical therapy program accredited by a national accreditation agency approved by the board.

(1) If the degree is granted on or before January 31, 2004, the degree must be equivalent to at least a baccalaureate degree. The baccalaureate program shall consist of a minimum of 60 hours of general education and 60 hours of professional education.

(2) If the degree is granted on or after February 1, 2004, the degree must be equivalent to a postbaccalaureate degree.

b. Educational requirements—physical therapist assistants. Physical therapist assistants shall graduate from a PTA program accredited by a national accreditation agency approved by the board.

200.5(2) Foreign-trained applicants shall:

a. Submit an English translation and an equivalency evaluation of their educational credentials through the following organization: Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy, Inc., 124 West Street South, Third Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314; telephone (703)684-8406; Web site www.fccpt.org. The credentials of foreign-educated physical therapist licensure applicants should be evaluated using the version of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) Coursework Evaluation Tool (CWT) that covers the date the applicant graduated from the applicant's respective physical therapy education program. A credentialing agency should use the version for the CWT that coincides with the professional educational criteria that were in effect on the date the applicant graduated from the applicant's respective physical therapy education program. This same process should be used for first-time licensees and for those seeking licensure through endorsement. The professional curriculum must be equivalent to the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education standards. An applicant shall bear the expense of the curriculum evaluation.

b. Submit certified proof of proficiency in the English language by achieving on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (IBT-TOEFL) a total score of at least 89 on the Internet-based TOEFL as well as accompanying minimum scores in the four test components as follows: 24 in writing; 26 in speaking; 21 in reading comprehension; and 18 in listening comprehension. This examination is administered by Educational Testing Services, Inc., P.O. Box 6157, Princeton, NJ 08541-6157. An applicant shall bear the expense of the TOEFL examination. Applicants may be exempt from the TOEFL examination when the native language is English, physical therapy education was completed in a school approved by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), language of instruction in

physical therapy was English, language of the textbooks was English, and the applicant's transcript was in English.

c. Submit an official statement from each country's or territory's board of examiners or other regulatory authority regarding the status of the applicant's license, including issue date, expiration date and information regarding any pending or prior investigations or disciplinary action. The applicants shall request such statements from all entities in which they are currently or formerly licensed.

d. Receive a final determination from the board regarding the application for licensure.

645—200.6(272C) Supervision requirements.

200.6(1) Physical therapist supervisor responsibilities. The supervisor shall:

a. Provide supervision to a PTA.

b. Provide on-site supervision or supervision by telecommunication as long as the physical therapy services are rendered in accordance with the minimum frequency standards set forth in subrule 200.6(4).

c. Assume responsibility for all delegated tasks and shall not delegate a service which exceeds the expertise of the PTA.

d. Provide evaluation and development of a treatment plan for use by the PTA.

e. Supervise not more than the equivalent of two full-time PTAs, not to exceed four part-time PTAs, who are providing physical therapy per calendar day, including supervision by telecommunication.

f. Rescinded IAB 12/19/07, effective 1/23/08.

g. Ensure that a PTA under the PT's supervision has a current license to practice as a PTA.

h. Rescinded IAB 12/19/07, effective 1/23/08.

i. Ensure that the signature of a PTA on a physical therapy treatment record indicates that the physical therapy services were provided in accordance with the rules and regulations for practicing as a PTA.

200.6(2) The following are functions that only a physical therapist may provide and cannot be delegated to a PTA:

a. Interpretation of referrals;

b. Initial physical therapy evaluation and reevaluations;

c. Identification, determination or modification of patient problems, goals, and care plans;

d. Final discharge evaluation and establishment of the discharge plan;

e. Assurance of the qualifications of all assistive personnel to perform assigned tasks through written documentation of their education or training that is maintained and available at all times;

f. Delegation of and instruction in the services to be rendered by the PTA or other assistive personnel including, but not limited to, specific tasks or procedures, precautions, special problems, and contraindicated procedures; and

g. Timely review of documentation, reexamination of the patient and revision of the plan when indicated.

200.6(3) Supervision of other assistive personnel. PTs are responsible for patient care provided by assistive personnel under their supervision. Physical therapy aides and other assistive personnel shall not provide independent patient care unless each of the following standards is satisfied:

a. The supervising PT has physical participation in the patient's treatment or evaluation, or both, each treatment day;

b. The assistive personnel may provide independent patient care only while under the on-site supervision of the supervising PT;

c. Documentation made in physical therapy records by unlicensed assistive personnel shall be cosigned by the supervising PT; and

d. The PT provides periodic reevaluation of assistive personnel's performance in relation to the patient.

200.6(4) The PT must provide patient evaluation and participate in treatment based upon the health care admission or residency status of the patient being treated. Participation shall include direct client contact according to the following schedule:

<u>Patient's Health Care Residency or Admission Status</u>	<u>Maximum of Physical Therapist Delegation (whichever comes first)</u>
Hospital, acute care	3 visits or 2 consecutive calendar days
Hospital, non-CARF	3 visits or 2 consecutive calendar days
Hospital, CARF-accredited beds	4 visits or 4 consecutive calendar days
Skilled nursing	4 visits or 7 consecutive calendar days
Home health	4 visits or 9 consecutive calendar days
Nursing facility	9 visits or 9 consecutive calendar days
Iowa educational agency	4 visits or 29 consecutive calendar days
Other facility/admissions status	4 visits or 9 consecutive calendar days

Calendar days include weekends and holidays.

200.6(5) Physical therapist assistant responsibilities. The physical therapist assistant:

- a.* Shall provide only those services for which the PTA has the skills necessary and shall consult the supervising physical therapist if the procedures are believed not to be in the best interest of the patient;
- b.* Shall gather data relating to the patient's disability, but not interpret the data as it pertains to the plan of care;
- c.* Shall communicate any change, or lack of change, which occurs in the patient's condition and which may need the assessment of the PT;
- d.* Shall provide physical therapy services only under the supervision of the physical therapist;
- e.* Shall provide treatment only after evaluation and development of a treatment plan by the physical therapist;
- f.* Shall refer inquiries that require interpretation of patient information to the physical therapist;
- g.* May have on-site or immediate telecommunicative supervision as long as the physical therapy services are rendered in accordance with the minimum frequency standards set forth in subrule 200.6(4); and

- h.* May receive supervision from any number of physical therapists.

- i.* Shall record on every patient chart the name of the PTA's supervisor for each treatment session.

The signature of a PTA on a physical therapy treatment record indicates that the physical therapy services were provided in accordance with the rules and regulations for practicing as a PTA.

200.6(6) Other assistive personnel. Physical therapy aides and other assistive personnel may assist a PTA in providing patient care in the absence of a PT only if the PTA maintains in-sight supervision of the physical therapy aide or other assistive personnel and the PTA is primarily and significantly involved in that patient's care.

645—200.7(147) Licensure by endorsement.

200.7(1) An applicant who has been a licensed PT or PTA under the laws of another jurisdiction shall file an application for licensure by endorsement with the board office. The board may receive by endorsement any applicant from the District of Columbia or another state, territory, province or foreign country who:

- a.* Submits to the board a completed application;
- b.* Pays the licensure fee;
- c.* Shows evidence of licensure requirements that are similar to those required in Iowa;
- d.* Submits a copy of the scores from the appropriate professional examination to be sent directly from the examination service to the board;
- e.* Provides official copies of the academic transcripts sent directly from the school to the board; and
- f.* Provides verification of license(s) from every jurisdiction in which the applicant has been licensed, sent directly from the jurisdiction(s) to the board office. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification direct from the jurisdiction's board office if the verification provides:

- (1) Licensee's name;

- (2) Date of initial licensure;
- (3) Current licensure status; and
- (4) Any disciplinary action taken against the license.

200.7(2) In addition to the requirements of 200.7(1), a physical therapist applicant shall:

- a.* Have completed 40 hours of board-approved continuing education during the immediately preceding two-year period; or
- b.* Have practiced as a licensed physical therapist for a minimum of 2,080 hours during the immediately preceding two-year period; or
- c.* Have served the equivalent of one year as a full-time faculty member teaching physical therapy in an accredited school of physical therapy for at least one of the immediately preceding two years; or
- d.* Have successfully passed the examination within a period of one year from the date of examination to the time application is completed for licensure.

200.7(3) In addition to the requirements of 200.7(1), a physical therapist assistant applicant shall:

- a.* Have completed 20 hours of board-approved continuing education during the immediately preceding two-year period; or
- b.* Have practiced as a licensed physical therapist assistant for a minimum of 2,080 hours during the immediately preceding two-year period; or
- c.* Have successfully passed the examination for physical therapist assistants within a period of one year from the date of examination to the time application for licensure is completed.

200.7(4) Individuals who were issued their licenses by endorsement within six months of the license renewal date will not be required to renew their licenses until the next renewal two years later.

200.7(5) An applicant for licensure under subrule 200.7(1) must include with this application a sworn statement of previous physical therapy practice from an employer or professional associate, detailing places and dates of employment and verifying that the applicant has practiced physical therapy at least 2,080 hours or taught as the equivalent of a full-time faculty member for at least one of the immediately preceding years during the last two-year time period.

200.7(6) Foreign-trained applicants applying for licensure by endorsement shall also meet the requirements outlined in subrule 200.5(2).

645—200.8(147) Licensure by reciprocal agreement. The board may enter into a reciprocal agreement with the District of Columbia or any state, territory, province or foreign country with equal or similar requirements for licensure of physical therapists or physical therapist assistants.

645—200.9(147) License renewal.

200.9(1) The biennial license renewal period for a license to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant shall begin on the sixteenth day of the birth month and end on the fifteenth day of the birth month two years later. The board shall send a renewal notice by regular mail to each licensee at the address on record at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the license. The licensee is responsible for renewing the license prior to its expiration. Failure of the licensee to receive the notice does not relieve the licensee of the responsibility for renewing the license.

200.9(2) An individual who was issued a license within six months of the license renewal date will not be required to renew the license until the subsequent renewal two years later.

200.9(3) A licensee seeking renewal shall:

- a.* Meet the continuing education requirements of rule 645—203.2(148A) and the mandatory reporting requirements of subrule 200.9(4). A licensee whose license was reactivated during the current renewal compliance period may use continuing education credit earned during the compliance period for the first renewal following reactivation; and

- b.* Submit the completed renewal application and renewal fee before the license expiration date.

200.9(4) Mandatory reporter training requirements.

- a.* A licensee who in the scope of professional practice regularly examines, attends, counsels or treats children in Iowa shall indicate on the renewal application completion of two hours of training

in child abuse identification and reporting in the previous five years of condition(s) for waiver of this requirement as identified in paragraph “e.”

b. A licensee who in the scope of professional practice regularly examines, attends, counsels or treats adults in Iowa shall indicate on the renewal application completion of two hours of training in dependent adult abuse identification and reporting in the previous five years or condition(s) for waiver of this requirement as identified in paragraph “e.”

c. A licensee who in the scope of professional practice regularly examines, attends, counsels or treats both adults and children in Iowa shall indicate on the renewal application completion of training in abuse identification and reporting for dependent adults and children in the previous five years or condition(s) for waiver of this requirements as identified in paragraph “e.”

Training may be completed through separate courses as identified in paragraphs “a” and “b” or in one combined two-hour course that includes curricula for identifying and reporting child abuse and dependent adult abuse. The course shall be a curriculum approved by the Iowa department of public health abuse education review panel.

d. The licensee shall maintain written documentation for five years after mandatory training as identified in paragraphs “a” to “c,” including program date(s), content, duration, and proof of participation.

e. The requirement for mandatory training for identifying and reporting child and dependent adult abuse shall be suspended if the board determines that suspension is in the public interest or that a person at the time of license renewal:

(1) Is engaged in active duty in the military service of this state or the United States.

(2) Holds a current waiver by the board based on evidence of significant hardship in complying with training requirements, including an exemption of continuing education requirements or extension of time in which to fulfill requirements due to a physical or mental disability or illness as identified in 645—Chapter 203.

f. The board may select licensees for audit of compliance with the requirements in paragraphs “a” to “e.”

200.9(5) Upon receiving the information required by this rule and the required fee, board staff shall administratively issue a two-year license and shall send the licensee a wallet card by regular mail. In the event the board receives adverse information on the renewal application, the board shall issue the renewal license but may refer the adverse information for further consideration or disciplinary investigation.

200.9(6) Persons licensed to practice as physical therapists or physical therapist assistants shall keep their renewal licenses displayed in a conspicuous public place at the primary site of practice.

200.9(7) Late renewal. The license shall become a late license when the license has not been renewed by the expiration date on the wallet card. The licensee shall be assessed a late fee as specified in 645—subrule 204.1(4). To renew a late license, the licensee shall complete the renewal requirements and submit the late fee within the grace period.

200.9(8) Inactive license. A licensee who fails to renew the license by the end of the grace period has an inactive license. A licensee whose license is inactive continues to hold the privilege of licensure in Iowa, but may not practice as a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant in Iowa until the license is reactivated. A licensee who practices as a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant in the state of Iowa with an inactive license may be subject to disciplinary action by the board, injunctive action pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.83, criminal sanctions pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.86, and other available legal remedies.

645—200.10(272C) Exemptions for inactive practitioners. Rescinded IAB 9/14/05, effective 10/19/05.

645—200.11(272C) Lapsed licenses. Rescinded IAB 9/14/05, effective 10/19/05.

645—200.12(147) Duplicate certificate or wallet card.

200.12(1) A duplicate wallet card or duplicate certificate shall be required if the current wallet card or certificate is lost, stolen or destroyed. A duplicate wallet card or a duplicate certificate shall be issued only under such circumstances.

200.12(2) A duplicate wallet card or duplicate certificate shall be issued upon receipt of a completed application for a duplicate license and payment of the fee as specified in rule 645—204.1(147,148A).

200.12(3) If the board receives the completed application for a duplicate license stating that the wallet card or certificate was not received within 60 days after being mailed by the board, no fee shall be required for issuing the duplicate wallet card or duplicate certificate.

645—200.13(147) Reissued certificate or wallet card. The board shall reissue a certificate or current wallet card upon receipt of a written request from the licensee, return of the original document and payment of the fee as specified in rule 645—204.1(147,148A).

645—200.14(17A,147,272C) License denial.

200.14(1) When the board denies an applicant licensure, the board shall notify the applicant of the denial in writing by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in the manner of service of an original notice, and shall cite the reasons for which the application was denied.

200.14(2) An applicant who has been denied licensure by the board may appeal the denial and request a hearing on the issues related to the licensure denial by serving a written notice of appeal and request for hearing upon the board by certified mail, return receipt requested, not more than 30 days following the date of mailing of the notification of licensure denial to the applicant. The request for hearing shall specifically describe the facts to be contested and determined at the hearing.

200.14(3) If an applicant who has been denied licensure by the board appeals the licensure denial and requests a hearing pursuant to this rule, the hearing and subsequent procedures shall be held pursuant to the process outlined in Iowa Code chapters 17A and 272C and 645—Chapter 11.

645—200.15(17A,147,272C) License reactivation. To apply for reactivation of an inactive license, a licensee shall:

200.15(1) Submit a reactivation application on a form provided by the board.

200.15(2) Pay the reactivation fee that is due as specified in 645—Chapter 204.

200.15(3) Provide verification of current competence to practice physical therapy by satisfying one of the following criteria:

a. If the license has been on inactive status for five years or less, an applicant must provide the following:

(1) Verification of the license(s) from every jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has been licensed and is or has been practicing during the time period the Iowa license was inactive, sent directly from the jurisdiction(s) to the board office. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification from a jurisdiction's board office if the verification includes:

1. Licensee's name;
2. Date of initial licensure;
3. Current licensure status; and
4. Any disciplinary action taken against the license; and

(2) Verification of completion of 20 hours of continuing education for a physical therapy assistant and 40 hours of continuing education for a physical therapist within two years of application for reactivation.

b. If the license has been on inactive status for more than five years, an applicant must provide the following:

(1) Verification of the license(s) from every jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has been licensed and is or has been practicing during the time period the Iowa license was inactive, sent directly from the jurisdiction(s) to the board office. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification from a jurisdiction's board office if the verification includes:

1. Licensee's name;
 2. Date of initial licensure;
 3. Current licensure status; and
 4. Any disciplinary action taken against the license; and
- (2) Verification of completion of 40 hours of continuing education for a physical therapy assistant and 80 hours of continuing education for a physical therapist within two years of application for reactivation; or evidence of successful completion of the professional examination required for initial licensure completed within one year prior to the submission of an application for reactivation.

645—200.16(17A,147,272C) License reinstatement. A licensee whose license has been revoked, suspended, or voluntarily surrendered must apply for and receive reinstatement of the license in accordance with 645—11.31(272C) and must apply for and be granted reactivation of the license in accordance with 200.15(17A,147,272C) prior to practicing physical therapy in this state.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A, 147, 148A and 272C.

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[◇] Two or more ARCs