

CHAPTER 25
PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

33-25-101. Definitions.

(a) As used in this act:

(i) "Physical therapy" or "physiotherapy" means the care and services provided by or under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist or physiotherapist who is licensed pursuant to this act. The practice of physical therapy includes:

(A) Examining, evaluating and testing persons with mechanical, physiological or developmental impairments, functional limitations, disabilities or other health or movement related conditions to determine a physical therapy diagnosis, prognosis or plan of treatment and assessing the ongoing effects of intervention;

(B) Alleviating impairments, functional limitations or disabilities by designing, implementing or modifying treatment interventions that may include but are not limited to:

(I) Therapeutic exercise;

(II) Functional activities in the home;

(III) Community or work integration or reintegration;

(IV) Manual therapy, which includes mobilization and grades I through IV manipulation of joints and soft tissue but does not include grade V manipulations without completion of advanced training requirements as determined by the board;

(V) Therapeutic massage;

(VI) Prescription, application or fabrication of appropriate assistive, adaptive, protective or supportive devices or equipment;

(VII) Airway clearance techniques;

(VIII) Integumentary protection or repair techniques;

(IX) Wound care;

(X) Application of physical agents or modalities;

(XI) Mechanical modalities;

(XII) Patient related instruction.

(C) Reducing the risk of injury, impairment, functional limitation or disability, including the promotion and maintenance of fitness, health and wellness.

(ii) "Physical therapist" or "physiotherapist" means a person who is licensed to practice physical therapy pursuant to this act;

(iii) "Board" means the Wyoming board of physical therapy as established under the provisions of this act;

(iv) "Applicant" means any individual who submits a completed application to the board for issuance of a physical therapist license or a physical therapist assistant certificate;

(v) "Physical therapist assistant" means an individual who is certified pursuant to this act and who assists a licensed physical therapist in lawfully delegated components of physical therapy subject to the provisions of this act and rules and regulations of the board;

(vi) "Physical therapy services" means the care and services provided by a licensed physical therapist or a certified physical therapist assistant pursuant to this act;

(vii) "Consultation using telecommunication" means the provision of professional or expert opinion or advice to a physical therapist or other health care provider using telecommunication or computer technology from a distant location. It includes the review or transfer of patient records or related information using audio, video or data communications;

(viii) "Jurisdiction" means the states, districts, territories or possessions of the United States;

(ix) "On site supervision" means the supervising physical therapist or physical therapist assistant is continuously present in the facility where the supervised services are provided, is immediately available to the person being supervised and maintains continued involvement in each treatment session;

(x) "Physical therapy aide" means a person trained under the direction of a licensed physical therapist who performs designated and supervised components of care related to physical therapy;

(xi) "Physical therapy diagnosis" means a systematic examination process that culminates in assigning a diagnostic label identifying the primary dysfunction towards which physical therapy treatment will be directed, but shall not include a medical diagnosis or a diagnosis of disease;

(xii) "This act" means W.S. 33-25-101 through 33-25-116.

33-25-102. Practice of physical therapy; license or certificate required; exceptions; false representations.

(a) No individual shall engage in the practice of physical therapy services nor hold himself out as being able to practice physical therapy in the state of Wyoming unless he is licensed or certified in accordance with the provisions of this act and such license or certificate is in good standing and has not been suspended or revoked, except nothing in this act shall:

(i) Prohibit any individual licensed in Wyoming under any other act from engaging in the practice for which he is licensed;

(ii) Prohibit students who are enrolled in educational courses of physical therapy at schools recognized by the board from performing acts of physical therapy incidental to their respective courses of study while under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist who is in compliance with subsection (c) of this section;

(iii) Apply to any individual employed by an agency, bureau or division of the federal government while in the discharge of official duties;

(iv) Repealed By Laws 2009, Ch. 165, § 2.

(b) No individual or business entity shall use in connection with his name or business, the words physical therapy, physical therapist, physiotherapy, physiotherapist, registered physical therapist, licensed physical therapist, doctor of physical therapy or the letters P.T., L.P.T., R.P.T., D.P.T., M.P.T., M.S.P.T. or any other words, letters, abbreviations or insignia indicating or implying directly or indirectly that physical therapy is provided or supplied in any manner unless the person is a physical therapist licensed to practice in accordance with this act. No individual or business entity shall use the title physical therapist assistant, the letters P.T.A. or any other words, abbreviations or insignia in connection with his name to indicate or imply that the person is a physical therapist assistant unless the person is certified as a physical therapist assistant in accordance with this act.

(c) Except as provided in this subsection, a physical therapist with a master's degree, or a bachelor's degree with five (5) years of clinical experience may initiate physical therapy treatment for a new or recurring injury with or without a prescription from a licensed physician including doctor of osteopathy, podiatrist, advanced practitioner of nursing, dentist, chiropractor or physician assistant. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to preclude a physical therapist from treating a chronic or recurring injury or condition without a prescription, provided that the patient or client was previously diagnosed and prescribed physical therapy treatment within the previous year by a health care provider identified in this subsection and the treatment is directly related to the original prescribed care. Except in an emergency, a physical therapist, without a prescription, is prohibited from initiating physical therapy treatment for children under the age of twelve (12) years, unless the child is to receive physical therapy treatment under an individualized education program or an individualized family services plan. A physical therapist shall refer the patient or client to a licensed physician including doctor of osteopathy, podiatrist, advanced practitioner of nursing, dentist, chiropractor or physician assistant, as appropriate, when:

(i) The physical therapist has reasonable cause to believe symptoms or conditions are present that require services beyond the scope of physical therapy practice;

(ii) Physical therapy is contraindicated; or

(iii) Except for patients or clients participating in general exercise or fitness programs or receiving physical therapy services under an individualized education program or an individualized family services plan, the patient or client has received physical therapy services without a prescription for twelve (12) visits or for a thirty (30) day period, whichever occurs earlier, and further services may be necessary.

(d) Physical therapy aides may perform patient care activities as defined by the board under the on-site supervision of a licensed physical therapist or a certified physical therapist assistant.

(e) Prior to any physical therapy service, the patient or client shall be directed to posted information and delivered a handout explaining:

(i) The education level and degrees held by the treating physical therapist;

(ii) That coverage may not be available through governmental or worker's compensation programs unless prescribed by a physician, physician's assistant, dentist, chiropractor, podiatrist or nurse practitioner; and

(iii) That the patient's or client's insurance may not cover the service.

(f) The following persons are exempt from the licensure and certification requirements of this act:

(i) A person in a professional education program approved by the board who is satisfying supervised clinical education requirements related to the person's physical therapist education while under on-site supervision of a licensed physical therapist;

(ii) A physical therapist who is practicing exclusively through the United States armed services, public health service or veterans administration;

(iii) A physical therapist licensed to practice physical therapy in another jurisdiction while teaching, demonstrating, providing physical therapy in connection with teaching or participating in an educational seminar in Wyoming. An exemption under this paragraph shall not exceed sixty (60) days cumulatively in a calendar year;

(iv) A physical therapist licensed in another jurisdiction who provides consultation using telecommunication;

(v) A physical therapist licensed in another jurisdiction or credentialed in another country who provides therapy to individuals affiliated with or employed by established athletic teams, athletic organizations or performing arts companies temporarily practicing, competing or performing in

the state. An exemption under this paragraph shall not exceed sixty (60) days cumulatively in a calendar year;

(vi) A physical therapist licensed in another jurisdiction who enters this state to provide physical therapy during a public health emergency as declared by the governor pursuant to W.S. 35-4-115(a)(i). Any physical therapist practicing pursuant to this paragraph shall notify the board of the therapist's intent to practice and supply additional information as provided by rules of the board;

(vii) A physical therapist licensed in another jurisdiction who is forced to leave his residence or place of employment due to a declared local, state or national disaster or emergency and who seeks to practice physical therapy in Wyoming. An exemption under this paragraph shall be limited to sixty (60) days following the declaration of disaster or emergency. Any physical therapist practicing pursuant to this paragraph shall notify the board of the therapist's intent to practice and supply additional information as provided by rules of the board.

33-25-103. Board of physical therapy; established; members; terms; removal; compensation.

(a) There is established the Wyoming board of physical therapy which shall consist of three (3) physical therapists licensed pursuant to this act, one (1) public representative and one (1) medical doctor, appointed as follows:

(i) The physical therapist members shall be appointed by the governor. All shall be residents of Wyoming, possess unrestricted licenses to practice physical therapy in this state and have been practicing in this state for not less than three (3) years before appointment;

(ii) A medical doctor shall be appointed to the board by the governor. The medical doctor shall be a practicing physician who has practiced in Wyoming for a period of at least five (5) years immediately preceding the appointment;

(iii) The public member shall be appointed by the governor, shall be a resident of Wyoming and shall have resided in the state for not less than three (3) years.

(b) Terms of office for board members shall be for four (4) years, except that the expiring term of a member shall continue until a successor member has been appointed. Board members shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms. The governor may remove any member as provided in W.S. 9-1-202.

(c) Members of the board shall each receive from the physical therapy account compensation at the salary rate provided in W.S. 28-5-101(d) for each day actually spent in the performance of their board duties along with per diem and mileage as provided in W.S. 33-1-302(a)(vii). Board members shall serve without compensation where there are insufficient monies in the account to pay the compensation.

(d) Vacancies on the board shall be filled in a like manner as are the original appointments, to complete the unexpired term left vacant.

(e) The members shall annually select a president and secretary who shall each serve a one (1) year term of office from the date of election.

(f) The board shall meet at least twice annually and at such other times as the board deems necessary. Action by the board shall be by majority vote. Three (3) members constitute a quorum.

33-25-104. Board of physical therapy; powers and duties generally.

(a) The board shall have the following powers and duties:

(i) Evaluate the qualifications of applicants for licensure and certification, conduct examinations for applicants, issue license or registration certificates to those who meet the requirements established by the board;

(ii) Revoke, suspend, restrict, condition, reprimand, refuse to renew or refuse to issue the license of any physical therapist or the certificate of any physical therapy assistant or applicant pursuant to W.S. 33-25-111;

(iii) Maintain current records listing the name of every licensed physical therapist and certified physical therapist assistant in this state, his business and home address, the date and number of his license or certification and, if known, his area or expertise, professional interest or credentials; (A) Repealed By Laws 2009, Ch. 134, § 3.

(iv) Adopt rules and regulations to implement this act;

(v) Within the limitations provided in W.S. 33-25-113(a), set and from time to time revise fees as necessary to recover the expenses of administering this act;

(vi) Establish procedures for assessing the continuing professional competence of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants, including continuing education requirements that ensure that licensees' knowledge and abilities reflect current practices and technology;

(vii) Conduct investigations, hearings and proceedings concerning alleged violations of this act and board rules and regulations;

(viii) Inspect or duplicate patient medical records which relate to any alleged acts of misconduct, documented in the form of a formal complaint filed with the board, against any license or certificate holder and as authorized by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act for regulatory bodies;

(ix) Report final disciplinary action taken against a license or certificate holder to the extent authorized or required by other state and federal laws.

33-25-105. License and certification requirements; foreign trained applicants.

(a) Application for licensure as a physical therapist shall be made on forms prescribed by the board, presenting to the satisfaction of the board the following:

(i) Evidence through the application or otherwise, as the board deems desirable with due regard to the paramount interests of the public, as to the honesty, truthfulness, integrity and competency of the applicant;

(ii) Evidence of graduation from an accredited program of physical therapy or physical therapy assistant education as set forth in rules and regulations;

(iii) A personal interview if requested by the board; (iv) If not exempted under W.S. 33-25-108, receipt of a passing score on a physical therapy examination as set forth in board rules and regulations.

(b) A physical therapist applicant whose application is based on a diploma issued to him by a physical therapy school outside the United States shall:

(i) Complete the application forms and pay the application fee prescribed by rules of the board;

(ii) Furnish evidence satisfactory to the board of the completion of a physical therapy school resident course of professional instruction substantially equivalent to that required in paragraph (a)(ii) of this section. A professional education program accredited by the same accrediting agency approved by the board for programs within the United States shall be deemed substantially equivalent. In all other instances, "substantially equivalent" means a program that:

(A) Prepares the applicant to engage in the practice of physical therapy without restriction;

(B) Is recognized by the ministry of education of the country in which it is located.

(iii) Undergo a credentials evaluation directed by the board which determines the applicant has met the uniform criteria for educational requirements prescribed by board rules;

(iv) Complete any additional education required by the board;

(v) Pass a board approved English proficiency examination if the applicant's native language is not English;

(vi) If not exempted under W.S. 33-25-108, receive a passing score on an examination approved by the board and prescribed by board rules;

(vii) Attend a personal interview if requested by the board.

(c) An applicant for certification as a physical therapist assistant shall:

(i) Complete the application process including payment of fees;

(ii) Submit proof of graduation from a physical therapist assistant education program accredited by a national accreditation agency approved by the board;

(iii) If not exempted under W.S. 33-25-108, receive a passing score on an examination approved by the board and prescribed by board rules;

(iv) Meet with the board or a subcommittee of the board if requested.

33-25-106. Examinations.

(a) All applicants shall be required to pass an examination prior to their being licensed or certified as provided in this article unless otherwise exempted from examination pursuant to W.S. 33-25-108. The examinations shall be approved by the board.

(b) Repealed By Laws 2009, Ch. 134, § 3.

(c) Repealed By Laws 2009, Ch. 134, § 3.

(d) Repealed By Laws 2009, Ch. 134, § 3.

(e) The physical therapist examination shall be a national examination which tests entry level competence related to physical therapy theory, examination and evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment intervention, prevention and consultation.

(f) The physical therapy assistant examination shall test for requisite knowledge and skills in the technical application of physical therapy.

(g) If the board determines that an applicant has engaged in or attempted to engage in conduct that subverts or undermines the integrity of the examination process, the board may disqualify the applicant from taking or retaking the examination for a specified period of time.

33-25-107. License; certificate of registration.

(a) The board shall issue a license or certificate to each applicant who meets the requirements for licensure or certification without examination or who passes the examination and meets the standards established herein for licensure or certification.

(b) Each individual licensed as a physical therapist in this state is authorized to use the letters "P.T." after his name, and may represent himself to the public as a licensed physical therapist.

(c) Each individual certified as a physical therapist assistant shall be entitled to use the letters "P.T.A." after his name, and may represent himself to the public as a certified physical therapist assistant.

33-25-108. Licensure or certification by endorsement.

(a) The board shall license as a physical therapist or certify as a physical therapist assistant without examination an applicant who:

(i) Submits a complete application for licensure or certification by endorsement including payment of all applicable fees;

(ii) Provides verification that the applicant is licensed or registered without restriction as a physical therapist or licensed, registered or certified without restriction as a physical therapist assistant by another jurisdiction;

(iii) Demonstrates that the requirements for license, registration or certification in the other jurisdiction were, at the date of licensure or registration, substantially equal to the requirements for licensing or certification in this act;

(iv) Has not had any professional discipline and is not subject to any investigation or pending disciplinary action in any other jurisdiction;

(v) Meets with the board or a subcommittee of the board if requested. 33-25-109.
Repealed By Laws 2009, Ch. 134, § 3.

33-25-110. License or certificate expiration and reissuance.

(a) All permanent licenses and certificates issued pursuant to this act shall expire on October 1 of the year next succeeding their issuance.

(b) A license or certificate may be renewed by submitting a timely, sufficient and complete application, payment of the required fee and verification of continuing competence.

(c) A license or certificate which has expired may be reissued upon submission by the applicant of a completed application, payment of fees, demonstration that the applicant meets all current requirements for licensure or certification under this act and verification of continuing competence.

33-25-111. Discipline; denial or suspension of license or certificate; grounds.

(a) The board may revoke, suspend, restrict, condition, reprimand, refuse to issue or refuse to renew the license or certification of any individual who:

(i) Practices physical therapy or acts as a physical therapist assistant in violation of the provisions of this act;

(ii) Has practiced or attempts to practice fraud or deceit in:

(A) Procuring or attempting to procure a license or certificate;

(B) Filing or reporting any health care information, including but not limited to client documentation, agency records or other essential health documents;

(C) Signing any report or record as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant;

(D) Representing authority to practice physical therapy;

(E) Submitting any information or record to the board.

(iii) Commits negligence or incompetence in the practice of physical therapy or engages in any act inconsistent with uniform and reasonable standards of physical therapy practice as defined by board rules and regulations, whether with or without injury to a patient;

(iv) Has been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor that relates adversely to the practice of physical therapy or the ability to practice physical therapy, in the courts of this state, another jurisdiction or another country. As used in this paragraph, conviction includes a finding or verdict of guilt, an admission of guilt, a plea of nolo contendere or a plea agreement where the defendant has pled guilty yet not admitted to all the facts that comprise the crime;

(v) Unlawfully uses or possesses controlled substances, or excessively indulges in the use of alcoholic beverages;

(vi) Has treated or has undertaken to treat human ailments otherwise than by physical therapy as defined in this act;

(vii) Has had his license to practice physical therapy or certification to act as a physical therapist assistant refused, revoked or suspended or has had other disciplinary action taken in another jurisdiction or country;

(viii) Has negligently failed to refer a patient whose condition is beyond the training or ability of the physical therapist to another professional qualified to diagnose or care for the condition;

(ix) Has engaged in any conduct or practice contrary to recognized standards of ethics of the physical therapy profession where the conduct or practice might constitute a danger to the health, safety or welfare of the patient or the public;

(x) Engages directly or indirectly in the division, transferring, assigning, rebating, or refunding of fees received for professional services or profits by means of a credit or other valuable consideration as an unearned commission, discount or gratuity with any person who has referred a patient, or with any relative or business associate of the referring person. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as prohibiting the members of any regularly and properly organized business entity comprised of or including physical therapists from making any division of their total fees among themselves as they determine by contract necessary;

(xi) Has been judged mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction;

(xii) Fails to refer a patient or client or post information as required by W.S. 33-25-102(e);

(xiii) Has knowingly engaged in an act which the license or certificate holder knew was beyond the scope of the individual's license or certificate or performed acts without sufficient education, knowledge or ability to competently apply physical therapy principles and skills;

(xiv) Is unfit or incompetent to practice physical therapy by reason of negligence, habits or other causes including but not limited to inability to exercise reasonable skill and care for patients by reasons of physical disability, mental disability or the use of drugs, narcotics, alcohol, chemicals or other substance that affects mental faculties;

(xv) Knowingly fails to report to the board any violation of this act or rules and regulations of the board; (xvi) Violates any provisions of this act, rules and regulations of the board or lawfully issued disciplinary order of the board;

(xvii) Has engaged or attempted to engage in conduct that subverts or undermines the integrity of the examination or the examination process including but not limited to utilizing recalled or memorized examination questions, failing to comply with all test center security procedures, communicating with other examinees during the examination or copying or sharing examination questions or portions of questions;

(xviii) Has failed to maintain adequate patient records that include identification of the patient, evaluation of objective findings, a diagnosis, a plan of care, a treatment record and a discharge plan;

(xix) Has failed to properly supervise physical therapist assistants or physical therapy aides;

(xx) Has engaged in sexual misconduct as defined by the rules and regulations of the board;

(xxi) Has interfered with an investigation or disciplinary proceeding by:

(A) Failing to provide the board with requested information or documents, including patient medical records;

(B) Misrepresentation of material facts;

(C) Threatening, harassing or intimidating any patient, witness or board member during the course of an investigation.

(xxii) Has failed to maintain patient confidentiality, including confidentiality of records relating to consultation by telecommunication, without documented patient authorization or as otherwise required by law.

(b) Upon receipt from the department of family services of a certified copy of an order from a court to withhold, suspend or otherwise restrict a license issued by the board, the board shall notify the party named in the court order of the withholding, suspension or restriction of the license in accordance

with the terms of the court order. No appeal under the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act shall be allowed for a license withheld, suspended or restricted under this subsection.

33-25-112. Hearing and appeal procedures.

(a) All disciplinary actions, denials of applications and hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act.

(b) Except as provided by W.S. 33-25-111(b), all board decisions concerning revocation or suspension of a license or registration shall require an affirmative vote of three (3) board members.

(c) In any appeal procedure the board shall be represented by an attorney from the staff of the attorney general.

33-25-113. Fees.

(a) The board, pursuant to W.S. 33-1-201, shall establish fees for examination, licensure or certification, licensure or certification by endorsement, renewal and reissuance.

(b) All money shall be received and collected as provided by law. The state treasurer shall credit the money to a separate account which is subject at all times to the warrant of the state auditor, drawn upon written requisition of the president, and attested by the secretary of the board of physical therapy, with seal attached, for the payment of any expenses made by the board.

(c) Repealed by Laws 1985, ch. 216, § 3.

33-25-114. Penalties. Each violation of any provision of this act is a misdemeanor and is punishable by fine of not more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00) or by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both.

33-25-115. Actions against board members; defense.

(a) Members, agents and employees of the board and any person reporting information to the board under oath shall be immune from personal liability with respect to acts done and actions taken in good faith without fraud or malice.

(b) The immunity provided by this section shall extend to the members of any professional review committee, investigators and witnesses appearing before the board.

(c) The state shall defend and hold harmless any member of the board from any action at law resulting from any action taken in good faith in the course of his official duties.

33-25-116. Injunctive relief; grounds.

(a) The board may petition in its own name for an injunction to an appropriate court to enjoin:

(i) Any person violating W.S. 33-25-102(a), unless specifically exempt from licensure or certification pursuant to W.S. 33-25-102(f);

(ii) Any license or certificate holder who is in violation of this act from practicing physical therapy;

(iii) Any person, firm, corporation, institution, association, business or other entity from employing any individual to practice physical therapy who is not licensed or certified as required by this act.