

DIVISION 35: CONTINUING EDUCATION

848-035-0010: Purpose

The 2005 Oregon Legislation gave new authority to the Physical Therapist Licensing Board, effective January 1, 2006, to adopt rules establishing minimum continuing education requirements for all licensees. The following rules set out the new requirements.

848-035-0015: Definitions

As used in this Division:

(1) “Certification period” means a 24 month continuing education certification period which runs from April 1st of each even numbered year, through March 31st of the next even numbered year, i.e. April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2010.

(2) “Initial Certification Period” means January 1, 2006 through March 31, 2008.

848-035-0020: Required Hours and Period for Completion

(1) A licensed physical therapist is required within each certification period to complete 24 hours of continuing education relating to the delivery or provision of physical therapy services.

(2) A licensed physical therapist assistant is required within each certification period to complete 12 hours of continuing education relating to the delivery or provision of physical therapy services.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this rule, any person who is first issued an Oregon physical therapist license through examination pursuant to OAR 848-010-0015, or through endorsement pursuant to OAR 848-010-0020, anytime during the first year of a certification period (April 1st of an even numbered year through March 31st of an odd numbered year), must complete the full 24 hours of continuing education required for that certification period. A person who is first issued an Oregon physical therapist license anytime during the second year of a certification period (April 1st of an odd numbered year through March 31st of an even numbered year), must complete one-half (12 hours) of the continuing education required for that certification period. Thereafter, such licensees must complete the same continuing education requirements as other licensees who hold the same license.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this rule, any person who is first issued an Oregon physical therapist assistant license through examination pursuant to OAR 848-010-0015, or through endorsement pursuant to OAR 848-010-0020, anytime during the first year of a certification period (April 1st of an even numbered year through March 31st of an odd numbered year), must complete the full 12 hours of continuing education required for that certification period. A person who is first issued an Oregon physical therapist assistant license anytime during the

second year of a certification period (April 1st of an odd numbered year through March 31st of an even numbered year), must complete one-half (6 hours) of the continuing education required for that certification period. Thereafter, such licensees must complete the same continuing education requirements as other licensees who hold the same license.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this rule, a physical therapist whose Oregon license has lapsed pursuant to OAR 848-010-0033(1), and who subsequently renews the lapsed license pursuant to OAR 848-010-0035, anytime during the first year of a certification period (April 1st of an even numbered year through March 31st of an odd numbered year), must complete the full 24 hours of continuing education required for that certification period. A person whose lapsed physical therapist license is renewed anytime during the second year of a certification period (April 1st of an odd numbered year through March 31st of an even numbered year), must complete one-half (12 hours) of the continuing education required for that certification period. Thereafter, such licensees must complete the same continuing education requirements as other licensees who hold the same license.

(6) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this rule, a physical therapist assistant whose Oregon license has lapsed pursuant to OAR 848-010-0033(1), and who subsequently renews the lapsed license pursuant to OAR 848-010-0035, anytime during the first year of a certification period (April 1st of an even numbered year through March 31st of an odd numbered year), must complete the full 12 hours of continuing education required for that certification period. A person whose lapsed physical therapist assistant license is renewed anytime during the second year of a certification period (April 1st of an odd numbered year through March 31st of an even numbered year), must complete one-half (6 hours) of the continuing education required for that certification period. Thereafter, such licensees must complete the same continuing education requirements as other licensees who hold the same license.

7) For purposes of determining whether a licensee has satisfied the continuing education requirement under section (3), (4), (5) or (6) of this rule, the Licensing Board will accept all qualifying continuing education hours completed from the beginning date of the 24 month certification period in which the license was issued or renewed, regardless of the specific date the license was issued or renewed. For example, a person whose license is issued or renewed on June 15, 2009 will receive credit for all qualifying continuing education hours completed at any time during the certification period of April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2010.

(8) The initial certification period for a licensee to complete the required hours shall be January 1, 2006, through and including March 31, 2008. Thereafter, each twenty-four month period for completion of the required hours shall be April 1st of the even numbered year through March 31st of the next even numbered year. For example, the second twenty-four month period will be from April 1, 2008, through March 31, 2010.

(9) Failure to complete the required continuing education by March 31st of an even-numbered year shall constitute a violation of this Division 35.

848-035-0030: Course Requirements and Restrictions

(1) Courses which a licensee may take to satisfy the continuing education requirement include but are not limited to:

(a) Courses, seminars, and workshops sponsored or approved by an established and recognized medical or dental health-related organization or professional association recognized by the Board;

(b) Courses approved for continuing education by other states which require continuing education for physical therapists or physical therapist assistants;

(c) Courses certified for continuing education units (CEU) by a recognized physical therapy professional association;

(d) Courses provided by an accredited institution of higher education other than courses taken prior to graduation from a school of physical therapy;

(e) Individual study courses requiring an examination and recognized by an accredited institution or recognized health-related organization or professional association recognized by the Board;

(f) Courses in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); however, continuing education credit will be limited to one hour, regardless of the length of the course; and

(g) Courses approved by the Board by special request.

(2) Activities which will not satisfy the continuing education requirement include:

(a) Orientation and in service programs;

(b) Professional association meetings for purposes of business or policy decisions making;

(c) Entertainment or recreational meetings;

(d) Attending meetings, holding office, or representing a professional association as a lobbyist or delegate;

(e) Publishing or presenting lectures.

848-035-0040: Documentation of Continuing Education Credits

(1) In order to qualify for credit against the required hours, a continuing education course must include a course completion certificate. The certificate must include the title of the course, the name of course provider or speaker, date of completion, number of hours and licensee's name.

(2) The licensee is responsible for obtaining a course completion certificate from the course provider. The licensee is further responsible for retaining the certificate in the event the Board requires the licensee to produce documentation of completion of the continuing education requirement. All completion certificates shall be retained for a minimum of three years from the certificate date.

(3) The Board may require all or any percentage of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants who are renewing their licenses in the even numbered year to provide documentation of completion of the continuing education requirements of this Division 35.