

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CONTINUING EDUCATION

Nevada State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners – Amended and Approved by the Board 07-2012

Definition of continuing education

Continuing education in physical therapy is a way to formally document participation in activities that are intended to develop and increase the knowledge, skills and professional performance and competence of the licensee. Additionally, continuing education prevents professional obsolescence by staying current with new developments in theory and practice and preventing skill and knowledge deterioration.

Clinical Physical Therapy Practice

Physical therapy practice implies that the continuing education course must meet criteria in the three categories listed below.

1. The course must address at least one topic that covers an aspect of clinical practice directly related** to patient care along the continuum of active pathology, impairment, functional limitations and disability.
 - Core knowledge
 - Examination and evaluation
 - Prognosis
 - Diagnosis
 - Clinical decision making
 - Clinical guidelines
 - Evidence-based practice (as defined by Sackett DL, Straus SE, Richardson WS, et al. Evidence-based medicine: how to practice and teach EBM. 2d ed. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 2000 as found in The Internet Journal of Allied Health Sciences and Practice, Vol. 3, No. 4; defined at end of this document)
 - Intervention
 - Wellness, health promotion and fitness
 - Outcomes
 - Psychosocial issues (e.g., mental health, ethics, gender issues, cultural issues including spirituality, racial issues, professionalism as they relate to the practice of physical therapy)
 - Risk Reduction and prevention
 - Technology directly related to patient care
2. The course must be taught by one individual or a team of individuals who hold a comparable level of education as a physical therapist and/or who have:
 - Exhibited experience in the topic
 - Demonstrated expertise in the topic
3. The course must be sufficiently rigorous to be comparable to at least the current entry level physical therapist or physical therapist assistant practice in any areas of physical therapy practice including:
 - Hospitals (e.g., critical care, intensive care, acute care, and subacute care settings)
 - Outpatient clinics
 - Rehabilitation settings
 - Skilled nursing extended care, or subacute facilities
 - Homes
 - Schools
 - Hospices
 - Corporate or industrial health centers
 - Industrial, workplace, or other occupational environments
 - Athletic facilities

- Fitness centers and sports training facilities
4. If the course is self-paced (e.g., CD, DVD, book, audio, web-based), then a sufficiently rigorous post-test must be administered.
****Courses that are tangential or indirectly related to clinical practice will be reviewed and evaluated on a case-by-case basis.**

Non-Clinical Physical Therapy Practice

The course must address as least one topic of an aspect of physical therapy practice.

- Healthcare policy
- Healthcare administration
- General healthcare education
- Healthcare teamwork
- Physical therapy documentation
- Physical therapy reimbursement
- Physical therapy safety issues
- Physical therapy employment issues
- Interdisciplinary issues involving physical therapy
- Physical therapy research
- Physical therapy case management
- Medicolegal issues
- Patient satisfaction
- Language courses directly related to physical therapy practice
- *Clinical instructor*

Courses not likely to receive approval for clinical or non-clinical education credit

1. Courses that are:
 - Beyond the scope of physical therapy practice
 - Clearly under the purview of another discipline
 - Too basic or elementary for entry-level physical therapy or physical therapist assistant clinical practice
 - Related to marketing strategies or expanding clinical practice
 - About revenue generating issues
 - About issues related to an area of clinical practice for which the scientific evidence has clearly invalidated the topic
 - About a practice that is not accepted by contemporaneously practicing physical therapists
 - About general self-improvement (e.g., self-help courses, communication improvement courses, business practice improvement courses)
 - Employment law
 - Language courses unrelated to physical therapy practice
 - University coursework unrelated to healthcare
 - Computer education courses
 - Animal physical therapy related courses
 - Training faculty

2. Courses that do not have sufficient documentation including:
 - Course overview and objectives
 - Hour-by-hour timeline (for courses 4 or more hours in length)
 - Biosketch of the instructor(s)
 - No post-test for non-onsite course

Guidelines:

Operate on a 50 minute hour

Do not consider the lunch break in the units awarded

Largest percentage of time will determine if awarded clinical or non-clinical units

Maximum of .8 units can be awarded for non-clinical course

Maximum renewal units for any course is 1.5

There are no maximum units for “all other purposes” approvals

Any course 4 hours or longer requires an hour-by-hour timeline

Definition of Evidence Based Practice:

Evidence based practice is the integration of best research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values. This definition states that clinical decision-making should be based on three components:

- 1) Best research**
- 2) Clinical expertise**
- 3) Patient values**

NRS 640.150 Renewal; expiration and reinstatement; continuing education; fees.

1. A license to practice physical therapy expires on July 31 of each year. A physical therapist may renew a license before its expiration upon:

- (a) Presentation of proof of completion of a program of continuing education as required by subsection 3;*
- (b) Payment of a renewal fee established by the Board; and*
- (c) Submission of all information required to complete the renewal.*

2. A license that is not renewed before July 31 of each year expires. An expired license may be reinstated, at the discretion of the Board, upon:

- (a) Payment of the annual renewal fee and the annual expiration fee established by the Board for each year the license is expired; and*
- (b) Submission of all information required to complete the renewal.*

3. The Board shall require licensed physical therapists to complete a program of continuing education as a requirement for the renewal of licenses. The Board shall, by regulation:

- (a) Prescribe the curriculum;*
- (b) Approve the courses of study or training; and*
- (c) Establish the fees,*

↪ for the program.

4. The Board may, pursuant to subsection 3, establish a fee of not more than \$150 to consider approval of a course of study or training.

NAC 640.400 General requirements. (NRS 640.050, 640.150, 640.280)

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 3, 4 and 5, every physical therapist or physical therapist's assistant must complete 1.5 units of an approved course within the year immediately preceding his or her application for the renewal of his or her license, of which not more than 0.8 units may be completed in nonclinical courses.

2. The Board will not approve as training for continuing education experience acquired in fields that it determines are unrelated to the practice of physical therapy.

3. A person who is initially licensed as a physical therapist or physical therapist's assistant between February 1 and July 31 is not required to complete the requirements for continuing education for the period of licensing which ends on July 31 of that year.

4. A physical therapist or physical therapist's assistant who is licensed between August 1 and January 31 must complete the requirements for continuing education before his or her license is renewed. The number of units of continuing

education required to be earned must be computed on the basis of .125 units for each month he or she was licensed during that year.

5. A physical therapist or physical therapist's assistant who graduated from a school in which he or she completed a curriculum of physical therapy approved by the Board and who is licensed by the Board within 12 months immediately preceding the date for the renewal of his or her license is not required to complete the requirements for continuing education for the year in which the initial license is issued.

6. Continuing education hours earned through completing a specific course may be counted only once toward the units of continuing education required by this section during a 3-year period, even if the licensee completes that course more than once during that 3-year period.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Phys. Therapy Exam'rs, eff. 10-17-86; A 5-19-88; 6-11-90; 3-28-95; R153-98, 12-18-98; R111-02, 1-24-2003; R059-06, 9-18-2006)

NAC 640.410 Providers of continuing education: Recognition by Board. (NRS 640.050, 640.150, 640.280)

1. Any school accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association which offers instruction in the field of physical therapy will be considered as a recognized provider of continuing education without applying to the Board for approval. All other persons seeking recognition by the Board as a provider of continuing education must apply to the Board. The application will be granted if the Board finds that the applicant is competent to provide continuing education. The Board will notify the applicant in writing of its decision within 90 days after receipt of the application.

2. The Board may deny or withdraw recognition if it finds that a provider of continuing education has:

- (a) Failed to furnish a course of study or training as advertised;
- (b) Engaged in any misleading or deceptive practice; or
- (c) Failed to comply with any provision of this chapter or chapter 640 of NRS.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Phys. Therapy Exam'rs, eff. 10-17-86; A by R059-06, 9-18-2006)

NAC 640.420 Providers of continuing education: Records; certificate of completion. (NRS 640.050, 640.150, 640.280)
All recognized providers of continuing education shall:

1. Keep a record of:

- (a) The attendance of each physical therapist and physical therapist's assistant;
- (b) The course of study or training in which each physical therapist and physical therapist's assistant participated; and
- (c) The units of continuing education granted to the physical therapist and physical therapist's assistant.

È The records must be maintained for at least 4 years after completion of the course or training.

2. Furnish to each physical therapist or physical therapist's assistant who completes a course of study or training a certificate of completion which contains the following information:

- (a) The name of the physical therapist or physical therapist's assistant.
- (b) The name of the provider of the course of study or training.
- (c) A description of the course of study or training.
- (d) The number of units of continuing education completed.
- (e) The date of completion of the course of study or training.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Phys. Therapy Exam'rs, eff. 10-17-86; A 5-19-88; 6-11-90; 3-28-95)

NAC 640.450 Approval of course of study, training or material. (NRS 640.050, 640.150, 640.280)

1. A provider of continuing education who seeks approval for any course of study, training or material must submit an application, including the appropriate fee, to the Board. The Board will submit the application to the Advisory Committee on Continuing Education for its evaluation. The Board will review the application and the Committee's evaluation and notify the person of its decision to grant or deny approval of the course of study, training or material within 90 days after the application was submitted to the Board. If it grants approval, the Board will designate the number of units of continuing education for which the course of study or training is approved. Approval may be granted for the current calendar year and the succeeding licensure year which ends July 31, if the material and instruction remain substantially the same.

2. An application for approval must include:

- (a) A copy of the certificate of completion to be issued to each participant who completes the course of study or training;
- (b) A description of the information to be presented in the course of study or training;
- (c) Biographical information on the instructor of the course;
- (d) An outline of the topics to be presented in the course of study or training and the time allocated to each topic;
- (e) A statement of the objectives of the course of study or training;
- (f) The number of units the course of study or training is worth; and
- (g) For any course which is not a live lecture, seminar or class, an examination to be administered following the course.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Phys. Therapy Exam'rs, eff. 10-17-86; A 5-19-88; 6-11-90; R059-06, 9-18-2006)

NAC 640.460 Use of term "recognized provider of continuing education"; advertising. (NRS 640.050, 640.150, 640.280)

1. A person shall not use the term "recognized provider of continuing education" unless the person has been recognized by the Board.
2. A provider of an approved course may include in its advertising, announcements and other promotional materials, the following:

This course has been approved by the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners for units of continuing education.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Phys. Therapy Exam'rs, eff. 10-17-86; A 5-19-88)

NAC 640.470 Form of course of study or training. (NRS 640.050, 640.150, 640.280) A course of study or training for continuing education may consist of lectures, seminars, classes, correspondence courses or completion of an examination for certification that is approved by the American Physical Therapy Association. The content of the course may be studied privately or in groups.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Phys. Therapy Exam'rs, eff. 10-17-86; A 5-19-88; R153-98, 12-18-98; R059-06, 9-18-2006)

NAC 640.480 Advisory Committee on Continuing Education: Creation; number of members; term. (NRS 640.050, 640.150, 640.280) The Advisory Committee on Continuing Education is hereby created. The Committee consists of not less than five and not more than seven members appointed by the Board for a term of 2 years.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Phys. Therapy Exam'rs, eff. 10-17-86; A 5-19-88)

NAC 640.490 Advisory Committee on Continuing Education: Members; duties; quorum. (NRS 640.050, 640.150, 640.280)

1. The Advisory Committee on Continuing Education will be composed of the following members:

(a) A member of the Board.

(b) Not more than three members representing the northern district and not more than three members representing the southern district as follows:

(1) At least one member representing physical therapists who are in private practice.

(2) At least one member representing physical therapists who work in hospitals.

(3) At least one member representing physical therapists who work primarily with children, in a school district or in the area of home health.

2. Each member of the Committee must be licensed as a physical therapist in this State at the time of his or her appointment.

3. The Committee shall:

(a) Select a Chair and Vice Chair;

(b) Recommend to the Board criteria for evaluating any material or course of study or training for continuing education;

(c) Evaluate the course or training and the material based on the criteria approved by the Board, and recommend, within 60 days after receipt of an application for approval, to the Board for its final decision the accreditation of a course of study or training or material and the number of units of continuing education to be awarded; and

(d) Advise the Board on all matters relating to continuing education.

4. A quorum of the Committee is four members, at least one of whom must be the Chair or Vice Chair.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Phys. Therapy Exam'rs, eff. 10-17-86; A 5-19-88; 11-19-92)

NAC 640.500 List of approved courses of study or training and materials. (NRS 640.050, 640.150, 640.280) A list of all currently approved courses of study or training and materials is available from the Board upon request or may be obtained on the Internet website maintained by the Board.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Phys. Therapy Exam'rs, eff. 10-17-86; A 5-19-88; R059-06, 9-18-2006)

NAC 640.510 Verification of compliance with requirements. (NRS 640.050, 640.150, 640.280)

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a physical therapist or physical therapist's assistant who wishes to renew his or her license and who is required to complete continuing education pursuant to NAC 640.400 must submit to the Board, on an original form, a signed, written statement in substantially the following language for each year since his or her last renewal:

I,, hereby certify to the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners that I have obtained units of an approved course for continuing education during the period August 1,, through and including July 31,

Dated this day of,

.....
**Signature of Physical Therapist or
Physical Therapist's Assistant**

2. In lieu of submitting a written certification to the Board pursuant to subsection 1, a licensee who chooses to renew his or her license using the Internet website of the Board may provide a substantially similar certification to the Board on that website.

3. A licensed physical therapist or physical therapist's assistant shall retain a certificate of completion issued to him or her pursuant to NAC 640.420 or other documentation, approved by the Board, of his or her completion of a course of study or training for continuing education for 4 years after completion of the course or training. A copy of the certificate or other documentation must be submitted to the Board upon request to verify the completion of the course of study or training.

4. The Board will conduct random audits of physical therapists and physical therapist's assistants who have renewed their licenses to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section and NAC 640.400.

References:

1. Nevada Physical Therapy Board Practice Act
2. Guide to Physical Therapist Practice, Second Edition, American Physical Therapy Association. Physical Therapy 2001:8(1): 9-746.
3. Sackett, DL, Straus, SE, Richardson, WS Rosenberg, W, Haynes, RB, 2000, Evidence-Based Medicine. How to Practice and Teach EBM (Evidenced Based Medicine). 2nd edition. Churchill Livingtone, NY.