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BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS

7570 Norman Rockwell Lane, Suite 230
Las Vegas, NV 89143

September 29, 2017

Dear Licensee,

As you may know, NRS 640 was updated this past legislative session and there are some new updates to the physical therapy practice act that take effect on **October 1, 2017**. To view the changes in their entirety, please go to the below link, or see the summary of changes outlined below. Also of note is that NAC changes are currently being worked on. We have had one public workshop and will be having another where we are seeking input into these changes. An email will be sent to notify you of the next workshop, which will be held after the first of the year. Thank you!

https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/79th2017/Bills/SB/SB437_EN.pdf

Summary of NRS Changes 2017

- Changes the name of the Board to the Nevada Physical Therapy Board.
- Requires that PTs and PTAs use a certain designation:
A person who is licensed as a physical therapist will use the words or letters "PT" or "physical therapist" immediately following his/her name when representing him/herself as a PT.
A person who is licensed as a physical therapist assistant will use the words or letters "PTA" or "physical therapist assistant" immediately following his/her name when representing him/herself as a PTA.
- Supervision of PT techs: requires the Board to adopt regulations in NAC prescribing the activities that a PT tech can perform under the immediate supervision of a PT. Also clarifies that a PT supervising a PT tech must be present and on-site. (The NACs are currently being worked on and another workshop will be held where input will be sought on this).
- Adds that a business entity that holds itself out as providing services constituting the practice of physical therapy is guilty of a misdemeanor unless those services are provided by or under the supervision of a physical therapist. Authorizes the Board to impose certain penalties on a person who violates this provision, including without limitation, an administrative penalty of not more than \$5,000.

- Authorizes the Board to issue citations for certain violations (display of license, address change, supervision ratios). This will allow a streamlined process and the licensee will be able to pay the citation on the spot or he/she may also contest the citation and ask for a hearing.
- Revises the make-up of the Board to be changed to include 3 PTs, 1 PTA and 1 public member (previously was 4 PTs and 1 public member).
- Authorizes the Board to appoint nonvoting advisory members to the Board.
- Changes the term “continuing education” to “continuing competence”.
- Authorizes the licensure by endorsement of PTAs (wasn’t previously in our NRS).
- Removes the provision that the Board administers an exam for licensure (new language states the exam is an exam designated by the Board).
- Combines PT and PTA provisions together to be for conciseness and clarity.

Thank you for all you do to provide quality healthcare to the citizens of Nevada. Please feel free to contact the Board office at if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Sherise Smith, PT, MSPT
Vice Chairman and Legislative Liaison
Nevada Physical Therapy Board