



Secretary Carol Aichele

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY



www.dos.state.pa.us

May 2012

[Disciplinary Actions](#)

Pennsylvania Health Alert Network (PA-HAN) February 1, 2012

The Pennsylvania Health Alert Network (PA-HAN) is one of the major ways the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) rapidly distributes information on emerging public health issues (e.g. disease outbreaks) to health care providers, hospitals, emergency management officials, and other public health agencies. In a typical year, PADOH distributes 20-25 HAN messages to providers via email, fax, or cell phone, depending on user preference. PADOH feels it is important that all health care providers have access to HAN messages directly or through their health care facility in order to receive critical public health messages. This assures that public health is protected and allows Pennsylvania's health care providers to give the best care to your patients and community.

In mid-2011, PADOH switched to a new software vendor to support and improve the PA-HAN. The updated system was completed in July and the new version of the PA-HAN can be found at the following link <https://han.pa.gov/>. During the conversion process, some users were removed from the system and cannot be reinstated to the user list without re-registering. PADOH therefore requests that any previous user who is not currently receiving HAN messages register as a Health Alert recipient in the new system. In addition, any provider who would like to receive HAN messages for the first time should also register in the new system.

To access the new PA-HAN Registration Site, click on the following link: <https://han.pa.gov/>. Under the second paragraph there is a gray 'Register Now' button. This option will walk the user through the registration process. If you have any questions about the HAN system or the registration requirements, please ask for Stacey Kalinoski in the PADOH at 717-265-8890 or skalinoski@pa.gov.

NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF EXISTING PRACTITIONER APPLICATION

The State Board of Massage Therapy will accept applications for existing practitioner submitted on or before July 31, 2012. Please continue reading below for additional information.

The regulations of the State Board of Massage Therapy, published on Dec. 31, 2010 and effective on Jan. 1, 2011, provided for a deadline of Jan. 2, 2012 for the submission of applications for existing practitioner. Despite publication of that deadline, since Jan. 2, 2012 the Board has received numerous inquiries from individuals who have requested a waiver of the deadline.

In light of the number of requests, and in the interests of equity, the Board has granted a waiver of the provisions of 49 Pa. Code §20.24(a) only with respect to the deadline for submission of applications for existing practitioners. The waiver has been granted pursuant to the provisions of 1 Pa. Code §35.18, and is effective retroactively to Jan. 2, 2012 and expires automatically without further notice on July 31, 2012.

Applicants should be clear that this waiver only applies to the deadline for submission of applications by existing practitioners. In order to qualify for a license as an existing practitioner, an individual must have been an existing practitioner on the effective date of the Massage Therapy Act, Oct. 9, 2010, and must produce evidence in the form required by the Board's regulations demonstrating that the applicant was an existing practitioner as of Oct. 9, 2010. All applications have been updated and posted to the website, www.dos.state.pa.us/massagetherapy.

[Contact Us](#)

[Report Unethical Activity](#)

[Meet the Board](#)

[PHMP](#)

DISPLAY OF YOUR LICENSE

Several people have contacted the Board regarding the requirement that your license be prominently displayed in your office or practice area as required by the regulations. The concern has been that their home address is displayed on the license and they do not want their clients to have that information. Although it is not permissible to deface the license by blacking out the address with a marker, it is permissible to cover only the address portion of the license with opaque removable tape or paper. Another option is to submit the license application with your office address instead of your home address. In either case, remember to always report any change of address to the board.

LICENSE RENEWAL IS COMING UP FAST

All licenses for Massage Therapists expire on Jan. 31, 2013, regardless of the date of issuance. The renewal fee is \$75.00 and the renewal applications will be available online or in paper format approximately 60 days prior to the expiration date. The Board does prefer that you submit your renewal application online and asks that you submit your renewal application by Dec. 31, 2012 to assure that your application is processed before your current license expires.

With the renewal application and fee, continuing education is also required. The amount of hours required is 24 clock hours and CPR certification is required to remain in force continuously. As of the renewal date, your CPR card must be valid for at least six more months. Of the 24 hours, at least four must be in ethics.

A minimum of 16 hours must be contact hours; in other words, an instructor must physically be present in the room.

It is permissible to take some classes in a distance learning format, or online. Of these, a maximum of eight hours will count toward Massage Therapist License renewal.

If you take more than the required number of hours during your licensure period, the additional hours may

NOT be carried over into your next licensure renewal period.

Certain courses do not qualify for license renewal. These would be classes that pertain to business, marketing, networking, bookkeeping, office management and other business practices.

The course instructor must be offered by an approved provider. The following is a list of pre-approved providers. All courses offered by these providers that relate to the practice of massage therapy (except business courses as listed above) will be accepted for license renewal.

- American Massage Therapy Association education at a meeting or conference
- Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals education
- National Certification Board approved provider
- A continuing education class offered by a school of massage therapy within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania operated under section 5, a, 3 of the act
- Programs of Massage Therapy of a school accredited by a national accrediting agency recognized by the US Department of Education

In addition to this list of approved providers, the Board will also approve courses and conferences on an individual basis. The application may be completed by the workshop presenter of the massage therapist requesting approval. The forms for approval may be found on the board's website: www.dos.state.pa.us/massagetherapy. Please read the application carefully and submit it to the board a minimum of 90 days BEFORE the start of the workshop. Then the board will review the application and consider the course for approval.

The Board understands that difficulties may exist scheduling continuing education, and recommends taking continuing education classes as soon as possible, and do not delay until late 2012 or early 2013.