



Secretary Carol Aichele

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY



www.dos.state.pa.us

June 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.

Updates from the PA. State Board of Physical Therapy

Susan L. Whitney, Chair of the State Board of Physical Therapy

New Board Members

The State Board would like to welcome two new members and one who recently was reappointed to the Board. John Noone, a physical therapist from eastern Pennsylvania, who works for Manor Care and Jeffrey R. Elliott, an attorney, who works at Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys in Wyomissing, Pa., are new public members. Tim Schell, a PT of TMS Physical Therapy in Grove City, Pa., was recently reappointed to the State Board and was welcomed back at our March meeting in Harrisburg.

Rules and regulations update

As Chair of the State Board of Physical Therapy, I would like to update you as a licensee or certificate holder on what the board has been working on over the last few months. We have been meeting on a monthly basis either face-to-face or via conference calls on addressing concerns related to the proposed rules and regulations that were published in the fall of 2011. The board was pleased that a representative from the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association has attended most of our meetings to provide feedback to the board about the rules and regulations.

At our most recent board meeting, we voted to move the amended rules and regulations forward through the review process. We are hoping to have the rules and regulations finalized and in effect by the end of the year. Assuming this occurs, you will be required to complete 30 hours of board- approved continuing education by the end of the next two-year license renewal period which begins Jan. 1, 2013. This means that licensees would

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State Board of Physical Therapy

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need to complete 30 hours of continuing education to renew their licenses for 2015.

Board meetings are open to the public

The public is invited to ALL of our meetings. The dates of our meetings are posted on the Consumer Information link at www.dos.state.pa.us/physther. We welcome feedback and attempt to reply to all written comments. Our Board meetings start at 9 a.m. in Harrisburg.

Reporting problems

If you have a need to report something related to a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant to the Board, it is ideal if you do not contact a board member. The State Board members serve as the "jury" if issues arise and need to recuse ourselves if we know too much about a case. We have a separate branch of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs that deals with complaints. The URL to report a complaint is: www.dos.state.pa.us. Click on the "File a Complaint" link on the left hand side of the page.

Renewal of your license

Your license is up for renewal in December 2012. Remember to make sure that the State board has your most recent email and home address. If you do not receive a renewal notice from us, it is still your responsibility to renew your license. You can provide your email address or change of address to the State Board by submitting it in writing to: State Board of Physical Therapy, P.O. Box 2649, Harrisburg, PA 17105. The State Board accepts credit card payments for online renewal, which most people did for their last renewal period.

Renewing Direct Access (DA) certificate

As a reminder for the upcoming license renewal period, physical therapists who are direct access certificate holders MUST have at least 20 contact hours of Board-approved continuing education in order to renew their DA certificate. Of the 20 hours, 10 of those hours must have been in courses that have been approved for DA continuing education hours. Please keep your

continuing education certificates for at least four years as a certain percentage of DA certificate holders will be audited. This means that you will have to send in your certificates to verify that you completed the continuing education hours that you certified taking when you completed the renewal form.

Temporary Licensure for Physical Therapist Assistants

Tim Schell, Physical Therapist

Beginning this year, the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy began administering the exam on fixed dates throughout the year.

The remaining dates for 2012 are: July 17, 2012, and Oct. 30, 2012, and four dates will be scheduled in each of the years following 2012.

Temporary licensure is available for Physical Therapist Assistants who meet the following requirements:

- Graduation from a CAPTE accredited program.
- Application must be completed by supervising Physical Therapist with at least two years of experience practicing in Pennsylvania.
- A \$15.00 fee payable to "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania".

A temporary licensure will not be issued until:

- Board receipt of your examination application.
- Verification of your graduation.
- Board confirmation of your online FSBPT registration.

Your temporary license is valid for six months or failure of your first examination, whichever occurs first, and each applicant is entitled to only one temporary license.

Upon expiration or failure of your first examination, the temporary license must be promptly returned to the State Board of Physical Therapy.

