



MICHIGAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

3300 Washtenaw Avenue, Suite 220, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-4200

Phone: (800) 242-8131 or (734) 929-6075 (Local) – Fax: (734) 677-2407 – E-mail: mpta@mpta.com – Web site: www.mpta.com

PTA Licensure Question and Answer December 2009

Question:

Can a physical therapist assistant (PTA) in Michigan who has applied for a limited license, but still has not received that limited license from the State of Michigan treat patients after 12/31/09?

Answer:

MPTA has consulted with the Board of Physical Therapy (the Licensure Board) to answer this question.

- *Disclosure:* This answer does not constitute a legal opinion.
- *Note:* The State of Michigan has recently increased the number of employees assigned to process PTA limited licenses. The result is an increased volume of limited licenses issued on a daily basis from the State.

► Based on the regulatory citations listed below, the Michigan Physical Therapy Association (MPTA) advises:

- All PTAs to have a Michigan limited license in hand in order to treat patients on or after 1/01/2010.
- A PTA license from another state is not valid in Michigan. You must have a Michigan limited license to meet Medicare requirements beginning 1/1/2010.
- If the PTA does not have a limited PTA license in hand on 1/01/2010; MPTA recommends that the PTA NOT treat any Medicare patients in any setting.

This means do NOT treat any Medicare patient including, but not limited to those utilizing Medicare Part A, Medicare Part B, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare HMOs, Medicare PPOs, etc. This means do not treat any Medicare patient in any setting - inpatient hospital, outpatient hospital, private clinic, home care, skilled nursing facility, etc.

- Licensed physical therapists (PTs) who supervise ineligible PTAs would be in violation to the Public Health Code and subject to sanction on their PT license.



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From the State of Michigan: No limited physical therapist assistant licenses will be issued after December 31, 2010. In order to practice as a physical therapist assistant in Michigan on or after January 1, 2011, you must hold either a limited or full physical therapist assistant license.

From the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Final Rule of changes to 42 CFR section 484.4: page 66408 - Physical therapist assistant:

Reference: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Federal Register November 27, 2007

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/quarterlyproviderupdates/downloads/cms1385fc.pdf>

Note all internet links are not property of MPTA and are subject to change and the discretion of the website owner.

To be an eligible provider under Medicare:

Physical therapist assistant. A person who is licensed, registered or certified as a physical therapist assistant, if applicable, by the State in which practicing, unless licensure does not apply and meets one of the following requirements:

(a)(1)(i) Graduated from a physical therapist assistant curriculum approved by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association; or if educated outside the United States or trained in the United States military, graduated from an education program determined to be substantially equivalent to physical therapist assistant entry level education in the United States by a credentials evaluation organization approved by the American Physical Therapy Association or identified at 8 CFR 212.15(e); AND

(ii) Passed a national examination for physical therapist assistants.

-OR-

(b) On or before December 31, 2009, meets one of the following:

(i) Is licensed, or otherwise regulated in the State in which practicing.

...None of the other provisions apply to PTA's in Michigan.