



MICHIGAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

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URGENT UPDATE ON PTA LICENSURE: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Dear MPTA Colleagues:

Since there has been considerable confusion regarding the Michigan PTA limited license and the Medicare qualification requirements for PTAs, MPTA sees a need to clarify certain information and update you on our efforts to resolve this situation. It is important to understand that PTA licensure and Medicare requirements are two separate issues; licensure is based on state law and Medicare requirements are based on federal regulations.

MPTA is working very hard with the State of Michigan, APTA, and CMS to bring this situation to a satisfactory resolution, and we all agree that great urgency is needed. **However, we ask that you please refrain from contacting legislators about this issue at this time; as such contacts could interfere with the current process and could be counterproductive to the interests of PTAs in Michigan. Feel free to pass the information below along to your colleagues who may not be MPTA members.**

The State of Michigan Law

Licensure of healthcare professions is a legal process implemented by the state that is intended to protect consumers. PTA licensure is a goal that MPTA members have long directed our association to work to achieve. MPTA worked very hard to achieve licensure for PTAs, and this year our goal was realized. Public Act 55 - 2009, which was effective June 25, 2009, requires PTAs practicing in Michigan to be licensed by the state.

The state is now required to promulgate rules to implement the new law, a process that can take up to 12 months. The law provided for "limited" PTA licenses to be issued while the final rules are being written. Those rules will be completed by 12/31/2010 and the State will then be able to grant "full" PTA licenses to applicants meeting the requirements set by state law and regulations.

No limited PTA licenses will be issued after December 31, 2010. In order to practice legally as a PTA in Michigan on or after January 1, 2011, you must hold either a limited or full PTA license.

The Federal Regulations - Medicare

On November 27, 2007 Medicare published new qualification requirements for PTAs. The new regulations provided several different ways in which a PTA can qualify to provide care to Medicare beneficiaries. One way is licensure by the state. The difficulty we are having is that Michigan is in transition to become a state that requires licensure for PTAs. Deadlines imposed by the 2007 Medicare regulations have passed during this transitional period, and not all PTAs in the state received a limited license in time to remain in compliance with Medicare's regulations. This has created an unfortunate and confusing situation for many PTAs and employers of PTAs in the state.



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MPTA and APTA are working hard for you

The State of Michigan published a document on 1/20/10 indicating that any PTA without a limited license prior to January 1, 2010 would be required to possess a limited license AND pass the licensure exam to be an eligible provider under Medicare.

MPTA and APTA are concerned about this interpretation and are working quickly to further clarify this statement.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS RIGHT NOW. It is critical that you please wait for additional information from MPTA before acting on this information. MPTA asks that you **NOT** contact your legislators (either State or Federal) until you are further notified by MPTA. The process to further clarify the law in Michigan and the Medicare regulations is nearing completion with new information expected in the next several days. APTA has worked with CMS and the Congress of the United States for many years and has excellent communication with many key offices.

Inquiries to members of Congress could jeopardize the process that is almost complete and produce a result that is counterproductive for PTAs in Michigan. MPTA is most hopeful that clarification about PTA licensure in Michigan and Medicare regulations will be completed very soon.

MPTA will keep you informed in a timely and ongoing basis.
Thank you very much for this opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

Michael Shoemaker, PT, DPT, GCS
MPTA Director #1 - Legislative Committee Chair

Jake Jakubiak Kovacek, PT
MPTA President