

PHYSICAL THERAPIST (PT)

Licensing Authority

Jan Scheffert
Physical and Occupational Therapy Board
Iowa Department of Public Health
Lucas State Office Bldg 5th Fl
321 E 12th St
Des Moines IA 50319-0075
Phone: (515) 281-4401
Fax: (515) 281-3121
E-mail: jscheffert@idph.state.ia.us

Legal Authority

Code of Iowa, Chapter 148A; Iowa Administrative Code 645, 199-204

Job Description

Physical therapists plan, implement, and evaluate physical therapy programs using the effective properties of physical agents including (but not limited to) mechanical devices, heat, cold, air, light, water, electricity, sound, therapeutic exercise and rehabilitative procedures. These devices are used to prevent, correct, minimize or alleviate a physical impairment.

They review patients' medical records, evaluate patients, identify specific patient problems and perform tests and evaluations which provide information about: joint motion, strength and endurance of muscles, functional ability, status of muscle tone and reflexes, appearance and stability of walking, need for and use of braces and artificial limbs, function of the heart and lungs, integrity of sensation and perception, and the performance of activities required in daily living.

They consult and work closely with physicians, patients, families, support staff and other health practitioners in establishing treatment objectives that are realistic and consistent with patients' needs. Physical therapy evaluation and treatment may be rendered by a physical therapist with or without a referral from a physician; however, a hospital may require that the evaluation and treatment provided in the hospital will be done only upon prior review by an authorized member of the hospital's medical staff.

Education & Experience Required

An applicant must graduate from a physical therapy program accredited by a national accrediting agency approved by the board and pass the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE).

If foreign trained, the applicant must provide an English translation and an equivalency evaluation of their education credentials by the International Educational Research Foundations, Inc.; Credentials Evaluation Service, International Consultants of Delaware, Inc.; or, International Credentialing Associates.

The professional curriculum must be equivalent to the Commission of Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education standards. The applicant must achieve a score of at least 560 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) paper exam and 200 on the computer exam administered by the Educational Testing Services, Inc. Physical therapists licensed in other states may apply for license in Iowa through Interstate Endorsement.

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| Continuing Education | Forty hours of continuing education are required biennially for license renewal. |
| Examination | The board notifies the testing service of the applicant's eligibility for the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE). All other (out-of-state) applicants must provide proof of successfully passing the NPTE exam. |
| Fees | Application: \$100 Duration: Two years Renewal: \$50 Exam: \$285 National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) |
| SOC Code, Title, & Avg. Hourly Wage | 29-1123 - Physical Therapists (\$26.61) |
| Number of Licenses Issued | Total number of licenses active as of December 31, 2003: 1,550 2002: 1,633 2001: 2,044 |
| For Additional Information | Iowa Department of Public Health Web site: www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure American Physical Therapy Association 1111 N Fairfax St Alexandria VA 22314-1488 (800) 999-2782 (703) 684-2782 |