

TENNESSEE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Policy Statement: Transition of Continuing Competence Periods Under Revised Rules

In November 2010, a Physical Therapy Board (“Board”) rule change went into effect changing the period in which Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants are required to have earned continuing competence credits. Under the prior rule, a renewing licensee was required to have earned credits in the two *calendar* years preceding their renewal; under the new rule, a licensee is required to have earned credits in the twenty-four months *immediately preceding* the month of their renewal.

The Board is concerned that some licensees may have earned continuing competence credits while the old rules were in place that are no longer valid under the new rules. To address this concern, **through December 2012**, any credits earned in a timeframe that would have been acceptable under the prior rules is considered to have fulfilled the continuing competence requirements under the timeframe in the new rules as well.

Illustrative examples of the effect of this policy are provided below.

Examples:

1. Physical Therapist renewing in August 2011:
 - a. Old rule: 30 hours required; must be earned in 2009 and 2010.
 - b. New rule: 30 hours required; must be earned August 2009 through August 2011.
 - i. Under this policy: credit hours earned January 2009 through July 2009 will also count toward the requirements.

2. Physical Therapist Assistant renewing in April 2012:
 - a. Old rule: 20 hours required; must be earned in 2010 and 2011.
 - b. New rule: 20 hours required; must be earned April 2010 through April 2012.
 - i. Under this policy: credit hours earned January 2010 through March 2010 will also count toward the requirements.

This policy will cease to be in effect December 1, 2012.

The Board of Physical Therapy adopted this revised policy on February 11, 2011.