

Newsletter Submission from the Nebraska Board of Physical Therapy

The primary role of the Board of Physical Therapy is to protect the public through recommending licensure eligibility, recommending disciplinary actions, and promoting public safety.

Submitted by: Betsy J. Becker, Board Chair & Claire Covert-Bybee, Board Administrator

DON'T FORGET! Renewal Deadline for PT and PTA: November 1, 2021

Information for PTs and PTA:

Applications, Requirements & Fees | Compact Information | Renewal & Continuing Competency | Advisory Opinions | Address Changes | Disciplinary Actions | License Lookup | Name Change Forms

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Physical-Therapy.aspx>

Governor Ricketts ends state of emergency. What does that mean for licensees?

Governor Pete Ricketts announced the end of Nebraska's coronavirus state of emergency. The Governor issued the state of emergency declaration on March 13, 2020. It officially ended at 11:59 PM on Wednesday, June 30, 2021. The Governor issued Executive Order (EO) 21-09 to rescind pandemic-related executive orders. With a few exceptions, the coronavirus executive orders will expire on July 30, 2021, which is thirty days after the state of emergency ends. Full text of EO 21-09 is available by [clicking here](#).

- [DHHS COVID-19 Information Page](#)
- [Directed Health Measures](#)
- [Governor's Executive Orders and FAQs](#)

What are the requirements for continuing education? How do I apply for a waiver?

On or before November 1 of each odd-numbered year, individuals holding an active license in the State of Nebraska must complete at least 20 hours of acceptable continuing education for a physical therapist and 10 hours of acceptable continuing education for a physical therapist assistant during the preceding 24-month period.

https://www.nebraska.gov/rules-and-reg/regssearch/Rules/Health_and_Human_Services_System/Title-172/Chapter-137.pdf

The Department will be as flexible as possible with licensees' continuing education activities (e.g. extending the number of hours allowed for home study) due to the pandemic. The following frequently asked questions are answered here (see Continuing Competency Waiver Information): <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Physical-Therapy.aspx>

- Q: How do I apply for a waiver of continuing competency requirements due to circumstances beyond my control?
- Q: How do I apply for a waiver of continuing competency requirements due to circumstances beyond my control?
- Q: My credential expires after the declared emergency has been lifted. I was not able to complete the continuing competency requirements due
- Q: My profession limits the number of hours of online/home study continuing education, but in-person continuing education is not available at this time. My profession is not listed in Executive Order No. 20-10. Can I obtain all of my continuing education hours for renewal or reinstatement online or by home study?

What are acceptable and non-acceptable continuing education?

The Board does not approve continuing education programs or activities. In order for a continuing education activity or program to be accepted for renewal or reinstatement of a license, the activity or program must relate to physical therapy and may focus on research, treatment, documentation, management, or education.

[https://www.nebraska.gov/rules-and-regs/regsearch/Rules/Health and Human Services System/Title-172/Chapter-137.pdf](https://www.nebraska.gov/rules-and-regs/regsearch/Rules/Health%20and%20Human%20Services%20System/Title-172/Chapter-137.pdf)

011.00 – 011.02(N) (starting on page 9): acceptable continuing education subject matter and hour calculations.

011.03 (page 12): non-acceptable continuing education

Do you want to share your expertise, network with colleagues and contribute to the process of ensuring that competent professionals are licensed?

The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) promotes safety and competence. FSBPT is comprised of the state Boards, including Nebraska.

FSBPT has a wide range of volunteer positions. Consider sharing your expertise, network with colleagues and contribute to the process of ensuring that competent professionals are licensed. Click the link for more information about how you can become involved. <https://www.fsbpt.org/Secondary-Pages/Volunteers/Volunteer-Opportunities>

The Board of Physical Therapy members include:

- Betsy J. Becker, PT, DPT, PhD, CLT-LANA (Chair)
- Kirk Peck, PT, PhD, CSCS, CCRT, CERP (Vice-Chair)
- Tom Victor, Secretary and public member
- Kim Oliphant, PT

The Board Administrator is Claire Covert-Bybee (claire.covertbybee@nebraska.gov)

Betsy J. Becker, PT, DPT, PhD, CLT-LANA

Associate Professor

Director, Division of Physical Therapy Education

Department Chair, Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

College of Allied Health Professions

University of Nebraska Medical Center

984420 Nebraska Medical Center | Omaha, NE | 68198-4420

402.559.5053 | 402.559.8626

betsyj.becker@unmc.edu