

August 26, 2015

BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
REGARDING THE CONTINUING COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS UNDER HRS
CHAPTER 461J FOR HAWAII LICENSED PHYSICAL THERAPISTS THAT ARE
EFFECTIVE WITH THE DECEMBER 31, 2016 RENEWAL

Q1: Why didn't the Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy ("Board") notify me earlier about the new continuing competence requirements?

A1: The post card which was recently sent out by the Board was a courtesy notice. On April 22, 2013, Act 035 (SLH 2013), which added continuing competence requirements to Hawaii Revised Statutes 461J, became law. Please note that all licensees are responsible for knowing and complying with the Hawaii laws and rules of physical therapy practice. All Hawaii physical therapists sign an attestation on their initial application which states in part "I further certify that I have read, understand and will obey the laws and rules concerning physical therapy in the State of Hawaii." The version of HRS 461J which is posted on the Board's website was updated shortly after the law was passed.

Q2: Are all licensees subject to the new continuing competence requirements?

A2: No; only those physical therapists with active Hawaii licenses are subject to these requirements.

Licensees who are on inactive status are not subject to the new requirements while they are on inactive status. Please note that while on inactive status, the licensee shall not engage in the practice of physical therapy.

In addition, a physical therapist with an active Hawaii license may seek an exemption from the requirements by complying with the provisions of Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") section 461J-10.14.

Currently, physical therapist assistants are not subject to continuing competence requirements.

Q3: When do I need to have obtained at least thirty (30) units of approved continuing competence units ("CCU") in order to renew my Hawaii physical therapist license?

A3: All physical therapists with active Hawaii licenses must complete the CCU requirement by December 31, 2016.

Please note that for the first-time license renewals, if the initial license was issued less than twelve (12) months prior to the renewal date, no CCUs will be

required for the first renewal period. If the initial license was issued more than twelve (12) months prior to the renewal date, the licensee shall be required to obtain fifteen (15) units of approved CCUs for the first renewal period.

Q4: What if my license is on active status and I have not obtained the 30 CCUs by December 31, 2016?

A4: You will not be able to renew your license.

Q5: Do I have to take an examination at the end of each continuing competence course?

A5: No; it is up to each continuing competence course provider or agency to determine whether to include an examination at the end of their course or not.

Q6: Do I need to keep track of my CCUs on the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy's ("FSBPT") aPTitude system?

A6: No; although aPTitude is a free continuing competence record system developed by the FSBPT, licensees are not required to use it. It is up to each licensee to determine how to maintain records of the CCUs the licensee has obtained during each renewal period. Each licensee is required to keep and maintain his or her continuing competence records for a period of seven (7) years after the course of activity concludes. It is important to properly maintain these records because the Board may randomly audit a licensee's CCUs.

Q7: Will the Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy ("Board") accept continuing education approved by another organization?

A7: To date, the Board will accept continued competence courses in subjects related to either the professional practice of physical therapy or patient/client management from the following:

- Courses sponsored by the American Physical Therapy Association ("APTA") or Hawaii Chapter of the APTA ("HAPTA");
- Courses approved by the FSBPT's ProCert;
- Courses approved by another state or jurisdiction's physical therapy board or its equivalent; and
- Courses offered or approved by any other provider or agency approved by the Board.

If you take a course from one of the organizations listed above, including those approved by another state or jurisdiction, you will be responsible to have the approval or index number issued by that organization noted somewhere on the

course completion certificate. This will allow the Board to verify that the course was approved by that organization.

Q8. What courses in ethics, laws, and rules (jurisprudence) will the Board accept?

A8: All courses in ethics, laws, and rules (jurisprudence) must be approved by the Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy. The Board will not accept a course approved by any other organization or state/jurisdiction. Also, all courses must include Hawaii's laws and rules (jurisprudence), therefore, the Board will not accept a course on any other state or jurisdiction's laws and rules.

Q9. Can I take a life support course other than the American Heart Association ("AHA") basic life support health care provider course?

A9. Yes; but you do so at your own risk. Please note the course must be at least four (4) CCUs in length and the training must be comparable to, or more advanced than the AHA's basic life support health care provider course. For more information on the contents of the AHA's basic life support course, please visit their website: <http://cpr.heart.org/>

Q10: Where can I find a list of courses approved by the Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy?

A10: The Board's list of approved courses can be found on the following web page:
<http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/physicaltherapy/continuing-competence-information/>

Q11: How can I get my course approved by the Board?

A11: On the web page listed in Q10, please review the "Requirements for Course Approval by the Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy" document.

Q12: Can I take a continuing competence course from a provider or agency that has not been approved by the Board?

A12: Yes; but you do so at your own risk. There is no guarantee that the provider or agency will seek the Board's approval after the course has been given, or that the Board will approve the course.

Q13: How long is the Board's approval of a course, provider, or agency good for?

A13: The Board's approval is only good for the licensing biennium in which it is issued (but no longer than two (2) years). Thereafter, the provider or agency must obtain the Board's approval for the next two (2) year period (even if the course is unchanged and remains the same).

Q14: How often do I have to obtain the 30 CCUs?

A14: Every two (2) years, beginning with the December 31, 2016 renewal date. Thereafter, licensees are required to obtain at least 30 CCUs every two (2) years (i.e., by December 31 of every even-numbered year) in order to subsequently renew their license.

Q15: Where can I find more information on the continuing competence requirements?

A15: Please visit the Board's website:
<http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/physicaltherapy/>

Q16: Who do I contact if I have further questions?

A16: You may contact the Board by telephone at (808) 586-2701, or e-mail at phys_therapy@dcca.hawaii.gov.