

DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES

State Physical Therapy Board

PHYSICAL THERAPY RULES AND REGULATIONS~~IST LICENSURE AND PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT CERTIFICATION~~

4 CCR 732-1

[Editor's Notes follow the text of the rules at the end of this CCR Document.]

1.4 Temporary Licensure of Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order D 2020 038

- A. Basis. Through Executive Order D 2020 038, Governor Jared Polis governor temporarily suspended the rulemaking authorities for the State Board of Physical Therapy ("Board") set forth in section 12-285-105(1)(b), C.R.S., and directed the Executive Director of DORA, through the Director of the Division of Professions and Occupations (Division Director), to promulgate and issue temporary emergency rules consistent with the Executive Order. The basis for these emergency rules is Executive Order D 2020 038 issued by Governor Jared Polis pursuant to the State of Emergency Declaration found in Executive Orders 2020 003, 2020 027 and 2020 032, Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution, and the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, sections 24-33.5-701, et. seq., C.R.S.
- B. Purpose. These Emergency Rules are adopted by the Executive Director of the Department of Regulatory Agencies, through the Division Director, to effectuate Executive Order D 2020 038 directing the immediate expansion of the workforce of trained medical personnel available to provide healthcare services within inpatient facilities due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in Colorado.
- C. Temporary Licensure for Physical Therapists. The Board may issue a temporary license to an applicant that is a new graduate of an approved physical therapy program as set forth in section 12-285-110(1)(a), C.R.S., and who meets all qualifications for licensure with the exception of successful completion of the required examination as set forth in section 12-285-110(1)(b), C.R.S.
 - 1. Temporary licenses will be issued beginning May 1, 2020, and for 120 days thereafter.
 - 2. The temporary license is effective from the date of issuance through December 31, 2020.
 - 3. Physical therapy new graduates must submit an application for temporary licensure.
 - 4. Physical therapy applicants granted this temporary licensure shall practice under the direct supervision of a Colorado licensed physical therapist in good standing during the entire term of the temporary licensure.
 - 5. For the purpose of this emergency rule, "direct supervision" means the Colorado licensed physical therapist must be on the premises with the temporary physical therapist licensee and immediately available to respond to an emergency or provide assistance.

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6. For the purpose of this emergency rule, "premises" means within the same building, office or facility and within the physical proximity to establish direct contact with the patient should the need arise.
7. Once the temporary licensee successfully completes the statutorily required examination, the temporary licensee must immediately submit an application and the required fee for full licensure.
8. On January 1, 2021, if a full license to practice as a physical therapist in Colorado has not been issued, the temporary licensee shall cease practice immediately and until such time as full licensure to practice as a physical therapist in Colorado has been granted.
9. This temporary license is not renewable and does not create a property interest for the holder of the temporary license.
10. The temporary licensee may be subject to discipline by the Board as defined in section 12-285-101, et seq., C.R.S.

D. Temporary Licensure for Physical Therapist Assistants. The Board may issue a temporary certification to an applicant that is a new graduate of an approved physical therapist assistant program as set forth in section 12-285-205(1)(a), C.R.S., and who meets all qualifications for certification with the exception of successful completion of the required examination as set forth in section 12-285-205(1)(b), C.R.S.

1. Temporary certificates will be issued beginning May 1, 2020, and for 120 days thereafter.
2. The temporary certificate is effective from the date of issuance through December 31, 2020.
3. Physical therapist assistant new graduates must submit an application for temporary certification.
4. Physical therapist assistant applicants granted this temporary certification shall practice under the direct supervision of a Colorado licensed physical therapist in good standing during the entire term of the temporary certification.
5. For the purpose of this emergency rule, "direct supervision" means the Colorado licensed physical therapist must be on the premises with the temporary physical therapist assistant certificate holder and immediately available to respond to an emergency or provide assistance.
6. For the purpose of this emergency rule, "premises" means within the same building, office or facility and within the physical proximity to establish direct contact with the patient should the need arise.
7. Once the temporary licensee successfully completes the statutorily required examination, the temporary licensee must immediately submit an application and the required fee for full licensure.
8. On January 1, 2021, if a full certificate to practice as a physical therapist assistant in Colorado has not been issued, the temporary certificate holder shall cease practice immediately and until such time as full certification to practice as a physical therapist assistant in Colorado has been granted.

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9. This temporary license is not renewable and does not create a property interest for the holder of the temporary license.
10. The temporary licensee may be subject to discipline by the Board as defined in section 12-285-201, et seq., C.R.S.

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