

305. Certification by Endorsement for Physical Therapist Assistants

The purpose of this rule is to delineate the requirements for certification by endorsement pursuant to section 12-41-206, C.R.S. In order to be qualified for certification by endorsement, an applicant is required to demonstrate that he/she does not currently have a revoked, suspended, restricted, or conditional license, certification, or registration to practice as a physical therapist assistant, or is currently pending disciplinary action against such license, certification, or registration in another state or territory of the United States. An applicant must meet one of the following requirements:

- A. Graduated from an accredited physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program within the past 2 years and passed the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE).
- B. Practiced in the United States as a licensed, certified, or registered physical therapist assistant for at least 2 of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application.
- C. If an applicant has not practiced as a licensed, certified, or registered physical therapist assistant for at least 2 of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application, then he/she is required to have passed the NPTE, or its equivalent, and may demonstrate competency through successful completion of 1 of the following:
 1. Completion of 60 hours of continuing education related to the practice of physical therapy during the 2 years immediately preceding the application.
 - a. An applicant seeking to demonstrate competency through this pathway shall:
 - i. Complete an objective third-party assessment that compares a certificate holder's knowledge, skills, and abilities to the standards for entry-level practice accepted by the Board; and
 - ii. Successfully complete all hours as in compliance with the "Physical Therapy Board Standards for Continuing Education Activities", directly related to the physical therapist assistant's clinical practice and address any areas of deficiencies identified in the objective third-party assessment.
 - b. The applicant must submit the results of the objective third-party assessment and the corresponding 60 hours continuing education hours for Board consideration within 1 year of completing the objective third-party assessment.
 2. Successful completion of a Board authorized internship.
 - a. An applicant seeking to demonstrate competency through an internship shall:
 - i. Arrange for a Colorado-licensed, practicing physical therapist (the "supervising physical therapist") to supervise the internship; and
 - ii. Ensure that the supervising physical therapist immediately notifies the Board in writing of the establishment of the internship and submits for the Board's approval a plan for supervision using the most current version of the "Physical Therapist Assistant Clinical Performance Instrument" (CPI) or a comparable objective third-party assessment that compares a certificate holder's knowledge, skills, and abilities to the standards for entry-level practice accepted by the Board.

b. The internship shall not commence without the Board's written approval of the supervising physical therapist's plan for supervision specified in subparagraph (2)(c) of this rule.

c. The internship shall consist of:

i. The applicant's actual practice of physical therapy as defined in section 12-41-103(6), C.R.S.;

ii. Direct supervision, as defined in Rule 101(B), of the applicant at all times by the Board approved Colorado-licensed, practicing physical therapist; and

iii. A minimum of 240 hours clinical practice within a consecutive 6-month period commencing from the Board's written approval of the plan for supervision.

d. The applicant shall ensure that the supervising physical therapist files a written report at the completion of the internship. This report must indicate whether the applicant demonstrates entry-level performance in all skills assessed by the CPI or comparable objective third-party assessment. Hard copy or electronic copies of the CPI or comparable objective third-party assessment are acceptable.

D. An applicant who is unable to demonstrate competency under sections A, B, or C of this rule may request to demonstrate competency by any other means. The Board shall consider such a request on a case-by-case basis. The decision to approve such a request shall be at the sole discretion of the Board. In considering whether to approve such a request, the Board shall consider public safety, the particular circumstances and hardships faced by the applicant, and such other factors as the Board deems appropriate. If the Board grants a certification under this section D, the Board may subject said certification to such lawful conditions as the Board finds are necessary to protect the public.

E. On or after January 1, 2019, applicant must submit fingerprints for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation responsible for retaining the state's criminal records set forth in Section 24-60-3702(3)(B), C.R.S.