

**R156. Commerce, Occupational and Professional Licensing.**

**R156-24b. Physical Therapy Practice Act Rule.**

**R156-24b-101. Title.**

This rule is known as the "Physical Therapy Practice Act Rule".

**R156-24b-102. Definitions.**

In addition to the definitions in Title 58, Chapters 1 and 24b, as used in Title 58, Chapters 1 and 24b or this rule:

(1) "A recognized accreditation agency", as used in Subsections 58-24b-302(1)(c) and (2)(c), means a college or university:

(a) accredited by CAPTE; or

(b) a foreign education program which is equivalent to a CAPTE accredited program as determined by FSBPT's Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy.

(2) "Credential evaluation", as used in Subsections R156-24b-302a(2) and (3), means the appropriate Course Work Tool (CWT) adopted by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. The appropriate CWT means the CWT in place at the time the foreign educated physical therapist or physical therapist assistant graduated from the physical therapy program.

(3) "CAPTE" means Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

(4) "FSBPT" means the Federation of State Licensing Boards of Physical Therapy.

(5) "Joint mobilization", as used in Subsection 58-24b-102(14)(d), means passive and active movements of the joints of a patient, including the spine, to increase the mobility of joint systems; but, does not include specific vertebral adjustment and manipulation of the articulation of the spine by those methods or techniques which are generally recognized as the classic practice of chiropractic.

(6) "Routine assistance", as used in Subsections 58-24b-102(10) and 58-24b-401(3)(b) means:

(a) engaging in assembly and disassembly, maintenance and transportation, preparation and all other operational activities relevant to equipment and accessories necessary for treatment; and

(b) providing only that type of elementary and direct patient care which the patient and family members could reasonably be expected to learn and perform.

(7) "Supportive personnel", as used in Subsection R156-24b-503(1), means a physical therapist assistant or a physical therapy aide and does not include a student in a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant program.

(8) "Unprofessional conduct" as defined in Title 58, Chapters 1 and 24b, is further defined, in accordance with Subsection 58-1-203(1)(e), in Section R156-24b-502.

**R156-24b-103. Authority - Purpose.**

This rule is adopted by the division under the authority of Subsection 58-1-106(1) to enable the division to administer Title 58, Chapter 24b.

**R156-24b-104. Organization - Relationship to Rule R156-1.**

The organization of this rule and its relationship to Rule R156-1 is as described in Section R156-1-107.

**R156-24b-302a. Qualifications for Licensure - Education Requirements.**

(1) In accordance with Subsection 58-24b-302(1)(c), the accredited school of physical therapy for a physical therapist shall be accredited by CAPTE at the time of graduation.

(2) In accordance with Subsection 58-24b-302(3), an applicant for licensure as a physical therapist who is educated outside the United States whose degree was not accredited by CAPTE shall document that the applicant's education is equal to a CAPTE accredited degree by submitting to the Division a credential evaluation from the Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy. Only educational deficiencies in the humanities, social sciences and liberal arts may be corrected by completing college level credits in the deficient areas or by passing the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) demonstrating proficiency in the deficient areas.

(3) In accordance with Subsection 58-24b-302(2), a physical therapist assistant shall complete one of the following CAPTE accredited physical therapy education programs:

(a) an associates, bachelors, or masters program; or

(b) in accordance with Section 58-1-302, an applicant for a license as a physical therapist assistant who has been licensed in a foreign country whose degree was not accredited by CAPTE shall document that the applicant's education is substantially equivalent to a CAPTE accredited degree by submitting to the Division a credential evaluation from the Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy. Only educational deficiencies in the humanities, social sciences and liberal arts may be corrected by completing college level credits in the deficient areas or by passing the

College Level Examination Program (CLEP) demonstrating proficiency in the deficient areas.

**R156-24b-302b. Qualifications for Licensure - Examination Requirements.**

(1) In accordance with Subsections 58-24b-302(1)(e), (2)(e) and (3)(e), each applicant for licensure as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant shall pass the FSBPT's National Physical Therapy Examination with a passing score as established by the FSBPT.

(2) In accordance with Section 58-1-309 and Subsections 58-24b-302(1)(d), (2)(d) and (3)(d), each applicant for licensure as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant, including endorsement applicants, shall pass all questions on the open book, take home Utah Physical Therapy Law and Rule Examination.

(3) An applicant for licensure as a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant must have completed the education requirements set forth in Section R156-24b-302, or be enrolled in the final semester of a CAPTE accredited program, in order to be eligible to sit for the examination required for Utah licensure as set forth in Subsection(1) above.

**R156-24b-303a. Renewal Cycle - Procedures.**

(1) In accordance with Subsection 58-1-308(1), the renewal date for the two-year renewal cycle applicable to licensees under Title 58, Chapter 24b is established by rule in Section R156-1-308a.

(2) Renewal procedures shall be in accordance with Section R156-1-308c.

**R156-24b-303b. Continuing Education.**

(1) In accordance with Subsection 58-24b-303(2), there is hereby established a continuing education requirement for all individuals licensed under Title 58, Chapter 24b as a physical therapist and a physical therapist assistant.

(2) During each two year period commencing on June 1 of each odd numbered year:

(a) a physical therapist shall be required to complete not less than 40 hours of continuing education directly related to the licensee's professional practice of which a minimum of six hours must be completed in ethics/law;

(b) a physical therapist assistant shall be required to complete not less than 20 hours of continuing education directly related to the licensee's professional practice of which a minimum of three hours must be completed in ethics/law.

(3) The required number of hours of continuing education for an individual who first becomes licensed during the two year period shall be decreased in a pro-rata amount equal to any part of that two year period preceding the date on which that individual first became licensed.

(4) Continuing education under this section shall:

(a) be relevant to the licensee's professional practice;

(b) be prepared and presented by individuals who are qualified by education, training and experience to provide physical therapy continuing education; and

(c) have a method of verification of attendance and completion.

(5) Credit for professional education shall be recognized in accordance with the following:

(a) unlimited hours shall be recognized for continuing education completed in blocks of time of not less than 50 minutes in formally established classroom courses, seminars, conferences or training sessions which meet the criteria listed in Subsection (4) above and which are approved by, or under sponsorship of:

(i) the American Physical Therapy Association;

(ii) the Utah Physical Therapy Association;

(iii) accredited universities or colleges; or

(iv) professional associations, societies and organizations representing a licensed profession whose program objectives relate to the practice of physical therapy;

(b) a maximum of ten hours per two year period may be recognized for teaching in a college or university and teaching continuing education courses in the field of physical therapy;

(c) a maximum of six hours per two year period may be recognized for clinical reading or in-service directly related to physical therapy practice; and

(d) a maximum of 12 hours per two year period may be recognized for internet or distance learning courses that include an examination and issuance of a completion certificate.

(6) A licensee shall be responsible for maintaining competent records of continuing education for a period of four years after the close of the two year period to which the records pertain. It is the responsibility of the licensee to maintain information with respect to continuing education to demonstrate it meets the requirements of this section.

**R156-24b-502. Unprofessional Conduct.**

Unprofessional conduct includes:

(1) violating, as a physical therapist, any provision of the American Physical Therapy Association's Code of Ethics, last amended June 2000, which is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference;

(2) violating, as a physical therapist, any provision of the American Physical Therapy Association's Guide for Professional Conduct, last amended January 2004, which is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference;

(3) not providing supervision, as a physical therapist, as set forth in Section R156-24b-503

(4) violating, as a physical therapist assistant, any provision of the American Physical Therapy Association's Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant, last amended June 2000, which is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference; and

(5) violating, as a physical therapist assistant, any provision of the American Physical Therapy Association's Guide for Conduct of the Physical Therapist Assistant, last amended February 2004, which is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference.

**R156-24b-503. Physical Therapist Supervisory Authority and Responsibility.**

In accordance with Section 58-24b-404, a physical therapist's supervision of a physical therapist assistant or a physical therapy aide shall meet the following conditions:

(1) a full-time equivalent physical therapist can supervise no more than three full-time equivalent supportive personnel unless approved by the board and Division; and

(2) a physical therapist shall provide treatment to a patient at least every tenth treatment day but no longer than 30 days from the day of the physical therapist's last treatment day, whichever is less.

**KEY: licensing, physical therapy, physical therapist, physical therapist assistant**

**Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: August 10, 2009**

**Notice of Continuation: January 30, 2007**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 58-24b-101; 58-1-106(1)(a); 58-1-202(1)(a)**

**PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE ACT RULE**

**R156-24b**  
**Utah Administrative Code**  
**Issued August 10, 2009**