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The Practice Review Tool: New Attention on an Existing Resource

Periodically we hear stakeholders mention the need for a self-assessment resource for physical therapists to complete.

- A resource that serves as an objective measurement of the knowledge required to practice entry-level physical therapy.
- A resource that PTs can use as guidance in developing a customized and meaningful continuing competence development plan.
- And finally, a resource that meets many states' continuing competence/continuing education requirements for renewal.

The good news is such a resource does exist. It is the Practice Review Tool (PRT).

Developed in 2008, the General Practice PRT was one of the first continuing competence resources created by FSBPT for PTs. The Orthopedic version of the PRT was introduced in 2011. While their use and adoption was initially slow to gain traction, the PRT's popularity has recently been on the rise and awareness of it is expanding. Member boards are increasingly giving consideration to incorporating self-assessments into their continuing competence requirements, which is calling more attention to the PRT.

In 2011 and 2012, FSBPT ramped up efforts to promote the PRT to licensees through interactions with PTs visiting the Federation's booth at the Combined Sections Meetings and National Conferences of the American Physical Therapy Association. Additionally, e-marketing has targeted PTs licensed in states accepting the PRT. Jurisdiction boards have asked FSBPT to share information about the PRT and its value as a continuing competence resource. The outcome of all these efforts has been a 333% increase in PRT takers from 2010 to 2011, and a projected 180% increase in takers from 2011 to 2012.

The PRT provides immediate feedback in the form of a written report issued upon its completion. The PRT helps licensees identify practice strengths, review physical therapy practice fundamentals, and enhances awareness of where opportunities for improvement exist in terms of practice knowledge.

One PT recently wrote to FSBPT the following comments about the PRT:

"I am using the PRT as a gauge to assess my weakness as a Physical Therapist, after working on a PRN basis for many years and stepping back from the profession to raise my children. I am now able and at a time in my life that I am looking forward to accelerating my knowledge as a Therapist needing direction. This seemed like a great place to start. The questions were challenging for me but I believe very fair and will give me a great idea and further direction when selecting my path."

Currently 16 jurisdictions accept completion of the PRT for purposes of meeting continuing education or continuing competence requirements for PTs. *Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Kansas, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, and Texas* have all assigned a specific value to the PRT. *Oklahoma* and *South Carolina* will also accept it if pre-approved or on a case-by-case basis. At least five additional jurisdictions are revising their rule or regulation language to accept or recognize the PRT.

More information on the PRT and jurisdiction acceptance can be found on FSBPT's continuing competence website at www.comtinuingcompetence.org.