

Model Rules for Foreign Educated Physical Therapists & Physical Therapist Assistants (Examination & Endorsement)

Background

The Foreign Educated Standards Committee of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) developed the following model rules for jurisdictions to supplement the statutory language of the Model Practice Act (MPA). These rules help to improve the clarity of licensing requirements for foreign educated physical therapists and physical therapist assistants for examination versus applicants by endorsement.

The rules reflect recommendations from FSBPT and follow the MPA; not all of the requirements are applicable for all boards, examples include jurisprudence examinations, supervised clinical practice, and criminal background checks.

Contents

Definitions:.....	1
REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED PHYSICAL THERAPISTS (FEPT)	2
REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS (FEPTA).....	4
REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED PHYSICAL THERAPISTS (FEPT)	6
REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS (FEPTA).....	7

Definitions:

Foreign educated physical therapist (FEPT) is a graduate of a non-CAPTE accredited physical therapist education program located outside of the United States.

Foreign educated physical therapist assistant (FEPTA) is a graduate of a non-CAPTE accredited physical therapist assistant education program located outside of the United States.



REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED PHYSICAL THERAPISTS (FEPT)

When necessary, all required documents to satisfy the requirements shall be translated into English by a professional translator at the applicant's expense and must be sent directly to the Board by the professional translator along with the original language copy and a notarized statement as to the translator's certification.

Application. Submission of a complete application establishing that the applicant has met the qualifications as set forth in these rules.

Educational Credential Review. Submission of an education credentials review directly to the Board from an approved credentialing agency using the most recent edition of the FSBPT Coursework Tool for Foreign Educated Physical Therapists (CWT) for the purpose of evaluating and verifying that the applicant's education is substantially equivalent to a curriculum approved by the Board. The curriculum must be evaluated in accordance with the FSBPT Guidelines for Use of the CWT.

English Language Proficiency Requirement

- (a) The approved English proficiency examination is the most recent Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL);
- (b) The TOEFL minimum passing score is twenty-two (22) in writing; twenty-four (24) in speaking, twenty-two (22) in reading, and twenty-one (21) in listening. The minimum passing scores must be acquired in one test administration;
- (c) Applicants who graduated from an educational program accredited by CAPTE or a college, university, or professional training school located in Australia, Canada (except Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, or the United States are exempt from the English proficiency requirement.

Examinations. Submission of proof that the applicant has:

- (a) Successfully passed the NPTE; and
- (b) Successfully passed the jurisprudence examination

Criminal Background Checks. At the applicant's expense, an applicant for licensure shall consent to a criminal history record check and furnish a complete set of fingerprints to the Board.

Supervised Clinical Practice

- (a) The applicant must complete a minimum of 1,000 clinical hours to be completed in no fewer than six months and no longer than one year;
- (b) The applicant must work under onsite supervision for the entirety of the supervised clinical practice. "Onsite supervision" means supervision provided by a physical therapist who is continuously onsite and present in the department or facility where services are provided. The supervising therapist is immediately available to the person being supervised and maintains continued involvement in the necessary aspects of patient care;
- (c) The clinical supervisor, and one additional supervisor, shall be approved by the Board prior to the supervised clinical practice. The clinical supervisor must have the following qualifications:
 - i. A minimum of three years of clinical experience;



- ii. An unrestricted license to practice as a physical therapist in the state where the supervised clinical practice is being completed; and
- iii. A current role where direct patient care is provided;
- (d) The clinical facility shall be approved by the Board prior to the supervised clinical practice;
- (e) Applicants, supervisors, and facilities shall disclose to the Board any known potential for conflict of interest or appearance of conflict;
- (f) The applicant should be evaluated using the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy's Performance Evaluation Tool. The applicant must be evaluated at the midterm and final point of the supervised clinical practice;
- (g) The applicant is limited to two supervised clinical practice attempts.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS (FEPTA)

When necessary, all required documents to satisfy the requirements shall be translated into English by a professional translator at the applicant's expense and must be sent directly to the Board by the professional translator along with the original language copy and a notarized statement as to the translator's certification.

Application. Submission of a complete application establishing that the applicant has met the qualifications as set forth in these rules.

Educational Credential Review. Submission of an education credentials review directly to the Board from an approved credentialing agency using the most recent edition of the FSBPT Coursework Tool for Foreign Educated Physical Therapist Assistants (CWT) for the purpose of evaluating and verifying that the applicant's education is substantially equivalent to a curriculum approved by the Board. The curriculum must be evaluated in accordance with the FSBPT Guidelines for Use of the CWT.

English Language Proficiency Requirement

- (a) The approved English proficiency examination is the most recent Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL);
- (b) The TOEFL minimum passing score is twenty-two (22) in writing; twenty-four (24) in speaking, twenty-two (22) in reading, and twenty-one (21) in listening. The minimum passing scores must be acquired in one test administration;
- (c) Applicants who graduated from an educational program accredited by CAPTE or a college, university, or professional training school located in Australia, Canada (except Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, or the United States are exempt from the English proficiency requirement.

Examinations

Submission of proof that the applicant has

- (a) Successfully passed the NPTE; and
- (b) Successfully passed the jurisprudence examination

Criminal Background Checks. At the applicant's expense, an applicant for licensure shall consent to a criminal history record check and furnish a complete set of fingerprints to the Board.

Supervised Clinical Practice

- (a) The applicant must complete a minimum of 1,000 clinical hours to be completed in no fewer than six months and no longer than one year;
- (b) The applicant must work under onsite supervision for the entirety of the supervised clinical practice. "Onsite supervision" means supervision provided by a physical therapist who is continuously onsite and present in the department or facility where services are provided. The supervising therapist is immediately available to the person being supervised and maintains continued involvement in the necessary aspects of patient care;
- (c) The clinical supervisor, and one additional supervisor, shall be approved by the Board prior to the supervised clinical practice. The clinical supervisor must have the following qualifications:
 - a. A minimum of three years of clinical experience,



- b. An unrestricted license to practice as a physical therapist in the state where the supervised clinical practice is being completed; and
- c. A current role where direct patient care is provided;
- (d) The clinical facility shall be approved by the Board prior to the supervised clinical practice;
- (e) Applicants, supervisors, and facilities shall disclose to the Board any known potential for conflict of interest or appearance of conflict;
- (f) The applicant's clinical performance should be evaluated using an objective measurement tool. The applicant must be evaluated at the midterm and final point of the supervised clinical practice;
- (g) The applicant is limited to two supervised clinical practice attempts.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED PHYSICAL THERAPISTS (FEPT)

To be eligible for licensure by endorsement, at the time of application an FEPT applicant must hold a current, valid license/certification as a physical therapist from a physical therapy licensing authority of the United States. An individual may not apply by endorsement when holding a temporary license from a physical therapy licensing authority of the United States. A FEPT who does not meet the requirements of this section may apply for licensure under **REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED PHYSICAL THERAPISTS**.

Application. Submission of a complete application establishing that the applicant has met the qualifications as set forth in these rules.

Proof of Active Practice. Submission of a written, notarized statement sent directly to the Board from the applicant's most recent employer or supervisor to verify completion of a minimum of 1,000 hours of safe and competent practice as a physical therapist completed in the twelve months immediately prior to application. In the absence of an employer or supervisor, the Board will determine other acceptable documentation for submission to the Board.

Educational Credential Review. Submission of an original, verified copy of the education credentials review report demonstrating a substantially equivalent education, used by a physical therapy licensing authority of a jurisdiction of the United States to make the determination to issue a license in that jurisdiction.

- (a) The educational credentials review shall be completed using the edition of the FSBPT CWT corresponding to the year of the applicant's graduation or more recent.
- (b) The educational credentials review shall be sent directly to the Board from an approved credentialing agency or physical therapy licensing authority of a jurisdiction of the United States.

Licensure Verification. Submission of a verification of each license currently or previously held from a physical therapy licensing authority of a jurisdiction of the United States.

Examinations. Submission of proof that the applicant has

- (a) Successfully passed the NPTE; and
- (b) Successfully passed the jurisprudence examination

Criminal Background Checks. At the applicant's expense, an applicant for licensure shall consent to a criminal history record check and furnish a complete set of fingerprints to the Board.



REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS (FEPTA)

To be eligible for licensure by endorsement, at the time of application an FEPTA applicant must hold a current, valid, license/certification as a physical therapist assistant from a physical therapy licensing authority of the United States. An individual may not apply by endorsement when holding a temporary license from a physical therapy licensing authority of the United States. A FEPTA who does not meet the requirements of this section may apply for licensure under **REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS.**

Application. Submission of a complete application establishing that the applicant has met the qualifications as set forth in these rules.

Proof of Active Work. Submission of a written, notarized statement sent directly to the Board from the applicant's most recent employer or supervisor to verify completion of a minimum of 1,000 hours of safe and competent work as a physical therapist assistant completed in the twelve months immediately prior to application. In the absence of an employer or supervisor, the Board will determine other acceptable documentation for submission to the Board.

Educational Credential Review. Submission of an original, verified copy of the education credentials review report demonstrating a substantially equivalent education, used by a physical therapy licensing authority of a jurisdiction of the United States to make the determination to issue a license in that jurisdiction.

- (a) The educational credentials review shall be completed using the edition of the FSBPT CWT corresponding to the year of the applicant's graduation or more recent.
- (b) The educational credentials review shall be sent directly to the Board from an approved credentialing agency or physical therapy licensing authority of a jurisdiction of the United States.

Licensure Verification. Submission of a verification of each license currently or previously held from a physical therapy licensing authority of a jurisdiction of the United States.

Examinations. Submission of proof that the applicant has

- (a) Successfully passed the NPTE; and
- (b) Successfully passed the jurisprudence examination

Criminal Background Checks. At the applicant's expense, an applicant for licensure shall consent to a criminal history record check and furnish a complete set of fingerprints to the Board.

