

California Jurisprudence Exam: Study Guide

Disclaimer: This is not an all inclusive guide. Further resources such as what is listed below should be used in preparation:

1. [California Laws and Regulations Related to the Practice of Physical Therapy](#)
(pdf)
2. [Statues outside the Physical Therapy Practice Act](#)

NOTE: The **BOLDED** numbers listed represent where the information is obtained from. Any number **2000** or higher represents the CA physical therapy practice act. **1000-2000** represents the California code of regulations. Anything less than **1000** is the Business and Professions code. Some can be found in the PDF listed above containing the laws and regulations.

1. Legislative Intent and Definitions

- a. **Physical Therapy (2620):** The practice of physical therapy includes the promotion and maintenance of physical fitness through the use of physical therapy interventions in order to enhance the bodily movement as related to the health and wellness of individuals.
 - i. "Physical therapist of record" - Physical therapist that completed the initial evaluation.
 1. Can transfer to another therapist, but it must be in writing. **(1398.44)**
 - ii. "Physiotherapy" is the same as "physical therapy." **(2601)**
 - iii. "Physical therapy aide" and "physical therapy technician" are interchangeable.

2. Administration: Board of Physical Therapy

- a. **Powers and Duties (2100)**
 - i. Physical Therapy Board of California (PTBC) **(2602):**
 1. Creator and enforcer of the Practice Act.
 2. Protection of the public is the highest priority and paramount above ALL else. **(2602.1)**
 3. Board shall do all of the following **(2605):**
 - a. Issue, suspend, revoke, and discipline physical therapy licensees within the state of California.
 - b. Administer a continuing competency program.
 - c. Publish, at least 1x a year, a newsletter denoting actions taken by the board, disciplinary actions, and relevant statutory regulatory changes.

4. Board members have the authority to inspect physical therapy facilities and patient records. **(2608.5)**
 - a. If the patient's written authorization has been provided, the release of records shall be given within 15 days or a penalty of \$1,000 will occur for every day starting on the 16th day. **(2660.4)**
 5. Board shall hear all matters, including, but not limited to, any contested case or petition for reinstatement, or modification of probation. **(2614)**
 6. Board can appoint individuals to proctor examinations. The appointed individuals cannot be board members.
 7. Board can investigate each applicant to determine if the requirements for licensure have been met. **(2634)**
- ii. Board members
1. Composition **(2603.5)**:
 - a. One physical therapist involved in the education of physical therapist students.
 - b. Three physical therapists with \geq five years experience and currently licensed.
 - c. Three public members who are citizens of California and not licensed physical therapists nor licensed by any other medical board of California.
 - d. Governor of California appoints the physical therapy members and one public member.
 - i. President and vice president of the board are determined by the elected board members.
 2. Terms: four years, expires 1st day of June
 - a. No person can serve more than two consecutive terms - eight years max. **(2604)**

3. Licensure and Examination

a. Qualifications; Requirements

- i. Qualifications required for licensure **(2635)**:
 1. >18 years of age, not addicted to any substance, completed education and training (section **2650**), not committed any crimes. (section **480**)
- ii. Licensed Applicants **(2639)**
 1. Physical therapist licensed applicant (PTLA):
 - a. A graduate can work as a PTLA under DIRECT and IMMEDIATE supervision of a licensed physical therapist

for 120 days pending results of the first licensing exam for which he/she is eligible. **(1399.10) (2639)**

- i. A licensed supervising physical therapist must be on-site at ALL times and must have a documented receipt of the letter authorizing the PTLA to practice as well as a record of the expiration date of that status. **(1399.10)**
 - ii. Upon passing the NPTE, the PTLA status will remain in effect until a license is issued.
 - iii. If the exam is FAILED or licensure denied or the applicant does not take the exam during the first possible test cycle, the graduate can no longer practice as a PTLA.
- b. Cannot supervise a physical therapist assistant or an aide providing patient related tasks. **(2630.4)**

2. Physical therapist Assistant Licensed Applicant (PTALA) **(1399.12):**

- a. PTALA status will be granted following graduation from an approved education program for 120 days. **(2639)**
 - i. A licensed supervising physical therapist must be on-site at ALL times and must have a documented receipt of the letter authorizing the PTALA to practice as well as a record of the expiration date of that status.
 - ii. Status will remain in effect after passing the exam until a license has been granted.
 - iii. If the exam is FAILED or licensure denied or the applicant does not take the exam during the first possible test cycle, the graduate can no longer practice as a PTALA.

iii. **Alternative Route to Physical Therapist Assistant Licensure 2639.1 & 1398.47:**

1. If the board finds someone to have proper training and adequate experience equivalent to that received at a physical therapist assistant school and they meet the requirements for licensure **(2635)** seen above) they may apply for licensure as a physical therapist assistant.

b. **Examination and Application**

- i. Federation of State Boards of physical Therapy creates the licensing examination for physical therapists and assistants. **(1398.28)**
- ii. Exams required to obtain license **(2636):**
 1. State laws and regulations.
 2. National physical therapy examination (NPTE)

- a. If an applicant fails to pass the NPTE, a reexamination fee must be paid. **(2638)**
 - b. An applicant is allowed to sit for the NPTE three times per application per 12-month time period. If the applicant has not passed the NPTE within one year from the date of original notice, a new application and application fee are required in addition to a re-examination fee. **(1398.21.1)**
 - c. If the required initial license fee following a pass of the NPTE has not been paid within five years, then the application will be determined as abandoned. **(1398.23)**
- iii. Applicant may be issued a license without written examination if **ALL** the following criteria are met **(2636.5)**:
 - 1. The applicant is licensed as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in a state, district, or territory of the United States and has met the requirements for licensing.
 - 2. The applicant is a graduate of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant education program.
 - 3. The applicant files an application with the board.
- iv. Any applicant who fails to pass the National Physical Therapy Exam may retake it and shall pay the re-examination fee. **(2638)**
- v. Educational Standards for Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant **(2650)**:
 - 1. Graduate of an accredited post secondary institution that includes clinical internship and academic course work.
 - a. Subjects for educational requirements are determined by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).
 - b. Clinical experiences are to be at least 18 weeks of full-time work for physical therapy students.
 - i. physical therapist assistant students spend approximately 16 weeks of full-time clinical work experience.
 - 2. Board shall only approve education programs that prove to the satisfaction of the board that minimum educational requirements set forth are met and maintained. **(2651)**
- vi. Fees assessed with licenses **(1399.50 & 1399.52)**:
(Fees in this section are for both physical therapists and assistants unless specifically noted otherwise)
 - 1. Application fee: \$300 (domestic and foreign graduates)
 - 2. Examination fee is to be the actual cost to develop, grade, and administer the exam.
 - 3. Initial license fee: \$150
 - 4. Biennial renewal fee: \$300