



APTA

Tennessee SM

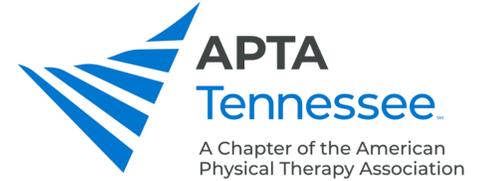
A Chapter of the American
Physical Therapy Association

IMPORTANT UPDATE!!



- New changes to the Rules that went into effect on 12-29-2025
- **Unfortunately, not ALL of the Rules approved made it in the final Rules document.**
- In order to help guide you, APTA TN has listed in this document what was expected to be changed and what the original Rules state are *STILL* in effect.
- We have also updated the Rules notice sent out in early December to reflect the areas that did not get added. Click [here](#) for the updated document.
- **It is very important that all licensees review the new Rules as of 12-29-25 very carefully and thoroughly to note the impact on your practice.**

The Why



- During the rule-making process, there were a couple of clerical errors that were recognized *after* the Board of Physical Therapy approved the changes and were reported by APTATN earlier in December 2025.
- The Board of PT approved changes for SECTIONS 02, 04, 05, 08, AND 10 were not included.
- For those Rules changes approved but did not make it into the final Rules document, the language prior to the 12-29-2025 changes will remain and must be followed.

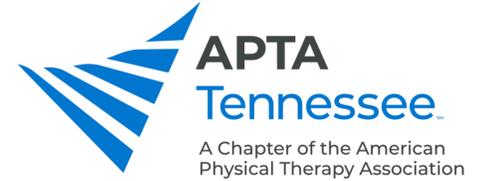
The What - Scope of Practice (1150-01-.02)



The following are the changes that did not get included in the final copy of the Rules. Please follow the Current Language.

- **Proposed Rule Change:** (1)(a) Dry needling language in the Rules updated to reference the 2023 changes to the Practice Act. **This was not included!**
- **Current Language:** See page #4 for the 12-29-2025 Rules language, carried forward from the previous Rules document.
- **Note:** regardless of the Rules language, the statute (Practice Act) was updated in 2023 and should be followed. See the Practice Act language here: § 63-13-303.

The What - Scope of Practice (1150-01-.02) continued



The following are the changes that did not get included in the final copy of the Rules. Please follow the Current Language.

- Proposed Changes:
 - (1)(b)(2)(ii) A reference citation was updated
 - (1)(b)(5) Manual Therapy Techniques: removal of the definition

These two changes are purely clerical and do not affect physical therapy practice.

The What - Scope of Practice (1150-01-.02) continued



The following are the changes that did not get included in the final copy of the Rules. Please follow the Current Language.

- **Proposed Rule Change:**

- (2)(a)(3) Supervision: The supervising licensed physical therapist must be available to communicate by telephone or other means whenever the physical therapist assistant is delivering services. **This was not included!**

- **Current Language:**

- See pages #7-8 for the 12-29-2025 [Rules](#) language, carried forward from the previous Rules document, which states:
- *The licensed physical therapist may not supervise a physical therapist assistant that is delivering services at a site further than sixty (60) miles or one (1) hour from the licensed physical therapist. The supervising licensed physical therapist must be available to communicate by telephone or other means whenever the physical therapist assistant is delivering services.*

The What - Qualifications for Licensure (1150-01-.04)



The following are the changes that did not get included in the final copy of the Rules. Please follow the Current Language.

- **Proposed Rule Change:**

- Language revisions in (1) and (2) eliminate redundancy and add the requirement of verification of United States citizenship or lawful presence in the United States for applicants graduating from a CAPTE-accredited educational program.
- This area stipulates the licensure requirements for foreign-educated physical therapists or physical therapist assistants who did not graduate from a CAPTE-accredited educational program.

- **Current Language:**

- There is considerable detail listed here. If this affects you, please review the current language. See page #10 for the 12-29-2025 [Rules](#) language, carried forward from the previous Rules document.

The What - Procedure for Licensure (1150-01-.05)



The following are the changes that did not get included in the final copy of the Rules. Please follow the Current Language.

- **Proposed Rule Change:**

- This language has been changed to reflect the requirements for the electronic application process.
- **Current Language:** There is considerable detail listed here. See page #13 for the 12-29-2025 [Rules](#) language, carried forward from the previous Rules document.

The What:



Examinations (1150-01-.08) – The following are the changes that did not get included in the final copy of the Rules. Please follow the Current Language.

- **Proposed Rule Change:**

- Minor changes in relation to the applicant's responsibilities with the FSBPT.

Provisional License (1150-01-.10) – The following are the changes that did not get included in the final copy of the Rules. Please follow the Current Language.

- **Proposed Rule Change:**

- Minor language change.

Current Language: See pages #18 and #21 for the 12-29-2025 [Rules](#) language, carried forward from the previous Rules document.

The When?



- The Board of Physical Therapy's appointed attorney is currently working on the process to correct this issue and get the rules document updated.
- Unfortunately, the updated rules document will have to again go through a correctional process per the rule-making process and will be released later in 2026.

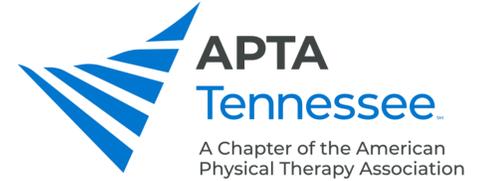
Ethics and Jurisprudence



The release of the New Rules has complicated Jurisprudence coursework. Providers, including APTATN, are doing their best to design new Jurisprudence courses that are in compliance with the new Rules. At this time, however, there are no approved Jurisprudence courses ready for licensees' CEU needs. This should only be for a very short period of time, so please be patient with providers as they make the appropriate changes to their courses. It is very important in the future that you ensure that you are taking courses that are approved in accordance with the December 2025 Rules and then later with the corrected version of the Rules.

Moving forward, approved Jurisprudence courses, as well as new Ethics courses that are in compliance with the new APTA Code of Ethics, will be listed on the APTATN website under the Education tab. APTATN will have new versions of both courses readily available in live and recorded versions by the end of January.

Questions?



For all questions related to this issue, please contact the Association's office at info@aptatn.org.