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Schulder, Judith

From: Patty Godfrey [patty.godfrey@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 11:34 AM
To: Schulder, Judith
Subject: Feedback proposed ed requirements

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I sent this letter earlier, but want to send again during the official feedback period.

Judith Pachter Schulder,

I'd like to share my concerns with the proposed continuing ed requirements.

I am an OT working in home health. I currently participate in the continuing ed program for NBCOT and have no problem with the concept or number of hours. However I don't understand the requirement to get continuing ed in 2 competency areas. I work 100% in patient care. I need my continuing ed to keep up to date in practice areas. This is best done with continuing ed seminars.

Also, I have virtually no opportunity for any participation in the other areas of continuing ed. Our agency hires 3 part time OT's which are divided among the county (each with our own area). We spend 99% of our time in the field. We do paperwork (computer) from home. We virtually never see each other or go into the agency.

We do have some staff meetings agency wide, but presentations are limited to 15-20 minutes. There is no opportunity for an hour's presentation--must less 3 per year for each OT! I honestly don't know what a peer reviewed presentation is. In the past I have given numerous presentations to the public, but am at a stage of my career where I'm handing those duties over to younger therapists as I focus on life outside of OT. Because we are so busy, management does not allow any student internships or mentoring (we have to turn away referrals due to insufficient OT's). That only leaves writing/editing. Since you need 6 hours, I'd have to do 2 articles in non-peer reviewed (since only 5 hours awarded and need 6). Realistically speaking, with all the therapists in the state of PA, what's the chance of getting 2 articles or 1 peer review printed--for all 3 of us? And even if I put a ton of work/time into it, I have no control over whether I'm chosen to be published. So I could write a dozen articles and not meet this requirement--and thus not meet my continuing ed requirement. You can be a great therapist and not be able to write in a style suitable for publishing.

I can see how some therapist would be able to use these alternatives and appreciate having them as an option. I know that I am not alone in needing to be able to fulfill all my hours with seminars. Many therapist work in very isolated settings with no opportunity to mentor or supervise. And, as I've explained the writing is not a reasonable option.

SO PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE change the requirements so that I can meet all the required hours with educational activities. It's what I **need** to keep up to date and continue to be a great therapist--and it's the only option I have in my present life/work situation. Please believe me when I say I truly believe I'd have to stop practicing OT in PA if these regs were enacted. I've worked in PA for 29 years and I don't want to leave.
PLEASE HELP ME!

I don't know the thought behind requiring 2 areas. I assume diversity. So, perhaps an option would be to require the education hours to be in two or more different practice/treatment areas--if you did all 24 hours in education. That would mean that if you went to a 3 day seminar on NDT you'd have to get more hours, even though you had the 24 hour requirement. Frankly, I don't quite see the need for diversity. I think everyone has specific areas of learning needs (especially after 29 years) and would be very effective to focus on one area. **But I'd do**

anything, as long as I can meet the requirements with education events alone.

Please, in your effort to provide great quality of care by having skilled, up-to-date therapist, don't give us IMPOSSIBLE requirements. PLEASE!!!!

Patty Godfrey, OTR/L