

Form Letter A
1-34

Blackburn, Thomas

From: ST, PHYSICAL
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 9:35 AM
To: Blackburn, Thomas; Howell, Sabina
Subject: FW: PT CEU's for CI's

RECEIVED
10:0

OCT 17 A 9 16

2910

From: Owens, Valerie [<mailto:VOwens@stmaryhealthcare.org>]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 9:31 AM
To: ST, PHYSICAL
Subject: PT CEU's for CI's

13 October, 2011

Regulatory Unit Counsel
Department of State
PO Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Reference Number – 16A-6514 (Act 38 of 2008)

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a physical therapist licensed in Pennsylvania. In reviewing the proposed rules by the State Board of Physical Therapy, I would like to ask the Board to consider additional language pertaining to the proposed section 40.68(c). This section highlights a variety of continuing competence activities that would qualify for continuing education units (CEUs). I applaud the variety of activities listed, specifically the mention of becoming a credentialed clinical instructor (CI) or trainer. Since this is a one-time activity, I would ask the board to add opportunities for clinicians who serve as CIs from year to year.

From personal experience, I can attest that being a clinical instructor provides opportunities for continuing competency. Supervising students requires me to remain current in a variety of skills. Students are constantly asking questions about my clinical decision making. This new perspective forces me to examine my own clinical practice. Additionally, I am regularly assessing the accuracy of the student's hands-on techniques while challenging his/her knowledge and rationale. Students frequently bring new concepts and literature that spark discussion and debate. Supervising students meets the intent contained in the continuing competencies listed in section 40.68(c).

As you may know, there are 16 physical therapy programs and 13 physical therapist assistant programs in Pennsylvania. According to the Commission on Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), the mean for physical therapy programs is 35.9 weeks of full-time clinical education. This accounts for an average of 20.1% of the total education time of physical therapy students (CAPTE, 2010-2011 Fact Sheet Physical Therapist Education Programs). The average for physical therapist assistant programs is 14.9 weeks of full-time clinical education (CAPTE, 2010-2011 Fact Sheet Physical Therapist Assistant Education Programs). As such, the role of the clinical instructor is vital in the development of these students.

Increasingly clinical instructors are being awarded CEUs from state licensing authorities for teaching students in the clinical setting. When comparing the CEU requirements in Pennsylvania to those in other states, there are at least 39 other states that require CEUs for licensure renewal. Of those 39, at least 19 offer CEUs for being a

CI. The neighboring states of Delaware, New York, and Ohio all offer CEUs for clinical instructors. There are a variety of guidelines governing the process. Most CEUs awarded are calculated based on the number of hours or weeks of clinical instruction. Some states have a limit of the number of credits that may be awarded per clinical instructor.

I ask that the board consider adding language that would award CEUs to recognize the contribution and the professional development that is associated with being a CI.

Sincerely,

Valerie Owens, MSPT, CCCE
PA PT017327

Valerie Owens, MSPT, CCCE
St. Mary Medical Center
Physical Therapy Department
1201 Langhorne-Newtown Road
Langhorne, PA 19047
vowens@stmaryhealthcare.org
Phone # (215)710-2189
Fax# (215)710-5841

Confidentiality Notice:

This e-mail, including any attachments is the property of Catholic Health East and is intended for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). It may contain information that is privileged and confidential. Any unauthorized review, use, ~~disclosure, or distribution is prohibited.~~ If you are not the intended recipient, please delete this message, and reply to the sender regarding the error in a separate email.