

Board Certification for Orthopaedics Physical Therapy

REQUIREMENTS FOR RECERTIFICATION

OVERVIEW

Recertification is to verify current competence as an advanced practitioner in a specialty area and to encourage ongoing education and professional growth. To maintain the certified specialist designation, individuals must recertify every ten [10] years. By maintaining their specialist certification, certified specialists indicate that they are committed to clinical excellence and the development of knowledge and skills in their chosen specialty area. To recertify, candidates must meet minimum eligibility requirements established by the Specialty Council and approved by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS).

CERTIFICATION STATUS

Applicants must hold current certification as certified physical therapy specialist by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties.

LICENSE

Applicants must hold a current unrestricted license to practice physical therapy in the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands.

PATIENT CARE EXPERIENCE

Candidates are required to document evidence of continued direct patient care activities in the specialty area, the equivalent of 200 hours per year since the date of most recent certification.

Two hundred (200) of the total hours must have occurred within the last three [3] years. Certified specialists are permitted to recertify up to 3 years prior to their certification expiration date in which the total hours are prorated by 200 hours per year. Therefore, if you recertify in your seven year you will only need 1600 direct patient care hours.

Direct patient care in the specialty area must include activities in each of the elements of patient/client management applicable to the specialty area and included in the Description of Specialty Practice (DSP). These elements, as defined in the Guide to Physical Therapist Practice, are examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention.

APPLICATION FEES

	Member Fee	Non-Member	Deadline Date
Recertification Application Fee	\$650	\$910	October 31, 2021
Late Application Fee <i>(With requested one month extension)</i>	\$300	\$300	November 30, 2021

Application fee is the same for all assessment options for recertification. Applications must be submitted online.

Recertification candidates who are unable to submit their application online by this deadline, please contact APTA's Recertification/MOSC staff.

RECERTIFICATION OPTIONS

<i>Options to Recertify</i>	Description Candidates must obtain a passing score on one of the following assessment options:
<i>Option 1</i>	<i>Current Certification Examination</i>
<i>Option 2</i>	<i>APTA-Accredited Post Professional Clinical Residency</i>
<i>Option 3</i>	<i>Professional Development Portfolio (PDP)</i>
<i>Emeritus Option for retiring specialists</i>	<i>Board-certified specialists who are retiring from physical therapy practice and active patient care have an option to retain their credential by petitioning to ABPTS for the designation "emeritus." You must currently hold the certification to apply for the emeritus status. The option of petitioning for emeritus status will not be available once a certification has lapsed. Emeritus status requires a written petition to ABPTS requesting emeritus status and must stipulate the date of retirement from physical therapy practice and active patient care. (\$100 fee required)</i>

OPTION 1: EXAM REQUIREMENTS

To recertify by exam, candidate must have the minimum requirements of a current license to practice, current certification, the minimum patient care experience and completed application and fee submitted through the online application.

The applicant must sit for and pass a written examination that tests the application of advanced knowledge and clinical skills identified in the [Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Description of Specialty Practice \(DSP\) ©](#). Refer to DSP book for detailed information on the exam content.

OPTION 2: APTA-ACCREDITED POST PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL RESIDENCY

To recertify by completion of a residency, candidate must have the minimum requirements of a current license to practice, current certification, Candidate the minimum patient care experience, submit evidence of successful completion of an APTA-accredited post professional orthopaedic clinical residency since last certification date, completed application and fee submitted through the online application. Case Reflection submission is required to meet the minimum requirements.

OPTION 3: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO (PDP)

To recertify by PDP, candidate must have the minimum requirements of a current license to practice, current certification, the minimum patient care experience, completed application and fee submitted through the online application.

Candidates must submit evidence of ongoing professional and educational development that has occurred since their most recent certification in the appropriate format. They must indicate and submit evidence for professional development activities that relate to:

- increasing knowledge and skill in women's health physical therapy;
- contributing to the specialty practice of women's health physical therapy;
- and/or continuing clinical excellence in the provision of women's health patient care.

Candidates must identify and describe the professional development activities and submit supporting documentation unless otherwise indicated, for each entry and enter the point credit according to the ABPTS guidelines as indicated in the forms.

Activities that are cited in any category must have been completed within the past ten years [10] or since the date of your most recent certification. Candidates must obtain a minimum of **35 professional development activity points**.

Each PDP is reviewed in full by the Specialty Council. The ABPTS Board will conduct random audits of PDPs. If a candidate's PDP is selected for an audit, she/he should be able to provide evidence of involvement in PDAs such as W-2s, appointment letters, letters of attestation.

Please contact a staff member of the Recertification Program if you are unclear as to whether an activity can be included in the PDP, or if you have questions about where to record the activity on the PDP form.

ORTHOPAEDIC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

PDP Summary Forms Instructions

1. Each page is a separate form and represents a distinct category of activity (i.e., direct patient care, teaching, professional services, etc.). The category types are consistent with the list of ABPTS Approved Professional Development Activities Sheet.
2. **Only use the forms for which you will be submitting evidence to support activity in a specific category.** It is not necessary to submit blank forms for activity categories in which you are not documenting activities.
3. Candidates are required to obtain PDP activity points in **at least 4 approved categories**; for a category to count toward this requirement a minimum of **one (1) point** must be documented.
4. You may copy the relevant blank forms as many times as you need to provide the necessary documentation to support your recertification.
5. Please contact a staff member of the Recertification Program if you are unclear as to whether an activity can be included in the PDP, or if you have questions about where to record the activity on the PDP form.
6. Candidates must obtain a minimum of 35 Professional Development Activity (PDA) points. **Please do not document an excess of 60 professional development activity points.**
7. Instructions and/or a sample response are provided in the shaded area of activity sheets. Also, see the orthopaedic approved Professional Development Activities chart above.
8. Candidates must identify and describe the PDA for each entry and enter the point credit according to the ABPTS guidelines as indicated in the overview.
9. Candidates are required to submit supporting documentation of PDAs with their summary forms unless otherwise indicated.
10. The Specialty Council will conduct random audits of PDPs. If a candidate's PDP is selected for an audit, (s)he should be able to provide evidence of involvement in PDAs such as W-2s, appointment letters, letters of attestation, etc.

Professional Development Portfolio Summary - Orthopaedics

Instructions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Development Activities (PDA) /Description of Specialty Practice (DSP) – identify the category for the activity and enter the point credit according to the ABPTS guidelines. Numbers correspond to ABPTS guideline numbers on the Approved Professional Development Activities sheet. • Candidates must document activities in a minimum of one (1) point in an activity category to be counted toward this requirement. • Total points required = 35 • DSP category Practice Dimensions and Procedures/Knowledge Areas 1-5 = 14 points max • DSP category Professional Responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation and Education = 1 point each required in at least 2 separate subcategories 2. Critical Inquiry = 1 point each required in at least 2 separate subcategories 			
DSP Category	Professional Development Activities	Your Points Per PDA Category	Total Points Per DSP Category
(A) Practice Dimensions and Procedures/Knowledge Areas 1-5	Direct Patient Care <i>(14 points max)</i>		14
(B) Professional Responsibilities 1. Consultation and Education (1 full point in two separate sub-categories)	1a. Teaching a continuing education course or college/university course related to specialty area		
	1b. Subject Matter Expert, Consultant		
	1c. Committee participation per		
	1d. Item writing for certification exam		
	1e. Clinical supervision		
	1f. Professional Services		
(B) Professional Responsibilities 2. Critical Inquiry (1 full point in two separate sub-categories)	2a (i) Satisfactory completion of college/university course related to specialty area		
	2a (ii) Participating in a continuing education course related to specialty practice		
	2b (i) Case study or case report		
	2c (i) Grant proposal, primary investigator or co-investigator		
	2c (ii) Contribution to a research project		
	2c (iii) Professional Presentations		
	2c (iv) Professional Writing – Author (book chapter, peer-reviewed journal article and non-peer		
	2c (v) Professional Writing – Editor		
	2d (i) Professional Writing – Author (reviews or commentaries)/Editor (manuscript reviewer)		
	2e (i) Contribution to physical therapy outcome database system		
TOTAL			