

Requirements for Recertification

Neurologic Physical Therapy

1. Certification Status

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

2. License

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

3. Fees

Applicants will be required to pay an assessment review fee of \$650 for APTA members or \$910 for non-APTA members.

Recertification applications are to be **completed online by October 31st** of a given recertification year. Recertification candidates, who are unable to submit their application by this deadline, must contact APTA's Recertification Program to request a one-month extension of the application deadline. A **late application fee of \$300** will be charged and **late applications** must be completed online by **November 30th** of a given recertification year.

4. 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. Certified specialists are permitted to recertify up to 3 years prior to their certification expiration date. 200 of the total hours **must** have occurred within the last three [3] years.

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.

5. Assessment Options

Candidates must obtain a passing score on one of the following assessment options:

Option 1 • Current Certification Examination

The applicant must sit for and pass a written examination that tests the application of advanced knowledge and clinical skills identified in the *Neurologic Physical Therapy: Description of Specialty Practice* (DSP) ©, 2004. Refer to DSP book for detailed information on the exam content.

Option 2 • Professional Development Portfolio (PDP) – see page 2 for PDP requirements.

Option 3 • APTA-accredited post professional clinical residency

Applicants must submit evidence of successful completion of an APTA-accredited post professional Neurologic clinical residency

Neurology Professional Development Portfolio Requirements

1. Candidates must submit evidence of ongoing professional and educational development since their most recent certification in the appropriate format. **Please contact a member of APTA's Recertification Program, the Neurologic Specialty Council, or ABPTS if you are not sure whether an activity can be included in the PDP, or if you have questions about where to record the activity on the PDP form.**
2. Candidates must submit professional development activities that relate to increasing knowledge and skill in neurologic physical therapy, providing a contribution to the specialty practice of neurologic physical therapy, or continuing clinical excellence in the provision of neurologic patient care.
3. Candidates must obtain a minimum of thirty-five [35] professional development activity points. **Please do not document in excess of sixty [60] professional development activity points when preparing your PDP.**
 - a) A minimum of 3 points is required for the Knowledge Area category and a minimum of 32 points is required for the Practice Expectations category.
 - b) A minimum of 1 point TOTAL is required for Professional Development Activities (PDA) 5a, 6a, 6b, 6c, 6f, 6g, and/or 9a
 - c) A minimum of 1 point TOTAL is required for PDAs 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, and/or 8
 - d) PDAs 2, 4, 5a, 5b, 6e, and 6k may be counted in *either* the knowledge area category **OR** the practice expectations category based on the specific content of the activity. Documentation must be provided to support classification. Support documents for these PDAs include:
 - PDA 2: specific course description
 - PDA 4: specific course description
 - PDA 5a: abstract of platform/poster presentation
 - PDA 5b: copy of presentation announcement or specific description of presentation content
 - PDA 6e: complete citation
 - PDA 6k: name of journal and number of reviewed manuscripts
4. Candidates must obtain professional development activity points in at least **four of the nine** approved professional development activity categories (eg, professional presentations, publications, professional writing, clinical supervision). Candidates must earn **at least one [1] point in any one activity category** to count it toward this requirement. The activity categories, point values, and maximum points allowed in each category follow.
5. Candidates must document professional development activities that reflect the content of the *Neurologic Physical Therapy: Description of Specialty Practice (DSP)* © 2004. For this purpose the DSP components have been grouped into two major categories within the PDP:
 1. Knowledge Areas (minimum of 3 points required)
 2. Practice Expectations (minimum of 32 points required)
6. Professional development activities must have been completed within the past ten years or since the date of your most recent certification.

Neurology Approved Professional Development Activities

Activity	Point Value
1. Direct Patient Care hours in specialty area (<i>beyond minimum eligibility requirement</i>)	0.1 per 10 hours (Maximum Points 20)
2. Participating in a continuing education course with specific goals and objectives related to specialty practice.	1¹ (10 contact hours)
3. Satisfactory completion of a college/university course for credit or audit related to specialty area	1pt per unit/credit hour
4. Teaching a continuing education course or college/university course related to specialty area. (Point value decreases for the second time a course is taught. Credit is given only for the first two times a course is taught.)	a. First Time = 0.2 (per contact hour) b. Second Time = 0.1 (per contact hour)
5. Professional Presentations in specialty area. (Credit is given only for first time a presentation is made.)	
a. Platform or poster presentation at a professional meeting	1 (per presentation)
b. Invited speaker to a group, classes, or portions of courses (including in-services)	0.1 (per hour)
c. Presentation to non-professional community or client-based groups on topic specific to specialty area	0.1 (per hour)
6. Professional Writing - Can include editor, author, or co-author of publications using, "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals"	
<u>Author</u>	
a. book chapter – multiply number of chapters by 2 points if you wrote more than one chapter or an entire book	2.0 per chapter
b. peer reviewed journal article	3.0 per article
c. non-peer reviewed publication	0.5 per article
d. reviews or commentaries	0.5 per review or commentary
e. case study or case report (peer-reviewed journal)	2.0 per case
f. grant proposal, primary investigator or co-investigator	2.0 per internal proposal 3.0 per external proposal

¹Calculations are based on contact hours (class time) rather than quarter or semester course credit hours. (One [1] Proficiency Point = 10 contact hours, 0.1 Proficiency Point = 1 contact hour)

Editor		
g.	book editor – multiply number of chapters by 0.5 if you edited more than one chapter or an entire book	0.5 per chapter
h.	peer reviewed journal editor	1.5 per year
i.	editorial board member	1.0 per year
j.	non-peer reviewed publication	0.75 per year
k.	manuscript reviewer	0.5 per review
7. Professional services		
a.	Committee membership per year (eg, specialty council, section officer, special interest group, organization outside APTA related to specialty area)	1.0 per year as member 2.0 per year as chair
Note: Can be at local, state, or national level		
b.	Subject Matter Expert, Consultant (eg, expert witness, grant reviewer, insurance reviewer, liaison or consultant to professional association, service, or educational program, certification exam development, including item editing.)	0.1 (per hour)
Note: Can be at local, state, or national level		
c.	Item writing for certification exam	1 (per 3 accepted items)
d.	Administration activities related to patient care/services (eg, development of policies and procedures; marketing and public relations; orientation and mentoring of new staff, and supervision of physical therapists in a management role	0.5 (per year)
8.	Clinical Supervision ² of student/peers or consultation with peers in a health care profession	0.1 (per 10 hours)
9. Research Activities		
a.	Contribution to a research project, supported by a letter from the primary investigator of the published research article	1.0 per project
b.	Contribution to a Physical Therapy Outcome Database System	0.5 (per year of participation)

²The same hours cannot be counted for both clinical supervision and direct patient care.