

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC RULE HEARING AND PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD MEETING**

The New Mexico Physical Therapy Board and the Regulation and Licensing Department will hold a rule hearing on Monday July 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., immediately followed by a meeting of the Physical Therapy Board for adoption of the proposed rules listed below. The hearing and subsequent board meeting will take place at the Regulation and Licensing Department, located at 2550 Cerrillos Rd. Santa Fe, NM, 87505, Rio Grande Conference Room.

The hearing and subsequent physical therapy board meeting may also be accessed virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Meeting Link: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_YzFlMjllMTMtMzczNi00MjRlLTkxM2YtOTg3ZjZmNWRhMDZk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2204aa6bf4-d436-426f-bfa4-04b7a70e60ff%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22d3fe0eed-1d12-48f7-a361-c27ae097daa2%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzFlMjllMTMtMzczNi00MjRlLTkxM2YtOTg3ZjZmNWRhMDZk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2204aa6bf4-d436-426f-bfa4-04b7a70e60ff%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22d3fe0eed-1d12-48f7-a361-c27ae097daa2%22%7d)

**Login (meeting by ID):** <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>

Meeting ID: 259 078 830 480 9

Passcode: Bd3Xn7ok

**Dial in by phone**

+1 505-312-4308,,584637261# United States, Albuquerque

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Phone conference ID: 584 637 261#

The purpose of the rule hearing is to consider the initiation of rulemaking for the following rules:

**16.20.3.8 - Application for Licensure**

**16.20.4.8 - Temporary Licenses for U.S. Trained Applicants**

**16.20.4.10 - Temporary licenses for PT's or PTA's Teaching an Educational Seminar**

**16.20.5.8 - Schedule of Fees**

**16.20.7.8 - Supervision of Licensed Personnel**

**16.20.8.7 - Definitions**

**16.20.8.8 - Renewal Requirement**

**16.20.8.9 - Continuing Education Requirement**

**16.20.8.10 - Continuing Education Credit Carryover**

**16.20.8.11 - Failure to Meet Continuing Education Requirements**

**16.20.8.12 - Approval of Continuing Education Contact Hours**

**16.20.9.8 - Equivalent**

**16.20.9.9 - Credential Evaluation**

**16.20.9.10 - Current License**

**16.20.13.8 - Requirements for Physical Therapist to Provide Dry Needling**

On Wednesday, June 11, 2025, copies of the proposed rules may be obtained through the New Mexico Physical Therapy Board website at <https://www.rld.nm.gov/boards-and-commissions/individual-boards-and-commissions/physical-therapy/board-information/physical-therapy-board-meetings/> or by contacting the Board Administrator, Evan Ortega at (505) 476-4622.

The New Mexico Physical Therapy Board and the Regulation and Licensing Department will begin accepting written public comment regarding the proposed rule changes beginning Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 8:00 a.m. and ending Friday, July 14, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Written public comment may be submitted either by email to [physical.therapy@rld.nm.gov](mailto:physical.therapy@rld.nm.gov)

or by postal mail to the following address:

Attn: New Mexico Physical Therapy Board

P.O. Box 25101  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Written comments received during the public comment period (June 11, 2025 – July 14, 2025) will be posted to the website page linked above. Public comments will also be accepted during the rule hearing and may be submitted in writing or presented orally by those attending in-person. The members of the New Mexico Physical Therapy Board will not enter substantive discussion of public comments during the rule hearing but will consider and deliberate any public comment during the regular board meeting immediately following the conclusion of the public rule hearing. The agenda for the New Mexico Physical Therapy Board regular meeting, which will begin immediately after the public rule hearing, will be available no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting, and available on the website linked above or by contacting the Board Administrator Evan Ortega.

If you are an individual with a disability who needs a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or the regular board meeting, please contact the Board Administrator Evan Ortega at (505) 476-4622 at least 7 days prior to the rules hearing and regular board meeting. Public documents, including the proposed rules, meeting agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats.

For inclement weather: If the New Mexico state offices are placed on a two-hour delay to inclement weather, the rule hearing will be pushed back two hours from the noticed hearing time. If New Mexico state offices are closed due to inclement weather, the rule hearing will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

**Statutory Authority:** The rule changes are authorized by the Physical Therapy Practice Act (Act), Section 61-12D-1 through 61-12D-19 NMSA 1978, which provides explicit authority for the Physical Therapy Board to protect public health and safety and adopt rules for the administration of the Act. The rulemaking and public rule hearing is governed by the State Rules Act, Sections 14-4-1 through 14-4-11 NMSA 1978, and the Default Procedural Rule for Rulemaking promulgated by the New Mexico Department of Justice, Parts 1.24.25 through 1.24.25.16 NMAC.

**Purpose of Proposed Rules:** The proposed rule changes aim to implement changes to the provisions of The Telehealth Act, Section 24-25-5 NMSA 1978, made by Senate Bill 252 in the 2025 legislative session for all licensees practicing under supervision. The changes also update the rules to reflect the requirements for the online application and remove references to paper applications, introduce the standard for auditing continuing education requirements for license renewal, introducing a standard for continuing education course review and approval, revise standards for foreign educated applicants, and change the current fee for full licensure for physical therapists from \$250.00 to \$160.00, and from \$200.00 to \$120.00 for physical therapist assistants; biennial renewal went from \$160.00 for physical therapists to \$85.00, and from \$120.00 to \$60.00 for physical therapist assistants; penalty for late renewal went from \$250.00 for physical therapists, to \$200.00, and from \$200.00 to \$150.00 for physical therapist assistants. More generally, the proposed rules are intended to provide greater clarity in existing regulatory and statutory requirements, ensure continued high levels of professionalism among licensees and certificate holders, and to generally satisfy the Board's statutory obligation to promote, preserve and protect public health, safety and welfare.

#### **Summary of Proposed Changes:**

16.20.3.8 Application for Licensure. Revise the background section to clearly reflect the ability of the board to utilize the New Mexico Department of Public Safety for backgrounds; revise the language to allow for more efficient application process while awaiting results of the background; striking language for nationwide federal background checks, the use of moral turpitude as a criterion.

16.20.4.8 Temporary Licenses for U.S. Trained Applicants. Clarify language regarding temporary licensure, how it can be denied, as well as additional requirements; striking language clarified in revisions.

16.20.4.10 Temporary licenses for PT's or PTA's Teaching an Educational Seminar. Require a Department of Public Safety background check prior to temporary licensure for educational instruction.

16.20.5.8 Schedule of Fees. Change the current fee for full licensure for physical therapists from \$250.00 to \$160.00, and from \$200.00 to \$120.00 for physical therapist assistants; biennial renewal went from \$160.00 for

physical therapists to \$85.00, and from \$120.00 to \$60.00 for physical therapist assistants; penalty for late renewal went from \$250.00 for physical therapists, to \$200.00, and from \$200.00 to \$150.00 for physical therapist assistants.

16.20.7.8 Supervision of Licensed Personnel. Clarify communication method from the board to licensees and include statutory language from the provisions of the Telehealth Act, Section 24-25-5 NMSA 1978, made by Senate Bill 252 in the 2025 legislative session.

16.20.8.7 Definitions. Clarify the definitional language of Qualified Individual.

16.20.8.8 Renewal Requirement. Clarify language regarding communication method by the board.

16.20.8.9 Continuing Education Requirement. Introduce the standard for auditing continuing education requirements for license renewal; striking language that is clarified with revisions.

16.20.8.10 Continuing Education Credit Carryover. Strike language no longer needed. Clarify language regarding no carryover hours.

16.20.8.11 Failure to Meet Continuing Education Requirements. Clarify language regarding the failure of licensees to meet the continuing education requirement.

16.20.8.12 Approval of Continuing Education Contact Hours. Introduce a standard for continuing education course review and approval, as well as additional requirements, and grammatical revisions; strike language that is replaced by revisions.

16.20.9.8 Equivalent. Clarify language of acceptable documentation for foreign educated applicants, with coursework tool evaluations; strike language that no longer is needed.

16.20.9.9 Credential Evaluation. Introduce additional requirements of foreign educated applicants to pass the National Physical Therapy Exam prior to full licensure.

16.20.9.10 Current License. Clarify language as to acceptable categories of licensure in the United States for foreign educated applicants with existing licenses.

16.20.13.8 Requirements for Physical Therapist to Provide Dry Needling. Clarify language as to acceptable qualifications prior to administering Dry Needling; strike language for the original transition to Dry Needling.