

**AGENDA ITEM 7**

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING TITLE 16, CCR  
SECTIONS 4151 AND 4152.**

## Article 6. Advanced Practices

### § 4151. Hand Therapy

(a) Hand therapy services may be performed only when an occupational therapist has demonstrated to the Board in an application filed pursuant to section 4155 that he or she has met the post professional education and training requirements established by this section as follows:

(1) Education: Completion of 45 contact hours in the subjects listed in Code section 2570.3(e), including 30 hours specifically relating to the hand, wrist, and forearm.

(2) Training: Completion of 480 hours of supervised on-the-job training, clinical internship or affiliation, which may be paid or voluntary, pertaining to hand therapy.

(b) **An occupational therapist whose application pursuant to section 4155 provides proof of current certification as a Certified Hand Therapist, issued by the Hand Therapy Certification Commission, shall be deemed to have met the education and training requirements established by this section.**

(c) An occupational therapist providing hand therapy services using physical agent modalities must also comply with the requirements of section 4152. A maximum of 8 contact hours and 60 hours of supervised on-the-job training, clinical internship or affiliation, paid or voluntary, completed under section 4152 will be credited toward the requirements of this section.

(d) An occupational therapist may provide only those hand therapy services he or she is competent to perform.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 2570.3 and 2570.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 2570.2 and 2570.3, Business and Professions Code.

### § 4152. Physical Agent Modalities

(a) Physical agent modalities may be used only when an occupational therapist has demonstrated to the Board in an application filed pursuant to section 4155 that he or she has met the post professional education and training requirements established by this section as follows:

(1) Education: Completion of 30 contact hours in the subjects listed in Code section 2570.3(f).

(2) Training: Completion of 240 hours of supervised on-the-job training, clinical internship or affiliation, which may be paid or voluntary, pertaining to physical agent modalities.

(b) **An occupational therapist whose application pursuant to section 4155 provides proof of current certification as a Certified Hand Therapist, issued by the Hand Therapy Certification Commission, shall be deemed to have met the education and training requirements established by this section. Same questions.**

(c) An occupational therapist may use only those physical agent modalities he or she is competent to use.

Note: Authority Cited: Sections 2570.3 and 2570.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 2570.2 and 2570.3, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 4155. Application for Approval in Advanced Practice Areas**

In order to provide any of the advanced practice services set forth in Code section 2570.3(d), an occupational therapist shall apply to the Board and receive approval in that advanced practice area.

(a) To apply for approval, an occupational therapist shall submit to the Board an application as specified in subsections (1), (2), or (3), along with the required documentation.

(1) Applicants seeking approval in the area of Hand Therapy shall submit the Application for Advanced Practice Approval in Hand Therapy (Form APH, Rev. 10/09), hereby incorporated by reference;.

(2) Applicants seeking approval in the use of physical agent modalities shall submit the Application for Advanced Practice Approval in Physical Agent Modalities (Form APP, Rev. 07/11), hereby incorporated by reference;

(3) Applicants seeking approval in the area of Swallowing Assessment, Evaluation, or Intervention shall submit the Application for Advanced Practice Approval in Swallowing (Form APS, Rev. 10/09), hereby incorporated by reference;

(b) The documentation must include the following:

(1) Documented proof of attendance and completion of each course (i.e., certificate of completion or transcript).

(2) Evidence of the number of contact hours completed for each course for courses that are not Board approved.

(3) Outline or syllabus of each course for courses that are not Board approved.

(4) Information describing, in detail, the depth and breadth of the content covered (e.g., a course syllabus and the goals and objectives of the course) as it relates to the advanced practice area.

(5) Resume or credentials of each instructor for courses that are not Board approved.

(6) Verification of completion of supervised on-the-job training, clinical internship or affiliation reflecting the nature of the training and the number of hours. Such verification must be signed by the supervisor(s) under penalty of perjury.

(c) An advanced practice application not completed within six months of receipt or notification of deficiency, whichever is later, shall be deemed abandoned.

(d) An application submitted subsequent to the abandonment of a previous application shall be treated as a new application.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 2570.3 and 2570.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 2570.2 and 2570.3, Business and Professions Code.



Heather Martin  
California Board of Occupational Therapy  
2005 Evergreen Street  
Suite 2050  
Sacramento, CA 95815

January 9, 2013

Dear Heather,

We receive frequent inquiries and some complaints from Certified Hand Therapists (CHTs) who are planning to move or have moved to California from another state. Many of these CHTs have years of experience treating upper extremity conditions and have met the Hand Therapy Certification Commission's (HTCC) rigorous standards for certification and recertification and wonder why they are required to go through CBOT's application process for Advanced Practice Approval in hands.

In order for a therapist to be eligible to sit for the CHT examination, they must be a physical or occupational therapist for 5 years and they must have 4,000 hours or more in direct practice experience in hand therapy. The CHT examination is difficult with an average pass rate of about 56%.

A CHT must recertify every 5 years and in order to be eligible they must have accrued a minimum of 2,000 hours of direct practice experience in hand therapy and have accrued 80 contact hours of professional development.

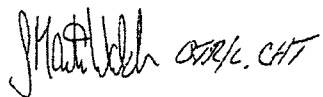
Because of HTCC's rigorous certification and recertification requirements, our CHTs possess current hand therapy experience and continuing education. Since CBOT does not require renewal of the advanced practice designation, the CHT credential demonstrates stronger proof of current continued competence in hand therapy.

HTCC requests that CBOT consider waiving your requirement of having to apply for the Advanced Practice designation in hands (HTC) for CHTs who move to California from another state and automatically grant these therapists the HTC designation when they apply for a California state occupational therapy license.

I would be more than happy to answer any of your questions regarding this issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Martin Walsh OTR/L, CHT  
Executive Director  
Hand Therapy Certification Commission

### The Recognized Specialist in Hand Therapy

1337 Howe Avenue, Suite 230 Sacramento, CA 95825-3397  
Phone: 800/860-7097 Fax: 916/922-0210 Int'l: 1+916/566-1140 Email: info@htcc.org