

Department of Health

Board of Physical Therapy

Policy/Procedure

Title:	Applicants Who Have Not Been Actively Engaged in Physical Therapy Practice	Number:	4.6
Reference:	RCW 18.74.023 Board – Powers and duties		
Contact:	Kris Waidely, Health Services Consultant 3		
Effective Date:	March 25, 2005		
Supersedes:	May 8, 2001		
Approved:	Signature on file _____		
Samuel Stockton, PT, Board Chair			

POLICY

WAC 246-915-040(4) *Licensure by Endorsement--Applicants from Approved Schools* specifies that:

"If a licensee has not worked in physical therapy in the last three years, the applicant may be granted licensure by endorsement under the following conditions:

- (a) The board may require reexamination of an applicant who has not been actively engaged in lawful practice in another state or territory; or
- (b) Waive reexamination in favor of evidence of continuing competency satisfactory to the board."

WAC 246-915-050(3) Reinstatement specifies that:

"If the license has expired for over three years, and the practitioner has not been active in practice in another United States jurisdiction, the practitioner must:

Meet the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2. Before recommending reinstatement, the board may require reexamination and

may impose any other requirements necessary to ensure professional competence and protect the public.

To assist the Board in treating all applicants for initial licensure and reinstatement equally and fairly, the following conditions shall apply:

The Board may waive reexamination for applicants who have not been actively engaged in physical therapy practice for five years or less provided the applicant presents evidence of 40 hours of continuing education and 200 hours of physical therapy employment or physical therapy-related activities or experience* for the previous two years.

The Board shall require reexamination for applicants who have not been actively engaged in physical therapy practice for five or more years. The examination shall be the National Physical Therapy Examination as described in WAC 246-915-030.

* *200 hours of physical therapy employment or physical therapy-related activities or experience* may include lawful practice as a physical therapist in any U.S. jurisdiction, observation of physical therapy treatment by a licensed physical therapist, or employment or volunteer activities as a physical therapy aide under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist.

* The decision to establish the reexamination requirement for individuals who have not been engaged in physical therapy practice for five years or more is based on the determination by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy that an analysis of practice needs to occur every five years.