



Executive Summary: Licensure Portability Resource Guide

The guide addresses the critical issue of licensure portability for healthcare professionals, particularly physical therapists (PT) and physical therapist assistants (PTA), in response to evolving healthcare delivery methods like telehealth and the mobility of patients and providers. The guide highlights the federal and state government's concerns about barriers to portability and the necessity for clinicians to practice across state lines with minimal obstacles.

Enhancing licensure portability is seen to increase patient access to qualified providers, improve continuity of care, and enhance disciplinary data and information sharing between jurisdictions.

Strategies for Improvement:

- **Licensure Process:** Evaluate and streamline licensure requirements to remove outdated or unnecessary regulatory barriers thus enhancing efficiency.
- **Licensure Exemptions:** Assess current exemptions within practice acts to facilitate the mobility of PTs and PTAs and consider adding additional reasonable exemptions.
- **Licensure Verification:** Modernize verification methods and processes to allow for electronic verifications, speeding up licensing.
- **Historical National Physical Therapy Examination Scores:** Reconsider score requirements predating the universal pass rate (adopted in 1996) to accommodate experienced therapists.

Because of many challenges, FSBPT discourages boards from trying to reinterpret licensing test scores obtained prior to 1996. Many of the reinterpretation processes require jurisdictional boards to apply decision processes that are no longer within acceptable professional testing standards. These processes require complex calculations of historical data; consequently, the decisions jurisdictional boards make based on the calculations take a long time and may not accurately reflect the results.

- **Examination, Licensure, and Disciplinary Database Participation:** Encourage full reporting of licensure and disciplinary information to FSBPT's ELDD to create a comprehensive licensee history.
- **Physical Therapy Licensure Compact (PTC):** Support the PTC to reduce regulatory barriers to licensure portability and enhance consumer access to physical therapy services.
- **Endorsement of Graduates of Non-CAPTE PTs/PTAs Education Programs:** Streamline endorsement processes for PTs/PTAs from non-CAPTE educational programs who hold an unencumbered license and have a proven history in the US.

These individuals may be able to provide services in the jurisdiction (e.g., compact privilege), but find significant barriers to becoming licensed.

The Licensure Portability Resource Guide emphasizes the importance of proactive regulatory changes to improve licensure portability in anticipation of future healthcare needs. The guide urges regulators to proactively address licensure portability to improve public access to qualified providers noting that changes to current licensure models are in process and continuing changes are inevitable due to increasing pressures to ease mobility barriers.