The Physical Therapy Licensure Compact Initiative

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The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy

- Non profit member organization
- 53 members
  - 50 state physical therapy licensing Boards
  - 3 Territories: District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico
- Develop the National Licensing Exam
- Provide support and resources to our member jurisdictions
FSBPT Mission

- To protect the public by providing service and leadership that promote safe and competent physical therapy practice.
FSBPT Vision

To achieve a high level of public protection through:

- a strong foundation of laws and regulatory standards in physical therapy,
- effective tools and systems to assess entry-level and continuing competence,
- and public and professional awareness of resources for public protection.
FSBPT Governance

- Board of Directors
- Delegate Assembly
The FSBPT Experience

2010 Delegate Assembly

- Direct the Federation Board of Directors to explore the feasibility of establishing a multistate compact for physical therapy licensure and report back to the 2011 Delegate Assembly.
- Request the board consider and report the potential fiscal and legal impact on state jurisdictions.
Prior to embarking on the implementation of a licensure compact focused on portability, it would behoove the Federation and its members to clearly define the goals of the Assembly and determine the best means to achieve those goals versus only looking at one option.

An interstate licensure compact may or may not be the best solution particularly when one considers the process to implement in all jurisdictions.
Direction from the Members

2012 Delegate Assembly

- The Delegate Assembly supports the goal of license portability for physical therapy.
- The board of directors is requested to identify and recommend potential tools to improve the portability of physical therapy licenses and report to the 2013 Delegate
Two Approaches That Maintain the Sovereignty of States (Not Mutually Exclusive)

- Increase the efficiencies of the current licensure system
  - Expedited license
  - Uniform Application
  - Credential Verification Service

- Create a new state-based licensure model that supports portability
  - Licensure Compacts
Compact was the Option Chosen

- 2013 Delegate Assembly
  - The delegate assembly supports the concept and exploration of a licensure compact.
Physical Therapy Licensure Compact? Why Now?

Convergence of events and factors

- Response to external push toward national licensure
- Addresses the critical components of portability
- Other health care organizations moving forward
  - Benefits to the same approach:
    - Efficiencies in effort
    - Uniformity in approach while allowing profession specific differences
    - Legislative momentum
    - FSMB, NCSBN, NASEMSO, ASPPB

- Opportunities for Cooperation & Support with other groups (professional association, ACO’s, patient advocacy groups….)

Support from the Professional Association

RC10-14 Consumer Protection through licensure of PT’s and PTA’s

Principle VII Licensure Portability: *APTA supports state licensure models that allow for licensure portability, including but not limited to an Interstate Compact for Physical Therapy.*

Adopted June, 2014: APTA House of Delegates
It is All About the Consumer

“I want you to find a bold and innovative way to do everything exactly the same way it’s been done for 25 years.”

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The Relationship between Licensure Portability and Patient Protection

- Access to services
- Insuring safe practice
A Case Example

Patient is a girl with a developmental disorder who just turned 3. Prior to her third birthday she received physical therapy services through early intervention at the home of her grandparents in State B. The child lived in State A, less than 4 miles away from the grandparents.
What would a licensure compact do?

- Permit the therapists in states A and B if both compact states to treat across state lines.
- Providing patients access with limited barriers while still assuring their safety and protection.
Developing a Licensure Compact

Every journey begins with the first step.
Physical Therapy Licensure Compact Advisory Task Force

- 10 PT Licensing Board Members
- 1 PTA Licensing Board Member
- 1 PT State Legislator (Senator)
- 5 PT licensing Board Administrators
- 2 Professional Association Staff
- 1 Professional Association Board Member
- 1 APTA Health Policy Section Representative
- 2 Council of State Governments (CSG) Consultants
- 3 FSBPT Staff
- 2 FSBPT Board members
Most Challenging Issues for Physical Therapy

- Eligibility requirements
  - Criminal Background Checks
  - Foreign Educated Physical Therapist requirements
- Maintenance of Licensure
  - Continuing competence requirements
  - Discipline
- Costs and Revenue
  - Licensing Boards
  - Compact entity
Task Force Recommendation #1

- That the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) continue to pursue the development of a physical therapy licensure compact.
- FSBPT Board of Directors adopted this recommendation August 2014
Task Force Recommendation #2

- That the Physical Therapy Compact Drafting Team adopt the following model in the development of statutory language for the compact.
Physical Therapy Licensure Compact Model

The licensee participant must:

- hold one valid, current, unrestricted license in home state (state of residence)
- notify any remote states in which s/he will be practicing

Upon notification, a remote state may charge a fee; Charging a fee and the amount of the fee is the prerogative of the remote state(s)
Recommendation #3

- The PT compact drafting team incorporate the following principles and concepts in the statutory language:
  - Things the home state must do
  - Things the PT/PTA must do
  - Things all member state must do
  - Things the compact administration will do
The FSBPT continues its communication effort related to the Physical Therapy Compact Advisory Task Force and the work of the Drafting Team by establishing a communication plan...
The Next Steps for Physical Therapy

- Drafting Team established - August 2014
- Drafting team
  - Draft compact language by mid year 2015
- Continued communication and coordination with stakeholders and interested parties
- Identify states interested in participation
- Legislative initiatives in 2016
- Recommended minimum number of states for compact to “go-live”: 10
The Physical Therapy Compact