

West Virginia Board of Occupational Therapy

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www.wvbot.org

2009 RENEWAL NEWSLETTER

October 2008



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License renewal time is here!

It is now time to renew your licensure to continue practicing Occupational Therapy in WV for the year 2009. Enclosed you will find the renewal application and information related to continuing competency requirements. The application and newsletter are also available for viewing and/or download from our website at www.wvbot.org.

Licensure renewal requires 12 hours of education and continuing competency activities annually. This requirement applies only to licensees who have been under the status of permanent licensure for the entire 2008 calendar year. The enclosed summary of the broad variety of activities you may claim

is included to aid in the completion of your renewal application. Please note that there is a maximum allowable credit for some activities. This is intended to encourage a varied competency experience. An excess of 6 hours may be carried into the next calendar year renewal period if you have surpassed the annual 12 hour requirement for the current year.

Unless you are further instructed to do so, please do not send copies of continuing education documents with your renewal application. The Board conducts a random audit of these annually. If you have been selected to participate in this audit, this packet will contain further instructions.

Renewal information continued...

Your renewal application and associated fee must be returned to the Board office prior to the issuance of 2009 license cards. *You may not practice Occupational Therapy in WV after December 31, 2008 without the actual license cards in your possession.* To assure receiving your 2009 license cards prior to January 1, 2009, submit your properly completed renewal application no later than December 1, 2008. The Board recommends that you make copies of your renewal application before mailing it. Renewal application must be postmarked by December 31, 2008 to avoid late fee. *Delinquent application and late fee payment submission does not constitute an extension of the licensure privilege beyond December 31, 2008.*

Practice Act update...

Since our last newsletter in April, the Board has been busy working to facilitate the process of making changes to our Practice Act. On February 5th, the proposed Practice Act was sent to both the Senate and House Chair of the Government Organization Committee requesting they adopt a study resolution during the 2008 interim sessions, for introduction as a bill in the 2009 legislative session. The study was authorized and assigned to the Joint Standing Committee of Government Organization as House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 91. A representative of the Board met with the legislative sub-committee during their interim meeting on June 23rd. The Board has also held informational meetings in Princeton, Charleston, Wheeling, Morgantown, Parkersburg, and Huntington, to share and discuss the proposed changes with practitioners across the state.

We would like to hold an additional meeting in the Eastern Panhandle, and are currently working to arrange a date and location. In addition, WVOTA has been in contact with the WV Physical Therapy Association to proactively address any concerns they may have with the bill, prior to its introduction.

How can you help? Right now, the biggest impact licensees can have is to educate people about Occupational Therapy and the benefits of our profession. Share with your patients that we will need support to pass this legislation and they can help by sharing stories about how OT has impacted their lives. As you educate people, keep a list of those you can call on to share their stories when the time comes.

Because the Legislature will not be in session for a few months yet, the Board will keep you posted, through our website and additional mailings, as to when the time is right to make calls and write letters to your Senate and House of Delegate representatives. As it is an election year, if you have the opportunity to talk with your representatives, tell them what you do and that we are in the process of trying to pass legislation to update our Practice Act.

Disciplinary Actions

Investigations into complaints continue to be conducted as necessary to assure compliance to licensure laws and to protect the public. There have been no new disciplinary actions taken by the Board.

**LEGISLATIVE RULES, (§13-1-12.), OF THE WEST VIRGINIA
BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CONTINUING
COMPETENCY ACTIVITIES FOR RENEWAL OF WV LICENSE.**

Requirement: 12 contact hours per renewal period through participation in:

| <u>Activity</u> | <u>Page#</u> | <u>Rule #</u> | <u>Maximum Allowed</u> |
|---|--------------|---------------|---|
| Workshop, Seminar, Conference | 8 | 12.7.c.3 | No maximum |
| University Courses, College Courses | 9 | 12.7.c.4 | No maximum |
| Vo. Tech Adult Education Courses | 9 | 12.7.c.4 | No maximum |
| Education Telecommunication Courses | 9 | 12.7.C.5 | No maximum |
| Videotaped Presentation of Courses, Seminars, Workshops, or Conferences | 9 | 12.7.c.6 | No maximum |
| In-service Training | 9 | 12.7.c.7 | No maximum |
| Presentations of OT Education Programs, Workshops, Seminars, In-services, Conferences or Guest Lectures | 9 | 12.7.c.8 | No maximum for presenting, but maximum of 3 continuing competency credits allowed for reviewing presentations. |
| Publications and other media | 9 | 12.7.C.9 | Maximum of <u>10</u> hours for authorship/editorship; Maximum of <u>3</u> hours for authorship of an article, book review or abstract in a weekly periodical or professional newsletter. Maximum of <u>6</u> hours for development of other media, such as video, slides, etc. for public and professional viewing. |
| Research Projects | 10 | 12.7.c.10 | 6 hours/project |
| Quality Assurance Studies/Publisher | 10 | 12.7.c.11 | 4 hours/study |
| Paper and Proposals for Conference presentation | 10 | 12.7.c.12 | 2 hours/paper |
| Formal Self-Study | 10 | 12.7.c.13 | the full contact hour that is awarded by provider |
| Informal Self-Study | 10 | 12.7.c.14 | 3 hours |
| Clinical Student Instruction | 11 | 12.7.c.15 | 1 hour/level 1 student (Max. of 3 students) 4 hours/level 2 student (Max. of 2 students) |

For more detailed information please consult the Legislative Rules of the Board of Occupational Therapy (§13-1-12.).

--A contact hour is defined as 1 hour spent in a continuing education activity. It excludes breaks, receptions, meals, social events, etc.

--6 **excess** contact hours may carry over from one consecutive licensure year to the next immediate calendar year.

--Licensees must obtain a certificate of completion or other record of providers of continuing education providers stating the:

Date of completion

Title and location of the course

Name of participant and provider

Number of hours for the course

Signature of provider

Core job specific, job related requirements of your chosen industry of occupational therapy DO NOT count toward continuing competency requirements for licensure renewal. Examples will include CPR, First Aid Training, Documentation In-services, Training in the implementation of coding, billing, payment systems, Facility or organization specific accreditation requirements, etc. These types of activities do not meet the intent of the continuing competency requirements related to contributing to the development of the professional and updating competency in Occupational Therapy Theory and Practice.

Continuing competency audits may be performed by WVBOT members or the Board's certified complaint investigator.