

# **Requirements for Recertification Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Physical Therapy**

## **1. Certification Status**

Applicants must hold current certification as a Cardiovascular and Pulmonary physical therapy specialist by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties.

## **2. License**

Applicants must hold a current license to practice physical therapy in the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands.

## **3. Fees**

Applicants will be required to pay an assessment review fee of \$650 for APTA members or \$910 for non-APTA members.

Recertification applications are to be **completed online by October 31<sup>st</sup>** of a given recertification year. Recertification candidates, who are unable to complete their application by this deadline, must contact APTA's Recertification Program to request a one-month extension of the application deadline. A **late application fee of \$300** will be charged and late applications must be completed online by **November 30<sup>th</sup>** of a given recertification year.

## **4. Patient Care Experience**

Candidates are required to document evidence of continued direct patient care activities in the specialty area, the equivalent of 200 hours per year since the date of most recent certification. Certified specialists are permitted to recertify up to 3 years prior to their certification expiration date. 200 of the total hours **must** have occurred within the last three [3] years.

Direct patient care in the specialty area must include activities in each of the elements of patient/client management applicable to the specialty area and included in the *Description of Specialty Practice (DSP)*. These elements, as defined in the *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice*, are examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention.

## **5. Assessment Options**

Candidates must obtain a passing score on one of the following assessment options:

### ***Option 1*** • Current Certification Examination

The applicant must sit for and pass a written examination that tests the application of advanced knowledge and clinical skills identified in the Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Physical Therapy *Description of Specialty Practice (DSP)* ©, 2007. Refer to DSP book for detailed information on the exam content.

### ***Option 2*** • Professional Development Portfolio (PDP) – see next pages for PDP requirements.

### ***Option 3*** • APTA-accredited post professional clinical residency

Applicants must submit evidence of successful completion of an APTA-accredited post professional *Cardiovascular and Pulmonary* clinical residency

## **Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Professional Development Portfolio (PDP) Requirements**

1. Candidates must submit evidence of ongoing professional and educational development that has occurred since their most recent certification. The form must be completed and the evidence submitted must be in the appropriate format. **Please contact a staff member of the Recertification Program if you are not sure whether an activity can be included in the PDP, or if you have questions about where to record the activity on the PDP form.**
2. Candidates must indicate and submit evidence for professional development activities that relate to: increasing knowledge and skill in cardiovascular and pulmonary physical therapy; contributing to the specialty practice of cardiovascular and pulmonary physical therapy; and/or continuing clinical excellence in the provision of cardiovascular and pulmonary patient care.
3. Candidates must have obtained a minimum of **35** professional development activity points. **Please, it is suggested that you do not document an excess of 60 professional development activity points when preparing your PDP.**
4. Candidates must obtain professional development activity points in at least **four [4] of the nine [9]** approved professional development activities (e.g., professional presentations, publications, professional writing, clinical supervision). Candidates must earn **at least one [1] point in an activity** to count it toward this requirement. The activities, point values, and maximum points allowed for direct patient care follow on a separate page.
5. Candidates must document professional development activities that reflect the content of the *Description of Specialty Practice* (DSP). For this purpose the DSP components have been grouped into three major categories:

### ***A. Clinical Practice (25 points minimum required)***

This category includes all clinical practice activities in the specialty area and the following approved Professional Development Activities:

- #1 Direct Patient Care (beyond minimum eligibility requirements);
- #2 Participation in a continuing education course;
- #3 Completion of a college/university course;
- #8 Clinical Supervision & Consultation;
- #9b Contribution to a PT outcome database system for research purposes.

### ***B. Consultation, Scientific Inquiry and Administration (8 points minimum required)***

This category includes all consultation, scientific inquiry and administration activities in the specialty area and the following approved Professional Development Activities:

- #5a Professional Presentations - platform or poster;
- #6b Professional Writing - peer-reviewed journal;
- #6e Professional Writing - case study or case report (peer-reviewed journal);
- #6f Professional Writing - grant proposal, primary investigator or co-investigator;
- #7 Professional Services;
- #9a Contribution to a Research Project.

**C. Education and Communication (2 points minimum required)**

This category includes all education and communication activities in the specialty area and the following approved Professional Development Activities:

- #4 Teaching a continuing education course or college/university course;
- #5b Invited speaker to a group, classes, or portions of courses (including in-services);
- #5c Presentation to non-professional community or client-based groups on topic specific to specialty area;
- #6a Author - book chapter;
- #6c Author - non-peer-reviewed publication;
- #6d Author - reviews or commentaries;
- #6g Editor – book;
- #6h Editor - peer-reviewed journal;
- #6i Editor - editorial board member;
- #6j Editor - non-peer-reviewed publication;
- #6k Editor - manuscript reviewer.

6. Professional development activities that are cited in any category must have been completed within the past ten years [10] or since the date of your most recent certification.
7. Points that are in the following approved Professional Development Activities (#4, #5b, #5c, #7, and #9a) may be used towards the minimum 25 points in clinical practice if they are not needed to meet the two [2] and eight [8] point minimum for Teaching, Research, Administration, and Consultation. These will be labeled “swing points”. A maximum of 10 “swing points” is allowed.
8. If “swing points” are utilized, place an “S-” prior to the numbered points in the Professional Development Portfolio table.
9. Candidates must identify and describe the professional development activities for each entry and enter the point credit according to the ABPTS guidelines as indicated in the overview.
10. Candidates are required to submit supporting documentation of Professional Development Activities with their summary forms unless otherwise indicated.
11. The Specialty Council will conduct random audits of Professional Development Portfolios (PDP). If a candidate’s PDP is selected for an audit, they must provide evidence of involvement in professional development activities such as transcripts, course content outlines, research abstracts, article reprints, etc. To ensure timely processing of your application please provide all supporting documentation with your portfolio.

## Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Approved Professional Development Activities

Points that are in the following approved Professional Development Activities (#4, #5b, #5c, #7, and #9a) may be used towards the minimum 25 points in clinical practice if they are not needed to meet the 2 and 8 point minimums for Teaching, Research, Administration, and Consultation. These will be labeled “swing points”. A maximum of 10 “swing points” is allowed.

Activity	Point Value
1. <b>Direct Patient Care</b> hours in specialty area <i>(beyond minimum eligibility requirement)</i>	<b>0.1 pt. per 10 hours</b> <i>20 point maximum</i>
2. <b>Participating in a continuing education course</b> with specific goals and objectives related to specialty practice. Calculations are based on contact hours (class time) rather than quarter or semester course credit hours. (One [1] Proficiency Point = 10 contact hours, 0.1 Proficiency Point = 1 contact hour)	<b>1<sup>pt.</sup> per 10 contact hours</b>
3. Satisfactory <b>completion of a college/university course</b> for credit or audit related to specialty area	<b>1pt per unit/credit hour</b>
4. <b>Teaching a continuing education course or college/university course</b> related to specialty area.  <i>(Point value decreases for the second time a course is taught. Credit is given only for the first <u>two</u> times a course is taught.)</i>	a. First Time = <b>0.2</b> <i>(per contact hour)</i>  b. Second Time = <b>0.1</b> <i>(per contact hour)</i>
5. <b>Professional Presentations</b> in specialty area. <i>(Credit is given only for first time a presentation is made.)</i>	
a. Platform or poster presentation at a professional meeting	<b>1 (per presentation)</b>
b. Invited speaker to a group, classes, or portions of courses (including in-services)	<b>0.1 (per hour)</b>
c. Presentation to non-professional community or client-based groups on topic specific to specialty area	<b>0.1 (per hour)</b>
6. <b>Professional Writing</b> - Can include editor, author, or co-author of publications using, “Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals.”	
<b>Author</b>	
a. book chapter – multiply number of chapters by 2 points if you wrote more than one chapter or an entire book	<b>2.0 per chapter</b>
b. peer reviewed journal article	<b>3.0 per article</b>
c. non-peer reviewed publication	<b>0.5 per article</b>
d. reviews or commentaries	<b>0.5 per review or commentary</b>
e. case study or case report (peer-reviewed journal)	<b>2.0 per case</b>
f. grant proposal, primary investigator or co-investigator	<b>2.0 per internal proposal</b> <b>3.0 per external proposal</b>

<b>Editor</b>	
g. book editor – multiply number of chapters by 0.5 if you edited more than one chapter or an entire book	<b>0.5 per chapter</b>
h. peer reviewed journal editor	<b>1.5 per year</b>
i. editorial board member	<b>1.0 per year</b>
j. non-peer reviewed publication	<b>0.75 per year</b>
k. manuscript reviewer	<b>0.5 per review</b>
<b>7. Professional services</b>	
a. Committee membership per year (eg, specialty council, section officer, special interest group, organization outside APTA related to specialty area)  Note: Can be at local, state, or national level	<b>1.0 per year as member 2.0 per year as chair</b>
b. Subject Matter Expert, Consultant (eg, expert witness, grant reviewer, insurance reviewer, liaison or consultant to professional association, service, or educational program, certification exam development, including item editing.)  Note: Can be at local, state, or national level	<b>0.1 (per hour)</b>
c. Item writing for certification exam	<b>1 per 3 accepted items</b>
d. Administration activities related to patient care/services (e.g., development of policies and procedures; marketing and public relations; orientation and mentoring of new staff, and supervision of physical therapists in a management role.)	<b>0.5 (per year)</b>
<b>8. Clinical Supervision</b> of student/peers or <b>clinical consultation</b> with peers in a health care profession <i>The same hours cannot be counted for both clinical supervision and direct patient care.</i>	<b>0.1 (per 10 hours)</b>
<b>9. Research Activities</b>	
a. Contribution to a research project, supported by a letter from the primary investigator of the published research article	<b>1.0 per project</b>
b. Contribution to a Physical Therapy Outcome Database System	<b>0.5 per year of participation</b>