



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**July 13, 2010**

**From: North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners**

**Subject: PT and PTA examinations have been suspended for graduates of programs in Egypt, India, Pakistan and the Philippines**

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The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (Federation or FSBPT) develops and administers the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) for both physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in 53 jurisdictions – the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These high-stakes examinations assess the basic entry-level competence for first time licensure or registration as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant within the 53 jurisdictions.

The Federation recently announced that it has suspended NPTE testing for all graduates of physical therapy schools located in Egypt, India, Pakistan, and the Philippines “in response to pervasive, ongoing security breaches by significant numbers of graduates of physical therapy schools from these countries. This necessary security measure has been implemented in light of compelling evidence gathered by the Federation reflecting systematic and methodical sharing and distribution of recalled questions by significant numbers of graduates of programs in the affected countries, as well as several exam preparation companies specifically targeted to these graduates.”

“As a result of these ongoing security breaches, graduates of Egyptian, Indian, Pakistani and Philippine programs are no longer able to register for the NPTE for PTs or PTAs, effective 11:59 PM, Sunday, July 11, 2010. New PT and PTA examinations, called the NPTE-YRLY, will be developed for graduates of these programs and should be available for registration in the fall of 2011. Currently, the Federation intends to offer the NPTE-YRLY once per year, at select test sites to be identified at a later date.”

“The Federation will contact graduates from the affected physical therapy schools who have already registered for the NPTE to provide written instructions regarding when and under what conditions they will be able to take the NPTE. Jurisdiction physical therapy licensing authorities will be informed of the status of candidates from affected programs who have applied to their jurisdiction for licensure in separate correspondence.”

“This necessary security measure is in response to compelling evidence gathered by the Federation reflecting systematic and methodical sharing and distribution of recalled questions by significant numbers of graduates of programs in the affected countries, as well as several exam preparation companies specifically targeted to these graduates. This evidence was obtained through extensive forensic analyses of exam performances, as well as a variety of legal actions brought by the Federation in the United States and abroad. Most notably, this includes the raid and seizure of evidence from the St. Louis Review Center

in Manila, Philippines, and its alleged owners/operators, Gerard L. Martin, Roger P. Tong-An and Carlito Balita, which revealed the widespread sharing of hundreds of live test items. In response, the Federation is pursuing criminal copyright prosecution against St. Louis Review Center and its owners, has invalidated the scores of several individuals believed to have unfairly benefitted from advance access to test questions, and has removed the compromised items from the exam.”

“The Federation’s ongoing investigative efforts have revealed that the sale and sharing of recalled test questions extends beyond this single test preparation company, and that the sharing of test items has continued despite its past efforts to ensure the security of the exam. “The National Physical Therapy Examination is a key element in assisting jurisdiction licensing boards and the Federation in assuring the public that licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are competent and safe practitioners. We view the security of the NPTE as the highest priority in our mission of public protection and, therefore, have used the best forensic and investigative techniques available to identify the problem and the perpetrators. Given the pervasive and continuing use of electronic technologies by graduates of these schools and some examination preparation companies - in spite of the harsh penalties imposed by the Federation - we believe that the NPTE-YRLY is the best solution to ensure the validity of all NPTE test results,” stated Federation President E. Dargan Ervin. “The Federation recognizes the significant consequences of this policy decision, but feels that it needs to be made clear to all candidates that the Federation will not tolerate security breaches. We will continue to use and add security measures to protect against possible future breaches and will not hesitate to add other groups to the list restricted to the NPTE-YRLY if we obtain sufficient evidence that members of additional groups may be obtaining an unfair advantage on the NPTE or otherwise jeopardizing the integrity of the exam.”

Candidates with questions may visit the Federation’s website at [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org) for updated information or email [examregistration@fsbpt.org](mailto:examregistration@fsbpt.org). Individuals without Internet access may contact the Federation at 703.739.9420.

Applicants or potential employers with questions for the North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners may contact Cindy Kiely, Administrative Licensing Manager at [cindy@ncptboard.org](mailto:cindy@ncptboard.org) or 919-490-6393 / 800-800-8982.

The North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners will continue to accept applications and the application fee from graduates of Egypt, India, Pakistan, and the Philippines; however, the application fee is not refundable and candidates will **not** be allowed to take the NPTE until the Federation lifts the current suspension.

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