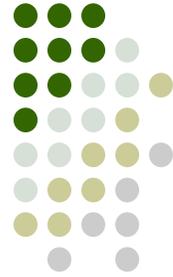




Program Director Newsletter



...In the Hands of
the World's Finest...

Change in Leadership at FCCPT

As we wrote in our previous newsletter, Dr. Susan K. Lindeblad retired as Managing Director of the FCCPT on June 30th, 2015. Dr. Lindeblad left after a successful 14 year tenure at the FCCPT, where she was responsible for development and implementation most of the procedures supporting application, review and credentialing of foreign-educated (FE) physical therapists. Succeeding Dr. Lindeblad is Kathleen Luedtke-Hoffmann, PT,

MBA, PhD. If you attended the World Conference of Physical Therapy (WCPT) meeting earlier this year, you might have met both Drs. Lindeblad and Luedtke-Hoffmann at the FCCPT booth.

Dr. Luedtke-Hoffmann comes to the FCCPT with more than 30 years of clinical, managerial, administrative and academic experience. She also served on the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners as a board member for 5

years before relocating to Alexandria, Virginia, to join the FCCPT.

Kathleen looks forward to further development of FCCPT's services for FE PTs and PTAs, and facilitating communication with educational institutions and regulatory agencies.



The FCCPT is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support protection of the public through the evaluation and authentication of credentials and provision of related services in an ethical manner.

How You Can Help FCCPT Help Your Students!

To insure authenticity of documents submitted for credentials evaluation, FCCPT requires that academic documents for credentials evaluation be sent directly from the issuing institution to the FCCPT office. The documentation should include the following items: 1) the official transcript of record/statement of marks, 2) credit or contact hours for each course

either posted on the official transcript or sent in a separate document, 3) a certificate of clinical internship that includes the total number of hours completed in the internship, and 4) a detailed syllabus of all the coursework completed in the physical therapy program.

To prevent delays in your students' applications with FCCPT, it is helpful if all

the required documents listed above are *sent together* in a sealed envelope. The certificate of clinical internship is especially important and a document that is often not sent with the initial set of documentation. Please avoid sending the student's notarized attestation form to FCCPT with the academic documents as this attestation form is to be sent to

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Special points of interest:

- Call Center
703-684-8406
- Help Desk
help@fccpt.org

Did You Know?

- FCCPT is the only agency recognized by all 53 jurisdictions.
- FCCPT was the first to offer advising and pre-approval service (PLAN)
- FCCPT bundles some services to reduce costs to applicants
- FCCPT is the only PT credentialing agency to use a consensus model for review. A minimum of four experts review each set of documents to determine evidence in content





**Turn Around
times for reviews
is consistently
below 8 weeks,
and FCCPT is
now able to offer
an expedited
service of less
than 6 weeks for
an added cost.**

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FCCPT *by the applicant* and not the academic institution. FCCPT will not accept academic documents that arrive with the applicant's notarized attestation and this will cause delays in the evaluation process. FCCPT and our applicants rely on academic institutions to send the required documents in the required fashion, and you can help your students by ensuring the documents are sent in the manner required by FCCPT. Please pass this information along to the person who prepares and processes documents.

If you have questions about document preparation for credentials evaluation, please contact Mrs. Jaime Nolan at FCCPT – you can reach Mrs. Nolan at jnolan@fccpt.org.



How Upcoming U.S. Accreditation Standards will Impact Credentials Evaluation

As many of you may be aware, the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) will be implementing changes in the criteria requirements for the entry-level or professional degree education for physical therapists trained in the United States (U.S.), starting in 2016. The accreditation criteria changes will impact the requirements for your students who want to practice in the U.S. at some point. However, at this time, the specific changes to credentialing criteria are unknown. The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT), which owns the Coursework Tool (CWT), is responsible for updating the CWT to reflect current U.S. practice and educational preparation.

In January 2016, the Federation will convene a Task Force/workgroup to compare the CWT5 (the most current version of the CWT) to new CAPTE accreditation standards and make recommendations for updates and revisions to create a revised Coursework Tool. At that time, the task force will make recommendations for the PTA assessment tool as well.

While the specific changes are not known at this time, based on the revised criteria, we can predict changes in the following areas:

A. increased instruction/content in *administrative topics* such as Coding, Billing, and Reimbursement;
B. *increased length/duration of clinical education (CE) time*: The minimum number of CE hours currently included in professional U.S. programs is 800 hours. The minimum number required by CAPTE is increasing to 1,200 hours, starting in January 2016 for CAPTE graduates.

The required increase in clinical education hours will likely be the most difficult challenge foreign-educated applicants interested in practicing in the U.S., as there are no education institutions offering clinical education experiences to these applicants. While acknowledging that the FCCPT has no authority to dictate changes to curricula, we ask that educational institutions might consider the addition of optional clinical education experiences or externships to supplement the 400 hour gap that many applicants will face.

**Look for our new and improved website
due to launch in
September of 2015.**

