

# Florida Physical Therapy Jurisprudence Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. Which of the following is NOT a consequence of failing to complete continuing education hours?**
  - A. Increased license fee**
  - B. Issuance of a citation**
  - C. Fines based on hours not completed**
  - D. Requirement to re-take the national exam**
- 2. What must occur if a physical therapist becomes unable to perform their duties due to impairment?**
  - A. Immediate notification of their patients**
  - B. Participation in a rehabilitation program**
  - C. Voluntary suspension of their license**
  - D. Charity work for a specified period**
- 3. When a patient asks about their prognosis for improving balance, what should the physical therapist assistant do?**
  - A. Provide an opinion based on progression**
  - B. Have the patient talk to the supervising physical therapist**
  - C. Instruct the patient to follow up with their physician**
  - D. Give the patient their evaluation paperwork**
- 4. Which of the following is NOT a requirement for the lawful recommendation of personal training by a licensee?**
  - A. Detailed list of other trainers**
  - B. Patient's acknowledgment of disclosure**
  - C. Licensee's personal endorsement of the trainer**
  - D. Clear statement about licensee's investment**
- 5. Which of the following can be considered an unlawful practice regarding patient referrals?**
  - A. Co-payment from the patient**
  - B. Cash payment for referrals**
  - C. Barter exchange of services**
  - D. Offering free therapy sessions**

- 6. How often must a physical therapist assistant report to the supervising physical therapist?**
- A. Annually**
  - B. Monthly**
  - C. Every session**
  - D. As needed**
- 7. What can practitioners choose to release as part of an impaired practitioner program?**
- A. Personal details**
  - B. Patient records**
  - C. All requested medical records**
  - D. Client confidentiality agreements**
- 8. A physical therapist assistant is able to \_\_\_\_\_ unlicensed personnel once the task has been delegated by the physical therapist.**
- A. monitor**
  - B. directly supervise**
  - C. train**
  - D. evaluate**
- 9. A physical therapy aide is allowed to participate in which of the following documentation activities?**
- A. Evaluating progress towards established goals**
  - B. Interpreting objective findings in a reevaluation**
  - C. Recording interventions performed during treatment**
  - D. Altering the established plan of care**
- 10. What is the legal implication for a licensee practicing with a delinquent license for over 6 months?**
- A. Felony with a minimum fine of \$1,000**
  - B. Misdemeanor with a minimum fine of \$500**
  - C. Felony with a minimum imprisonment for 6 months**
  - D. Violation with no fines or penalties**

## **Answers**

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1. D
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. B
7. C
8. B
9. C
10. B

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which of the following is NOT a consequence of failing to complete continuing education hours?**

- A. Increased license fee**
- B. Issuance of a citation**
- C. Fines based on hours not completed**
- D. Requirement to re-take the national exam**

The correct response indicates that the requirement to re-take the national exam is not a consequence of failing to complete continuing education hours. Continuing education is a vital component of maintaining a physical therapy license, ensuring that practitioners stay current with the latest practices, techniques, and developments in the field. Most states, including Florida, have specific requirements for continuing education to ensure that licensed professionals remain competent and knowledgeable. If a licensee fails to complete the mandated hours of continuing education, there are common penalties that can be imposed, including increased license fees, the issuance of a citation, and fines that could correspond to the number of hours that were not completed. These penalties serve as deterrents and encourage compliance with education requirements. However, the re-take of the national exam is typically not imposed as a consequence of failing to fulfill continuing education requirements. Instead, it is more often associated with concerns over the initial licensure process or cases of severe misconduct or incompetence that necessitate a more rigorous reassessment of the practitioner's abilities. Thus, the requirement to retake the national exam is not a typical immediate consequence of failing to complete continuing education hours, making it the correct answer in this context.

**2. What must occur if a physical therapist becomes unable to perform their duties due to impairment?**

- A. Immediate notification of their patients**
- B. Participation in a rehabilitation program**
- C. Voluntary suspension of their license**
- D. Charity work for a specified period**

If a physical therapist becomes unable to perform their duties due to impairment, participation in a rehabilitation program is often required as a critical step toward recovery and safe practice. This approach demonstrates the therapist's commitment to addressing their impairment and ensures they receive the appropriate support and treatment to regain their ability to practice safely and competently. Rehabilitation programs can provide the necessary resources and structure for the therapist to recover and learn to manage their impairment effectively. This may include counseling, medical assistance, or structured support systems, enabling the individual to return to their professional responsibilities while prioritizing patient safety and care. While options like immediate notification of patients or voluntary license suspension may seem prudent, they lack the proactive measures that rehabilitation involves. Charity work, while beneficial, does not address the underlying impairment and the need for the therapist to rehabilitate properly before returning to their practice.

**3. When a patient asks about their prognosis for improving balance, what should the physical therapist assistant do?**

- A. Provide an opinion based on progression**
- B. Have the patient talk to the supervising physical therapist**
- C. Instruct the patient to follow up with their physician**
- D. Give the patient their evaluation paperwork**

Having the patient speak to the supervising physical therapist is the most appropriate action when discussing prognosis. The supervising physical therapist is responsible for the overall care plan, and they have the comprehensive understanding of the patient's condition and evaluation. Prognosis involves analyzing complex clinical data, which includes physical examination findings, medical history, and response to treatment. This ensures that the patient receives accurate and personalized information. The physical therapist assistant's role is primarily to assist in the implementation of the treatment plan and provide support under the direction of the physical therapist. They may not have the authority to make judgments on prognosis or progression independently. Thus, directing the patient to the supervising physical therapist respects the established chain of responsibility in the healthcare setting. This practice also reinforces patient safety and quality of care, making sure that critical information is communicated correctly and comprehensively.

**4. Which of the following is NOT a requirement for the lawful recommendation of personal training by a licensee?**

- A. Detailed list of other trainers**
- B. Patient's acknowledgment of disclosure**
- C. Licensee's personal endorsement of the trainer**
- D. Clear statement about licensee's investment**

The recommendation of personal training by a licensee must adhere to certain professional standards to ensure that patient care remains ethical and transparent. Among those requirements, the licensee is expected to provide a detailed list of other trainers as it helps patients make informed decisions and find suitable alternatives. Additionally, obtaining the patient's acknowledgment of disclosure is critical; it ensures that the patient is aware of any potential conflicts of interest and understands the nature of the recommendation. A clear statement about the licensee's investment is necessary as well, as this protects both the patient and the practitioner by clarifying financial interests involved in such recommendations. However, a licensee's personal endorsement of a trainer is not mandated for lawful recommendations. This is primarily because personal endorsements can introduce biases and may not be in the best interest of the patient if the endorsement comes from a personal relationship rather than professional qualifications. Thus, while personal endorsements can be included, they do not constitute a requirement within the regulated framework of practice, making it the correct response to the question.

**5. Which of the following can be considered an unlawful practice regarding patient referrals?**

- A. Co-payment from the patient**
- B. Cash payment for referrals**
- C. Barter exchange of services**
- D. Offering free therapy sessions**

The correct choice highlights a significant legal and ethical issue in the field of healthcare. Cash payment for referrals is considered an unlawful practice because it can create a conflict of interest and compromise patient care. It violates the principle of avoiding financial incentives that could influence a provider's judgment regarding patient treatment. This type of arrangement could lead to unnecessary treatments or referrals based solely on financial gain rather than the patient's best interest. In the context of healthcare laws, many jurisdictions, including Florida, have strict regulations to prevent such practices, mainly to ensure that all referral decisions are made based on medical necessity, not economic motivations. Accepting cash for referrals can also contravene federal anti-kickback statutes, which aim to prevent fraud and abuse in healthcare systems by ensuring that healthcare decisions are made based on patient needs rather than financial incentives. While the other options may also raise ethical considerations, they do not specifically illustrate the direct exchange of money for referrals, which is a clear violation of laws designed to protect patients and ensure equitable access to necessary care.

**6. How often must a physical therapist assistant report to the supervising physical therapist?**

- A. Annually**
- B. Monthly**
- C. Every session**
- D. As needed**

The requirement for a physical therapist assistant to report to the supervising physical therapist is dictated by regulatory standards which emphasize the importance of effective communication and oversight within the therapy team. Monthly reporting strikes a balance between ensuring adequate supervision and allowing the physical therapist assistant to have autonomy in their practice. This level of reporting frequency helps in monitoring patient progress, making any necessary adjustments to treatment plans, and ensuring compliance with safety and ethical standards within the therapy setting. It allows the supervising physical therapist to remain informed about the assistant's activities and the patient's responses to treatment without overwhelming the system with daily updates. Regular communication is essential for maintaining a collaborative approach to patient care, which is foundational in the physical therapy profession.

**7. What can practitioners choose to release as part of an impaired practitioner program?**

- A. Personal details**
- B. Patient records**
- C. All requested medical records**
- D. Client confidentiality agreements**

In the context of an impaired practitioner program, the release of "all requested medical records" is pertinent as it underscores the need for a comprehensive evaluation of the practitioner's fitness to practice. Such programs are designed to provide support and oversight for practitioners who may be struggling with health issues that affect their ability to provide safe care. Releasing all requested medical records allows for a thorough assessment of the practitioner's condition and history, which is essential for creating an effective treatment plan and ensuring patient safety. This can include records related to mental health, substance abuse, or other medical issues that could impair clinical performance. Maintaining patient safety and the integrity of the profession is a priority, and this level of transparency is necessary for program administrators to make informed decisions about the practitioner's capacity to practice safely. Client confidentiality agreements, personal details, and patient records are more sensitive and might not be released in full depending on privacy laws and ethical considerations. In contrast, the focus of an impaired practitioner program is on the practitioner's health and ability to perform, making the release of all requested medical records crucial for the program's objectives.

**8. A physical therapist assistant is able to \_\_\_\_\_ unlicensed personnel once the task has been delegated by the physical therapist.**

- A. monitor**
- B. directly supervise**
- C. train**
- D. evaluate**

The correct choice in this scenario is that a physical therapist assistant is able to directly supervise unlicensed personnel once the task has been delegated by the physical therapist. Direct supervision implies that the physical therapist assistant is responsible for overseeing the activities of the unlicensed personnel closely and ensuring that they are executing the tasks correctly and safely while maintaining compliance with the relevant regulations and standards of practice. Direct supervision is essential in the context of patient care, as it helps maintain the quality of care and ensures that unlicensed personnel are performing their duties within the parameters set by the licensed physical therapist. The physical therapist assistant acts as a bridge between the licensed therapist and the unlicensed personnel, guiding the latter based on the treatment plan created by the physical therapist. In contrast, while monitoring and evaluating are important roles, these actions do not necessarily equate to the level of oversight required in direct supervision. Training is also a significant function, but it pertains to equipping unlicensed personnel with the skills and knowledge they need before they can carry out their tasks, rather than supervising them in the act of performing those tasks. Therefore, direct supervision is a critical and appropriate role for the physical therapist assistant in this context.

**9. A physical therapy aide is allowed to participate in which of the following documentation activities?**

- A. Evaluating progress towards established goals**
- B. Interpreting objective findings in a reevaluation**
- C. Recording interventions performed during treatment**
- D. Altering the established plan of care**

The correct answer highlights that a physical therapy aide is permitted to engage in documentation activities such as recording the interventions performed during treatment. This task is appropriate for an aide because it involves noting the activities and techniques that were carried out under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist. Documentation is a vital part of patient care, and accurately recording the interventions ensures continuity, effectiveness, and accountability in the treatment process. By documenting interventions, the aide contributes valuable information that can be reviewed by the supervising physical therapist. However, this role does not extend to evaluative or interpretative tasks, such as assessing progress towards established goals or interpreting objective findings, which require the clinical judgment and expertise of a licensed practitioner. Similarly, altering the established plan of care is a responsibility that falls solely within the scope of a licensed physical therapist, as it involves making clinical decisions based on a comprehensive understanding of the patient's condition and treatment objectives.

**10. What is the legal implication for a licensee practicing with a delinquent license for over 6 months?**

- A. Felony with a minimum fine of \$1,000**
- B. Misdemeanor with a minimum fine of \$500**
- C. Felony with a minimum imprisonment for 6 months**
- D. Violation with no fines or penalties**

Practicing with a delinquent license for over six months is categorized as a misdemeanor in Florida. This implies that the legal consequence of such an action includes a minimum fine of \$500. The rationale behind this is to emphasize the importance of maintaining an active and valid license to ensure public trust and safety in professional services, such as physical therapy. The state takes licensing seriously, as it ensures that practitioners meet required standards and are held accountable for their professional conduct. By imposing a misdemeanor classification, the law highlights that while this behavior is not considered as severe as a felony, it still carries significant penalties that serve as a deterrent for practitioners. Such penalties reinforce the necessity for licensees to remain compliant with licensing regulations and deadlines to prevent detrimental consequences both for themselves and for the public they serve.