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APTA Approved Credentials Evaluation Organizations

Effective January 1, 2014, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the US Department of Health and Human Services adopted a regulation that amended Section 484.4 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations by, among other things, revising the Medicare definitions of “physical therapist” and “physical therapist assistant.” See [72 *Federal Register* 66222].

The revised definition of “physical therapist” includes references to an individual’s having graduated from an education program “determined to be substantially equivalent to physical therapist entry-level education in the United States by a credentials evaluation organization approved by the American Physical Therapy Association or an organization identified in 8 CFR 212.15(e) as it relates to physical therapists.”

Similarly, the revised definition of “physical therapist assistant” includes a reference to an individual’s having graduated from an education program “determined to be substantially equivalent to physical therapist assistant entry level education in the United States by a credentials evaluation organization approved by the American Physical Therapy Association or identified at 8 CFR 212.15(e).”

The organizations identified at 8 CFR 212.15(e) include:

- The Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS), which is authorized to issue health-care worker certificates under Section 212(a)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act for physical therapists.
- The Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy (FCCPT), which is authorized to issue health-care worker certificates in the field of physical therapy pending final adjudication of its credentialing status under 8 CFR Part 212.

The revised Medicare definitions apply in all settings in which therapy is furnished (e.g., hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, rehabilitation agencies, private practices, comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities, and home health). CMS revised the definitions because the existing regulations were outdated and did not appropriately address individuals educated in education programs not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or one of its predecessors.

As of January 1, 2014, APTA approves the following credentials evaluation organizations:

Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. (ECE)

PO Box 514070
Milwaukee, WI 53203-3470
Phone: 414/289-3400
Fax: 414/289-3411
E-mail: eval@ece.org
Website: <http://www.ece.org>

APTA-approved credentials evaluation organizations continued:

International Credentialing Associates, Inc. (ICA)

7245 Bryan Dairy Road
Largo, FL 33777
Phone: 727/549-8555
Fax: 727/549-8554
E-mail: customerservice@icaworld.com
Website: www.icaworld.com

International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. (ICD)

PO Box 8629
Philadelphia, PA 19101-8629
Phone: 215/222-8454 ext. 603
Fax: 215/349-0026
E-mail: icd@icdel.com
Website: www.icdel.com

International Education Research Foundation, Inc. (IERF)

PO Box 3665
Culver City, CA 90231-3665
Phone: 310/258-9451
Fax: 310/342-7086
E-mail: information@ierf.org
Website: www.ierf.org

Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy (FCCPT)

124 West Street South, 3rd Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703/684-8406
Fax: 703/684-8715
E-mail: help@fccpt.org
Website: www.fccpt.org

CGFNS International (Formerly Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools)

3600 Market Street, Suite 400
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2651
Phone: 215/349-8767
Fax: N/A
E-mail: N/A
Website: www.cgfns.org

Note: Credentials evaluation organizations interested in obtaining APTA approval are encouraged to submit a letter requesting approval. Letters should be sent to:

Attention: Janet Bezner, PT, vice president, education, governance and administration
American Physical Therapy Association
1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314