APTA Approved Credentials Evaluation Organizations

Effective January 1, 2008, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 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, November 27, 2007.

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 CMS revised the definitions because the existing regulations were outdated and did not appropriately address individuals educated in education programs not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education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 July 1, 2009, APTA approves the following credentials evaluation organizations:

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
EMAIL: N/A
WEBSITE: www.cgfns.org
APTA Approved Credentials Evaluation Organizations continued:

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. (ECE)</td>
<td>PO Box 514070, Milwaukee, WI 53203-3470, PHONE: 414-289-3400, FAX: 414-289-3411, EMAIL: <a href="mailto:eval@ece.org">eval@ece.org</a>, WEBSITE: <a href="http://www.ece.org">www.ece.org</a></td>
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<td>International Credentialing Associates, Inc. (ICA)</td>
<td>7245 Bryan Dairy Road, Largo, FL 33777, PHONE: 727-549-8555, FAX: 727-549-8554, EMAIL: <a href="mailto:customerservice@icaworld.com">customerservice@icaworld.com</a>, WEBSITE: <a href="http://www.icaworld.com">www.icaworld.com</a></td>
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<td>Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy (FCCPT)</td>
<td>124 West Street South, 3rd Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314, PHONE: 703-684-8406, FAX: 703-684-8715, EMAIL: <a href="mailto:help@fccpt.org">help@fccpt.org</a>, WEBSITE: <a href="http://www.fccpt.org">www.fccpt.org</a></td>
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<td>International Consultations of Delaware, Inc. (ICD)</td>
<td>PO Box 8629, Philadelphia, PA 19101-8629, PHONE: 215-222-8454, ext. 603, FAX: 215-349-0026, EMAIL: <a href="mailto:icd@icdel.com">icd@icdel.com</a>, WEBSITE: <a href="http://www.icdeval.com">www.icdeval.com</a></td>
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<td>International Education Research Foundation, Inc. (IERF)</td>
<td>PO Box 3665, Culver City, CA 90231-3665, PHONE: 310-258-9451, FAX: 310-342-7086, EMAIL: <a href="mailto:information@ierf.org">information@ierf.org</a>, WEBSITE: <a href="http://www.ierf.org">www.ierf.org</a></td>
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<td>University of Texas at Austin</td>
<td>Attn: Robert Watkins, Graduate &amp; International Admissions Center, 2608 Whitis Avenue, Austin, TX 78712, PHONE: 512-475-7409, FAX: 512-475-7395, EMAIL: <a href="mailto:robert.watkins@mail.utexas.edu">robert.watkins@mail.utexas.edu</a>, WEBSITE: N/A</td>
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**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, Deputy Executive Director
American Physical Therapy Association
1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314