BOC REGULATORY CONFERENCE: BRINGING TOGETHER INDUSTRY EXPERTS

The BOC hosted the BOC Athletic Trainer Regulatory Conference July 14-15, 2017, in Omaha, Nebraska. Conference attendees included 100 representatives of the athletic training and regulatory industries from 43 states, District of Columbia and Quebec.

The conference began by discussing the types of issues each state is currently facing and ended the first day with brainstorming solutions to address these issues. Updates were provided by leading athletic training organizations including NATA Governmental Affairs Committee, Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education, NATA Professional Responsibility Committee and the BOC.

Presenters covered a variety of topics, including industry case studies, legal issues, strategic planning, and the current climate surrounding the regulatory structures and state based licensure. The keynote presentation “Regulatory Trends and Solutions: Reflect Don’t Deflect” was delivered by Dale Atkinson, Executive Director of the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB). The BOC is a Governing Member of FARB and BOC Associate Executive Director Anne Minton serves on the FARB Executive Council.

In addition, the conference featured speakers from other healthcare industries with information on their journeys to implement a compact, allowing a healthcare professional to practice in any member state. There was also a presentation that focused on risk management issues professional regulatory boards face. The presentations from the program can be accessed via the BOC website.

During the conference, the 2017 BOC Public Advocacy Award winners were announced. The Public Advocacy Award is designed to recognize an individual, group or organization who has demonstrated leadership in protecting athletic training consumers. Honorees were the Oklahoma Athletic Trainers’ Association and Representative Paul Ray from Utah. A reception at the BOC office followed to honor the recipients.

The biennial conference is designed to assist regulators and state leaders in developing strategic initiatives and resolutions to protect both the public and credential holder. This year’s conference was sponsored by Johnson & Johnson, Mutual of Omaha and Regal Awards & Advertising Specialties.

About FARB: FARB is a not-for-profit corporation formed in 1974 to promote public protection and provide a forum for information exchange for associations of regulatory boards and their affiliate stakeholders with interests in professional regulation. FARB’s mission is to advance excellence in regulation of the professions in the interest of public protection.
REGULATORY UPDATE

BOC NEWS IN BRIEF

REQUIREMENTS DUE 12/31/17

Athletic Trainers are required to renew their BOC certification by December 31, 2017. Once they have met all renewal requirements, their expiration date will be updated to December 31, 2019 and their BOC cards will reflect this update immediately. BOC cards can be downloaded from the AT’s personal profile in BOC Central™.

REGULATORY NETWORK

News affecting Athletic Trainer regulation happens every day. Are you up to speed on changes at the state and federal level?

The BOC State Regulatory Network collects news and provides a space for discussion among peers in the regulatory community. Don’t miss it.

Sign up or log in today!

EFFICIENCY TIPS

Is your office processing license applications efficiently? Perhaps a simple verification of BOC certification can check many items off your license application checklist. The BOC requires, collects and confirms the following for BOC certification:

- Passing of the BOC exam
- Graduation from a CAATE accredited program
- Emergency Cardiac Care certification

For renewal:

- Entry of 50 continuing education units (10 must qualify for the Evidence-Based Practice category)
- Entry of a current emergency cardiac care (ECC) card
- BOC conducts an audit after each reporting period

DISCIPLINARY ACTION EXCHANGE

The Disciplinary Action Exchange was developed to help the BOC, states and consumers locate disciplinary actions in an efficient manner. The BOC posts all disciplinary actions that have been deemed public.

We strongly encourage you to participate in the exchange. You can submit disciplinary actions via the online submission form, under the Links section of the State Regulatory Network home page.

MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT DID YOU KNOW…?

Athletic Trainers Expand their International Reach

Athletic Trainers (ATs) and Athletic Therapists from the US, Canada and Ireland are able to obtain credentials in each other’s countries easily thanks to the international Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) signed in September 2014 by the BOC and representatives from the Canadian Athletic Therapy Association (CATA) and Athletic Rehabilitation Therapists of Ireland (ARTI).

With the strict standards by which the BOC certifies Athletic Trainers, ATs’ skills are in demand worldwide and the MRA makes it easier for them to work where they want to go. Working collaboratively to remove barriers for qualified professionals helps ATs reach the top of their profession.

Under the agreement, the national certification bodies for athletic training and athletic therapy in all 3 countries recognize each other’s education and certification standards. The MRA allows for a certified professional in one country to practice in another signatory nation following the successful completion of the respective nation’s examination.

This agreement expires at the end of 2020. The agreement will be reviewed, and if appropriate, it will be renewed. If you have any questions regarding the MRA, please contact Shannon at ShannonF@bocatc.org
NEW BOC BOARD MEMBER NAMED FOR UPCOMING TERM

The BOC is pleased to announce the election of a new Athletic Trainer Director to the Board of Directors. René Revis Shingles, PhD, AT, ATC, will take office January 2019, following a year of mentorship and learning as an AT Director-elect.

Shingles, who serves as a representative chairperson, professor, Program Director and internship coordinator in the School of Rehabilitation and Medical Sciences at the Central Michigan University located at Mount Pleasant, said she is honored to have been elected to the Board and is excited to be part of the BOC.

“Thank you for the confidence you have shown by electing me to this position. I’m looking forward to rolling up my sleeves and working hard to address the current challenges in credentialing,” Shingles said.

Shingles brings her extensive experience serving in a leadership capacity in both her professional career and in the athletic training industry. As a university Department Chairperson, Athletic Training Program Director and as a Head Athletic Trainer (AT), Shingles said she has provided leadership, strategic direction and coordination of all activities in these areas.

“I have had experiences with and held leadership responsibilities throughout my career through positions I have held or committees and boards with which I have volunteered. It is my pleasure and honor to use my experience to serve in a leadership capacity on the BOC Board,” Shingles said.

Shingles has served the BOC previously as a member of the Role Delineation Study Panel, Certification Examination Examiner, Certification Examination Item Developer and most recently on the Cultural Sensitivity Panel. She also served for 4 years on the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) Research and Education Foundation Board of Directors as the District 4 representative. In addition, Shingles served for 5 years on the NATA Education Council Executive Committee, supervising all matters related to athletic training education. During her tenure, the committee transitioned the profession from the internship to accredited program route to certification and helped support the Entry Level Education Committee in its role in providing guidance to educational programs making the transition to accredited status.

Although Shingles performs many functions, she still provides services as an AT while supervising students as a preceptor in the Injury Care Center at Central Michigan University.

“By continuing to practice athletic training in the context of an entry level undergraduate program, I have intimate knowledge of the impact of educational reform on practitioners. I also understand the importance of providing quality patient care and the need to protect the public by maintaining standards,” Shingles said.

The AT Director-elect received the majority vote of the BOC Certified Athletic Trainers who participated in an online election. The election ran from September to October, after 2 candidates were selected by the BOC Nominating Committee. Board terms are 3 years, with the possibility of reappointment for 1 term.
IS YOUR STATE’S INFO CORRECT

Now is a great time to be sure the BOC has accurate information for your state. Visit the interactive map at the following link and click on your state to view the information we display for your state: http://www.bocatc.org/state-regulation#state-regulation.

PROMOTING AWARENESS

As healthcare professionals, Athletic Trainers (ATs) are seldom in the limelight. Being noticed generally means an athlete has been injured – something no one wants to happen. However, that can make it difficult for everyone to understand the important work ATs do. That’s why the BOC, along with the NATA, is working to raise awareness of the work that ATs do every day to keep people healthy and active.

The advertisement shown highlights the role of the AT in keeping young athletes safe, particularly as youth sports grow increasingly demanding and competitive. These ads are available to you for promoting awareness about licensed ATs and your state agency’s information.

Did you know March is Athletic Training month? Prepare now by getting your Promoting Awareness ads for free today, visit the BOC website to select an advertisement and email Shannon Fleming, ShannonF@bocatc.org.

We will provide the advertising artwork file, in PDF format, to you within 3 business days. Standard artwork file dimensions are 5x7, 8x10, 8 ½ x 11 and 24x36.
AT REGULATORY CONNECT

The BOC recently launched the AT Regulatory Connect (ATRC), previously called the State Regulator Portal. ATRC provides regulators secure access to:

- View certification verifications (email notifications will continue to be sent)
- Submit disciplinary actions to the Disciplinary Action Exchange

Each state has its own account. To access ATRC, use the link below and enter a username and password.

- Link: https://at.bocatc.org/users/sign_in
- Username: your state’s initials + admin
  (Example: Nebraska username is NEadmin)
- Password: the BOC emailed passwords individually in August

BOC exclusively processes certification verifications electronically, so it is a great time to be sure your application(s) reflect correct BOC information. Applicants for licensure can log in to their BOC Central™ profile to request an official verification.

Nebraska Regulator Dashboard

Verification Administration Disciplinary Actions

Nebraska Verifications

AT Certification Verifications requested for NE within the last 90 days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification #</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200302548981</td>
<td>Catherine Lewis</td>
<td>Blackshear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/15/2017 10:56:40 AM</td>
<td>03/15/2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Search [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

New Disciplinary Action

Search for the Athletic Trainer for whom you would like to submit a disciplinary action.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification Number</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COM0001</td>
<td>Shannon L. Fleming</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/07/2016</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>actions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feedback regarding the AT Regulatory Connect can be emailed to ShannonF@bocatc.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 25-28, 2018
42nd Annual Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Forum
Coronado, CA

June 26-29, 2018
National Athletic Trainers’ Association 69th Clinical Symposia & AT Expo
New Orleans, LA

September 26-29, 2018
Council on Licensure, Enforcement & Regulation (CLEAR) Annual Educational Conference
Philadelphia, PA
The BOC tracks state and federal regulatory action affecting the athletic training profession. Visit the BOC website to view the full list of legislative bills that affect Athletic Trainers (ATs).

**Connecticut**

Statutory Changes to Athletic Trainer Laws: What’s New?

Earlier this summer, the Connecticut General Assembly passed Public Act No. 17-195, An Act Concerning Athletic Trainers (the “Act”), which amended the statute governing the professional requirements surrounding athletic trainers. Effective October 1, 2017, Section 1 of the Act amended Connecticut General Statutes § 20-65f, which contains the relevant definitions applicable to athletic trainers. In sum, these revisions clarify the scope of practice for athletic trainers and enumerate various requirements for standing orders and insurance coverage.

Under existing law, athletic trainers apply care “with the consent and under the direction of a health care provider.” The new Act now defines the phrase “with the consent and under the direction of a health care provider” to mean athletic training provided “under a written prescription issued by a health care provider” specifying the plan of care or treatment or “under a standing order issued by a health care provider.” Importantly, the new Act also substantially revised the definition of “standing orders” to require, among other things, that standing orders must:

- be annually reviewed and renewed by the health care provider and athletic trainer;
- require ongoing communication between the provider and trainer;
- include a plan for emergency situations, appropriate treatments for specific illnesses or injuries, instructions for concussion treatment and management, and a list of conditions necessitating immediate referral to a health care provider; and
- include a list of conditions that are beyond the scope of practice, education, or training of the athletic trainer.

Athletic trainers not practicing under standing orders may only perform initial evaluations and immediate injury management and emergency care for those suffering an acute athletic injury or illness, and must make a referral of such treated individual to a licensed health care provider.

Additionally, Section 4 of the Act amended Connecticut General Statutes § 20-65j, now requiring that, commencing with the license renewal registration period on or after October 1, 2017, athletic trainers seeking renewal carry professional liability insurance or other indemnity for professional malpractice of at least $500,000 per person per occurrence, and $1.5 million aggregate, unless that insurance or indemnity is provided by the employer.


Athletic Trainers should review these revisions and their procedures to ensure compliance with these new statutory requirements.

**Georgia**

SB47 passed and provides licensure exemption for visiting sports teams’ Providers, including physicians and Athletic Trainers.

Link: [https://www.billtrack50.com/BillDetail/795763/5125](https://www.billtrack50.com/BillDetail/795763/5125)

**New Mexico**

SB221 passed which updated the AT practice act by providing additional definitions and amending the scope of practice.

Link: [https://www.billtrack50.com/BillDetail/799593/5125](https://www.billtrack50.com/BillDetail/799593/5125)

**Rhode Island**

RI H6359 - Cardiac Arrest Prevention In School Sports passed. It addresses the potential for sudden cardiac arrest among student athletes by raising awareness of the symptoms ad requiring medical evaluations.

Link: [https://www.billtrack50.com/BillDetail/885292/5125](https://www.billtrack50.com/BillDetail/885292/5125)
**Michigan**


Effective September 28, 2017, the revised Athletic Trainer rules went into effect. The following significant changes were made:

- Licensure by examination applicants are required to have passed the BOC examination. See R 338.1309 and 338.1325.
- Licensure by endorsement applicants are required to have passed the BOC examination and possess current emergency cardiac care certification. See R 338.1317 and 338.1325.
- Licensure requirements for foreign-trained applicants were changed to recognize BOC certification offered in foreign countries. An applicant must have passed the BOC examination. See R 338.1321.
- Approved programs for emergency cardiac care has been expanded. See R 338.1341.
- The Required hours of Continuing Education (CE) has been reduced from 80 hours to 75 hours. The required hours in pain and symptom management has been increased from 1 hour to 3 hours. See R 338.1349 and 338.1357.
- An applicant seeking re-licensure whose license has lapsed for 3 years or less must comply with the CE requirements. If lapsed for more than 3 years, the applicant must comply with the CE requirements and complete a criminal background check, as well as show he or she was practicing in another jurisdiction within 3 years of the application or has retaken and passed the BOC examination or has current BOC certification. See R 338.1345.
- The Delegation and Supervision requirements were changed to clarify that a licensee must provide general supervision when delegating acts, tasks, or functions that are within the scope of practice of a licensed athletic trainer and direct supervision when delegating acts, tasks, or functions that are not within the scope of a licensed athletic trainer or when delegating to an unlicensed individual. Additionally, the rule prohibits a licensee from delegating to a secondary-school student, if it requires the student to engage in the practice of athletic training. See R 338.1369.
- R 338.1377, regarding prohibited conduct, was rescinded and replaced by R 338.1378, which adopts the BOC “Standards of Professional Practice Implement January 1, 2006”.

To view the revised rules to ensure compliance please visit the following link: [http://w3.lara.state.mi.us/orr/Files/AdminCode/1664_2016-054LR_AdminCode.pdf](http://w3.lara.state.mi.us/orr/Files/AdminCode/1664_2016-054LR_AdminCode.pdf)

Our office is diligently working on updating our forms and relative information on our website to reflect the changes of the revised Athletic Trainer rules. For additional information, please visit our website at [www.michigan.gov/bpl](http://www.michigan.gov/bpl).

**Texas**

In 2015 the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 202, transferring the Athletic Trainers program from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to the Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation (TDLR). The program transfer to TDLR took place in October 2016. As part of our mission to deliver improved service to Texans at a lower cost, TDLR reduced the following fees for the Athletic Trainers program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Athletic Trainers</th>
<th>Previous Fee</th>
<th>TDLR Fee</th>
<th>$ Reduced</th>
<th>% Reduced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminal History Evaluation Letter Fee</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reinstatement Fee</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In their first year at TDLR, Athletic Trainers kept $10,966.50 in their pockets due to these fee reductions. (October 2016 – September 2017)

We’ve also reduced the word count in the Athletic Trainers program administrative rules to make them more clear, concise, and easier to read–without impacting their effectiveness:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Athletic Trainers</th>
<th>DSHS</th>
<th>TDLR</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>% Reduced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Rules Word Count</td>
<td>12,860</td>
<td>5,255</td>
<td>7,605</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At TDLR, one of our core values is open and free communication. During this first year, the 4,690 email subscribers were contacted 13 times for a total of 60,970 emails, with information about meetings, rule changes, licensing, and more. In addition, since November 2015 the public and all interested parties have been invited to six public meetings of the Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers.

TDLR is delivering on our promise to eliminate unnecessary barriers to doing business, promote transparency and accountability, and protect the health and safety of all Texans. We look forward to serving you, and always appreciate any feedback at: cs.athletic.trainers@tdlr.texas.gov
BILL WIDGET

Monitor legislative bills that affect athletic training with the Bill Widget under State Regulators on the BOC website. Click on Legislation to see current bills.

EXAM REPORT

The BOC Annual Exam Report for the 2016-2017 exam year is now available on the BOC website. The BOC administers the exam 5 times a year (February, April, June, August and October). The BOC exam year begins with the April exam administration and ends with the February exam administration the following year.

The 2016-2017 report summarizes that statistics concerning the quality of the BOC certification examination as a measurement instrument indicate that the examination complies with psychometric requirements pertaining to certification and licensure tests. Notably, estimates of reliability and equivalence across forms for the various parts of the examination are strong. Likewise, candidate performance on all parts of the examination is consistent with the public protection mission of the BOC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>RD/PA Version</th>
<th># First-time</th>
<th># Pass</th>
<th>% Pass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3,222</td>
<td>2,653</td>
<td>82.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3,631</td>
<td>2,935</td>
<td>80.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3,679</td>
<td>3,048</td>
<td>82.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3,768</td>
<td>3,039</td>
<td>80.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4,059</td>
<td>3,357</td>
<td>82.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4,119</td>
<td>3,444</td>
<td>83.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING ASSESSING STATE POLICY AND PRACTICE

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, NGA Center and The Council of State Governments (CS) are partnering on a 3-year project entitled “Occupational Licensing: Assessing State Policy and Practice.” The goal is to enhance the portability of occupational licenses.

Primary objectives of the project:

• Identify licensing criteria to ensure that existing and new licensing requirements are not overly broad, burdensome or restrictive, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to labor market entry

• Improve the portability and reciprocity provisions for selected occupations across state lines

Learn more about the project and the timeline.

Resources:

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING, ANTITRUST, AND INNOVATION EVENT AUDIO/VIDEO

Overview:
Every state has laws or regulations that require individuals seeking to offer a certain service to the public first to obtain approval from the state before they may operate in the state. Recent years have seen a significant proliferation of such laws, with less than 5 percent of jobs in the American economy requiring a license in the 1950’s to between 25-30 percent today.

Resource:
1. http://www.fed-soc.org/multime...ion-event-audiovideo

www.bocatc.org
MOC UPDATE

Maintenance of Competence Task Force Update

Last year, the Maintenance of Competence (MOC) Task Force was commissioned by the BOC Board of Directors. The task force has been charged with the following:

1. Identify strategies that allow for demonstration of maintenance of competence beyond accumulation of CE credit alone
2. Recommend enhancements of the current recertification system that allows for varied educational and assessment activities needed to ensure the maintenance of continuing competence
3. Identify the components of self-assessment module(s) (SAM) and the subject matter areas that can be offered for future CE credit

Since then, the MOC Task Force submitted its first report to the BOC Board of Directors in fall of 2016. In response, the BOC Board requested 2 items from the task force prior to the completion of its work, including:

1. Recommendations for self-assessment modules, including the a) format and b) subject areas for the modules
2. Recommendations for modifications to BOC CE Guidelines as necessary to accommodate provisions identified in item 1

The items listed above were just a few of the topics discussed in the MOC Task Force meeting in Omaha, NE, April 7-8, 2017, at BOC headquarters. Following this meeting, the MOC Task Force will work on a follow-up report for the BOC Board of Directors.

The task force is composed of a diverse group of Athletic Trainers from a variety of settings, including both practice and educational settings. The task force also includes representatives from the Strategic Alliance, including the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA), the NATA Foundation, and the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The task force is co-chaired by Dr. Jim Kinderknecht and Susan McGowen.

Please watch for developments in the months ahead. We will keep you informed via Cert Update, email and the BOC website.

BOC Holiday Closures

Thanksgiving       November 23-24
Winter Holiday     December 25-26
New Year's Day      January 1, 2018
Martin Luther King Day January 15, 2018
Good Friday        March 30, 2018
Memorial Day        May 28, 2018
Independence Day   July 4, 2018

NUTS AND BOLTS OF NORTH DAKOTA COLLABORATION

As you may recall from previous articles or presentations, North Dakota (ND) partnered with the BOC to automate their license renewal and registry. Some of you have asked for more details. How was this accomplished? How much did it cost? What was the timeline?

Below is an outline of the work accomplished once the agreement was finalized:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES</th>
<th>TIME PERIOD/REQUIRED COMPLETION DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Renewal notifications sent to current licensees</td>
<td>BOC sends renewal notice via email</td>
<td>May 15 through June 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewal reminder notification sent</td>
<td>BOC pulls list of licensees who have renewed and sends reminder notice via email to those who have not renewed</td>
<td>On or approximately June 10 and June 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATs submit ND renewal applications through their BOC Central™ profile</td>
<td>BOC processes the applications</td>
<td>Through June 30, 11:59pm CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT submit ND renewal applications LATE from their BOC Central™ profile</td>
<td>BOC deactivates renewal form and activates late renewal form for fee increase</td>
<td>July 1 through August 31, 11:59pm CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensee receives an email confirming receipt of payment</td>
<td>BOC sends a confirmation email to the licensee for receipt of payment</td>
<td>Immediately upon receipt of payment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Licensee receives a confirmation of the license renewal completion  
  • The confirmation email is a printable license that includes, name, license number and expiration date | BOC sends a confirmation email if the renewal application is completed correctly and the AT did not indicate a conviction | 3-5 business days of payment receipt |
| Renewals that indicate a conviction are forwarded to ND for their review | If ND approves, they can log in to the AT Regulatory Connect to click the Approve button and a confirmation is sent immediately |
| State receives an Excel spreadsheet of the renewed licenses, including all relevant applicant information | BOC generates a report and sends it to ND or State can log in to AT Regulatory Connect and generate a report at any time | Every 2 weeks beginning June 1 and continuing through September 15 |
| State receives renewal fees | BOC sends report for the prior month and appropriate funds are wired to ND | Monthly, beginning June 15 and ending September 15 |

While the cost is determined on an individual basis and based on the scope of work, below are approximate fees associated with this service:

- One-time set-up fee: $1000
- Per license fee: $15-25
- Online verification system: $850
The Practice Analysis for Athletic Trainers (ATs) is changing for 2018. The Practice Analysis, 7th Edition (PA7) identifies essential knowledge and skills for the athletic training profession and serves as a blueprint for exam development and continuing competence programming. The Practice Analysis changes approximately every 5 years.

What's different?

1. Domain titles
2. Enhanced focus on:
   • Systematic actions
   • Obtaining, interpreting and using data to make decisions
   • Evidence based principles and practices

PA7 is effective for BOC exams beginning with the May/June 2017 exam and continuing education beginning January 1, 2018. Please contact Shannon Fleming at ShannonF@bocatc.org for your state's complimentary copy. This is an electronic file that will be available for download immediately upon completion of online payment.

Be sure all continuing education activity falls within PA7. As always, BOC staff are available to assist in making this determination.

It is important to own the current PA7. This document serves as a job analysis for ATs demonstrating knowledge and skills in providing healthcare for athletes.

The accompanying PA7 documents are available for download at no cost:

- Content Outline for PA7
- Comparison of PA7 to RD/PA6
- How to Use PA7

The Oklahoma Occupational Licensing Task Force has created a first draft of a blueprint for analyzing trades that require occupational licensing. “The questionnaire will be used to evaluate whether the government should require a license for a particular job or simply modify what's needed to work in that field.”

The goal is to create a database that can be used by the public and by policymakers to learn what a specific occupation requires for licensure.

The final report is expected to be released by December.

Check out the full article here: http://newsok.com/article/5560152

The Federal Trade Commission’s Economic Liberty Task Force held its second roundtable in Washington, DC on Nov. 7, 2017, to examine empirical evidence on the effects of occupational licensure. During this roundtable, economic and policy experts discussed the costs and benefits of licensing, as well as the effects it has on workers, consumers, competition and the overall economy.

To read more about this topic, go to: https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2017/09/ftc-announces-second-economic-liberty-public-roundtable
A Look At Dry Needling

Susan Falsone PT, MS, SCS, ATC, CSCS, COMT, RYT®
Founder and Owner, S&F: Dry Needling
Founder and Owner, Structure and Function Education

What is dry needling?
Dry Needling is a skilled intervention performed by a healthcare professional. This professional uses a fine filiform needle to penetrate the skin, creating a healing response in the tissue that has been lesioned. Tissues contributing to neuromusculoskeletal dysfunction can be dry needled, including muscle, fascia, tendon, capsule, ligament, peripheral nerve and microvascular structures.

Why ATs are qualified to learn and perform dry needling?
Athletic Trainers (ATs) are qualified healthcare professionals, who, with proper training, can perform dry needling. ATs are educated in anatomy, physiology, biomechanics, pathomechanics, neuroanatomy and more and are trained to evaluate a variety of systems within the body. In addition to these evaluation skills, ATs are trained in emergency medicine and acute care management, making them fully capable to handle any adverse event that can occur while dry needling.

Who can benefit from receiving this therapy?
Anyone suffering from a neuromusculoskeletal issue can benefit from dry needling. Patients who are in pain, have lost range of motion or strength and those who suffer from movement impairments are just a few types of patients that can benefit from dry needling. The possible patient population that can benefit from dry needling is broad. Therefore, the clinician should conduct a thorough past medical history intake to determine if any contraindications or precautions for dry needling are present, as well as perform a proper clinical exam to determine if dry needling is appropriate. Research is still being done to identify those patients who would have the best clinical outcomes.

How does dry needling therapy impact patient outcomes?
Dry needling has been shown to be effective for pain reduction and improving pain pressure thresholds when compared to no treatment, sham dry needling treatments or other interventions. The use of specific protocols for specific diagnosis are being studied and are showing positive effects for decreasing pain improving disability scores in rotator cuff tendinopathy.

Improved outcomes in pain and functional disability are also being seen with the use of dry needling and chronic ankle stability. More clinical outcome studies are needed to determine best practices with dry needling for a given diagnosis and patient population.

And anything else that the author feels is important.
Overall, dry needling in western medicine is not a new practice. Popularity over the last decade has increased, making this a new area of focused research and clinical practice amongst healthcare professionals. Like all tools in healthcare, there is an overlap in application. Physical therapists, ATs, chiropractors and more all use tools such as joint mobilization, instrumented assisted soft tissue mobilization, taping techniques and prescribe exercise. An intervention is used by different healthcare professionals for different reasons. The use of a fine filiform needle is no different.

Resources
Q Describe your setting?

A I work for Lake Superior State University (LSSU) in the University Athletics department. We are D2, with D1 ice hockey.

Q How long have you been practicing as an AT?

A This is my third year with Lake Superior State University (LSSU), but I have been in collegiate athletics most of my 15 years. I spent one year in a hospital orthopedics outreach as an Athletic Trainer (AT) in the clinical setting, and an AT for secondary school district position in Pennsylvania before an internal transfer to a university. Upon moving to Michigan, I spent the first semester as an Assistant Track and Field Coach to my husband, while teaching as an adjunct at a local tribal community college, before being hired for my current position.

Q Describe your typical day.

A My average day starts at 5:45am, lasting until 6:30pm or 7:00pm. I provide AT services for our men’s and women’s cross country, volleyball, men’s and women’s varsity (and separate JV roster) basketball and men’s and women's indoor and outdoor track and field teams.

When my schedule allows, I go for a run (I am training for another marathon in May 2018), I volunteer with Girls on the Run or Special Olympics and, I am Mrs. Michigan Captivating, representing our state however I can. I will be competing at the national pageant the last weekend of July 2018.

Q What do you like about your position?

A The variety. I love that no 2 days are EVER the same. I experience a similar adrenaline rush caring for the athletes as I did when I was a collegiate athlete. I think that is one similarity that most ATs share.

For most of the young men and women I work with as an AT, it is their first foray into life without their parents’ guidance. I am humbled that they trust me enough to share their lives with me. It is a wonderful feeling to go home to my own family, knowing I made a difference in some capacity that day.

Q What do you dislike about your position?

A The guilt I feel when I have to tell someone “no” has been a startling reality. Over the past several years, I have been diagnosed with a few medical conditions and if I let them get out of control, my body shuts down. Having an invisible disability has also taught me much about myself and others that I have been able to use in my practice. Failing to care for myself is not conducive to keeping my athletes healthy, nor is it a good example.

Q What advice do you have about your practice setting for a young AT looking at this setting?

A What I am finding with the young professionals at this time, is that there is an air of expectation. The advice I want to pass along, is to remember that you are not entitled to anything! 

Arianne M. Davis, M.Ed, AT, ATC, ROT is Head Athletic Trainer for Lake Superior State University. She has been working in this setting for over 3 years. This interview was originally taken December 2016.
This interview was originally taken December 2016. Since then, Davis accepted a new position as the Head AT for Muskingum University in Ohio. Learn more below about her new position and latest pageant.

What is Arianne Davis up to now?

A lot has changed since this interview! I moved to Ohio in June 2017 and am now the Head AT for Muskingum University. The athletic training program at Muskingum University was recently accredited in August, requiring the program director to step into that role full-time, thus creating a Head AT position.

In my new position, I went to and competed for a rival college in the Ohio Athletic Conference, so it has been fun being back home! My husband is also coaching at Marietta College, which is one of Muskingum’s biggest rivals, so we are a house divided. Our son was not sure for whom to cheer when our football teams played one another! I am covering football and women’s lacrosse with administrative duties over the winter. I went from a staff of 2, to a staff of 6, so life has been an adventure with my newfound free time.

The 2018 Mrs. Captivating national competition was held at the end of July. I am thrilled to have placed as second runner-up!

One of the projects with which I became involved, as Mrs. Michigan, was bringing Darryl Strawberry, multi-time World Series Champion, to New Concord this past weekend. It was an incredible way to intertwine my love of service to others and athletics. For those who do not know, Darryl turned his life around from a millionaire, womanizing, drug addicted, cancer victim who served jail time to a life of service to God and educating against substance abuse! He even operates 2 rehabilitation centers in Florida. He was an incredible speaker and was kind enough to take a photo with Ian, our son!