

Duplic

2 East Road Street
Baltimore 2, Maryland
February 11, 1957

H. Alvan Jones, M.D., Chairman
Maryland State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners
1107 St. Paul Street
Baltimore 2, Maryland

Dear Dr. Jones:

On February 23, 1956, a letter was sent to the Maryland State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners from the Maryland Chapter, A.P.T.A. inquiring about a practice of the Board in regard to "not requiring a license from persons working in the Physical Therapy department of a hospital which has a licensed Physical Therapist as the head of the Physical Therapy Department". To date the Chapter has not received a reply.

Considering the possibility that either our letter or an answer from the Board might not have been received, we are enclosing a copy of the February 23rd letter. We should like to refer you, also, to our letter of January 4, 1956, and the answer from Mr. Gaines dated January 26th, which related to the same subject.

A recent opinion handed down by the Attorney General has brought the subject of our previous letters into focus again. Writing in regard to unlicensed technicians, the opinion states, "These technicians do not hold themselves out individually as practitioners; if they did, their acts might be unlawful even though carried on under the supervision of a licensed therapist."

Graduate qualified Physical Therapists, even though working in hospitals under the supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist, do hold themselves out individually as practitioners, and it is the opinion of the Maryland Chapter that they should be required to be licensed as provided for in the Maryland State Physical Therapy Act.

As stated previously, we are not raising the question whether or not aides should be required to be licensed since we know that there is not law to that effect.

Our second request is for information regarding a mimeographed sheet sent out with the 1955 licenses which reads as follows:

"In view of the authorities as cited, it is our conclusion that persons granted licenses by the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners may use the abbreviation "P.T.", or other words, letters or symbols which indicate that they are licensed to practice as Physical Therapists, but that they may not use the word "Doctor", or any other word which may have a tendency to create the impression that they are engaged in the practice of medicine or surgery."

This Chapter is interested in knowing in more detail what the "authorities cited" consisted of.

We understand that, in part at least, this ruling in regard to restriction of the use of the title "Doctor" was overruled by a court case. If so, what is the present attitude of the Board in regard to restrictions on the use of the title?

In what way does the new amendment to the Medical Practice Act affect any previous ruling? Paragraph 138 of the Medical Practice Act which restricts the use of the titles "Dr." or "Doctor", now states that, "Nothing herein contained shall be construed to apply to - - - - - Physical Therapists, Sections 565 - 575;".

Sincerely yours,

Florence P. Kendall, *Chairman*
Legislative Committee

Gladys E. Wadsworth

Enc. William E. Rhoads

cc: Clemens Gaines, Secretary
Maryland State Board of
Physical Therapy Examiners