

# AMERICAN REGISTRY OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

Formerly American Registry of Physical Therapy Technicians

Dorothea C. Augustin, Registrar

Central 6-9512

30 North Michigan Avenue  
Chicago 2, Illinois

William Bierman, M.D., New York, Chairman  
Earl C. Elkins, M.D., Rochester, Minn., Vice-Chairman  
Robert L. Bennett, M.D., Warm Springs, Ga.  
Shelby G. Gamble, M.D., Columbus, Ohio  
George M. Piersol, M.D., Philadelphia  
Arthur L. Watkins, M.D., Boston  
Jessie Wright, M.D., Pittsburgh  
Margaret Moore, R.P.T., Chapel Hill, N. C.  
The American Physical Therapy Association  
Elizabeth Wood, R.P.T., Chicago  
The American Physical Therapy Association

## Advisory Board

Merrill F. Steele, M.D., Cincinnati  
American Hospital Association  
Bronson Crothers, M.D., Boston  
The American Neurological Association  
Winthrop M. Phelps, M.D., Baltimore  
The American Orthopedic Association  
Florence S. Linduff, Washington, D.C.  
The American Physical Therapy Association

September 30, 1953

Mr. Henry O. Kendall  
3 Englewood Road  
Baltimore 10, Maryland

Dear Mr. Kendall:

The Registry Board has recently been informed that you are now in the private practice of physical therapy.

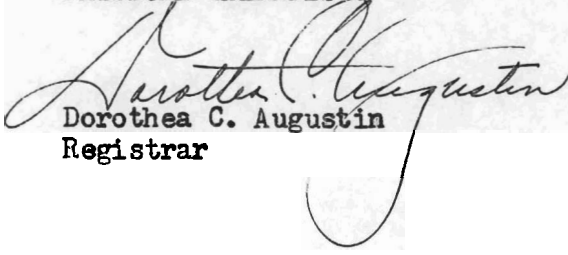
So that no misunderstanding may exist, will you be good enough to write a letter to the Registry Board, explaining your present activities as a physical therapist, as well as those of Mrs. Kendall?

We are enclosing for your information the recently adopted "Principles of Ethics for Registrant Members of the American Registry of Physical Therapists."

We shall appreciate hearing from you relative to this matter within the very near future.

Very truly yours,

AMERICAN REGISTRY OF  
PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

  
Dorothea C. Augustin  
Registrar

DCA:mac  
Enc.

copy for J.P.K.  
October 19, 1953

American Registry of Physical Therapists  
30 North Michigan Avenue  
Chicago 2, Illinois

Attention: Miss Dorothea C. Augustin, Registrar

Dear Miss Augustin:

Your letter of September 30th, enclosing a copy of the recently adopted "Principles of Ethics for Registrant Members of the American Registry of Physical Therapists", has been received and is being given our careful consideration.

The delay in answering is not due to negligence on our part, but has been unavoidable because we felt it necessary to consult with other physical therapists here in Maryland, and with the National Headquarters of the American Physical Therapy Association before sending our answer.

Since our membership in the Registry was by reciprocity with the American Physical Therapy Association, we felt it advisable to know their stand in regard to physical therapists engaging in private practice. We understand that the resolution to discuss the problem as introduced into the House of Delegates at the 1953 Convention of the American Physical Therapy Association was not adopted because the A.P.T.A. did not consider it an issue so far as that organization is concerned.

A special meeting of our local Chapter is being called and we wish to withhold final answer on your letter until after this meeting.

We would like some information which can be helpful to all of us in regard to discussion of the principles set forth in the new code of ethics. A prompt reply to these inquiries will be greatly appreciated in order that we may present them at the time of the meeting.

1. Who has formulated the new "Principles of Ethics —" ?
2. Is the membership of the Registry consulted in regard to rules of Ethics governing themselves?
3. Who elects the members of the Board of the Registry and the members of the Advisory Board?

American Registry of Physical Therapists  
Attention: Miss Dorothea C. Augustin

October 19, 1953

4. Has a copy of the new "Principles of Ethics —" been sent to all Registrants? If not, will you kindly mail copies to all members in Maryland. We understand that the A.P.T.A. Headquarters in New York has not yet received a copy. Will you kindly send one to them?
5. What determines "legal" in regard to "the legal limit of the physical therapists right to act" as stated in the last sentence of Article I of the "Principles of Ethics —"?
6. May we have a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Registry?

Before the Registry was formed, and before we joined the A.P.T.A. we practiced Physical Therapy with strict adherence to a code of ethics instilled in us throughout our training that Physical Therapists treat patients only under the direction of Medical Doctors. Against what seemed like overwhelming odds we fought for legislation in this State to insure that Physical Therapy have its place as an adjunct to Medicine and remain under Medical direction rather than being set apart as a cult.

In all circumstances that have arisen we have not failed to emphasize to the profession and to the public that ethical practice of physical therapy requires that patients be diagnosed and referred by Medical Doctors. In our office practice we have not deviated from this requirement and we do not intend to.

We find that in our office practice there is, in many respects, a closer contact with the doctors referring cases than existed in relation to physical therapy in the hospital. Physical therapists doing home treatments, and particularly those in Public Health work, are often confronted with problems of less supervision than those in private practice, and it is our feeling that an artificial discrimination has been established in reference to ethics of those in private practice.

Yours very truly,

Henry O. Kendall

Florence P. Kendall

HOK:m

cc: A.P.T.A.

# AMERICAN REGISTRY OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

Dorothea C. Augustin, Registrar

Central 6-9512

30 North Michigan Avenue  
Chicago 2, Illinois

Earl C. Elkins, M.D., Rochester, Minn., Chairman  
Robert L. Bennett, M.D., Warm Springs, Ga., Vice-Chairman  
Shelby G. Gamble, M.D., Columbus, Ohio  
George M. Piersol, M.D., Philadelphia  
Donald L. Rose, M.D., Kansas City, Kansas  
Arthur L. Watkins, M.D., Boston  
Jessie Wright, M.D., Pittsburgh  
Margaret Moore, R.P.T., Chapel Hill, N. C.  
The American Physical Therapy Association  
Elizabeth Wood, R.P.T., Chicago  
The American Physical Therapy Association

## Advisory Board

Merrill F. Steele, M.D., Cincinnati  
The American Hospital Association  
Douglas N. Buchanan, M.D., Chicago  
The American Neurological Association  
Winthrop M. Phelps, M.D., Baltimore  
The American Orthopedic Association  
Florence S. Linduff, Washington, D.C.  
The American Physical Therapy Association

November 23, 1953

Mr. and Mrs. Henry O. Kendall  
1209 St. Paul Street  
Baltimore 2, Maryland

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Kendall:

I am sorry there has been some delay in answering your letter of October 19. Enclosed is the Registry booklet of information. This booklet sets forth the objectives of this organization and other pertinent details. In addition to what is stated in the booklet regarding the establishment of the American Registry, the American Physical Therapy Association had asked that a registry be formed similar to that of the laboratory technicians and x-ray technicians. The American Congress of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation was asked to establish such a registry because the Congress is the medical organization interested in physical therapy.

Up until two years ago the Board of the American Registry of Physical Therapists consisted entirely of physicians who were full-time specialists in physical medicine. This followed the pattern of the other two registry boards I have mentioned. Two years ago, two physical therapists were added to the Board. These two representatives are selected by the American Physical Therapy Association. The physicians on the Board are appointed by the President of the American Congress of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and confirmed by the Board of Governors of that organization.

The purpose of the American Registry of Physical Therapists is entirely one of qualifying and it is not a scientific organization similar to the American Physical Therapy Association or other societies. It would be similar to qualifying boards of medicine or state registries. There, there is no membership in the sense you speak of.

A committee of two physicians, one physical therapist and an attorney formulated the Principles of Ethics which were then approved by the Board of the American Registry of Physical Therapists. The Principles of Ethics are incorporated in the Registry booklet of information.

The "legal limit of the physical therapists' right to act" is determined by the medical practice acts of the state concerned.

You state that "ethical practice of physical therapy requires that patients be diagnosed and referred by Medical Doctors." In addition to the diagnosis, recommended treatment and specific prescriptions should be given by the physician. Your statement, if taken literally, means that the physician would make the diagnosis and refer the patient to the therapist and the therapist would use his own judgment in the actual treatment. It would be similar to sending a patient with cardiac disease to the druggist and telling the druggist to give the patient the appropriate medicine for treatment of the disease.

Very truly yours,

Earl C. Elkins, M.D., Chairman

HENRY O. KENDALL  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST  
1209 ST. PAUL STREET  
BALTIMORE 2, MARYLAND

March 3, 1954

Earl C. Elkins, M. D.  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Elkins:

Thank you for your letter of November 23<sup>th</sup>. Since reading the Editorial in the recent issue of the Archives of Physical Medicine, we have come to the decision that we have no alternative but to resign from the Registry. *We plan to continue in private practice, and we have signed a three year contract for an office in a professional building, beginning June 1st, with the obvious intention of continuing in private practice.* The editorial leaves no doubt that ~~this is~~ *where there are about 4000 medical doctors,* contrary to the Principles of Ethics as defined by the Registry Board. *engaging in private practice*

To us, it is regrettable that those responsible for the revision of the "Principles of Ethics" and for this Editorial have adopted the stand they have in regard to defining physical therapy-- not only in the matter of private practice, but in the limitations placed on the Physical Therapist's work.

Instead of sharply curbing the right and duties of Physical Therapists, it would seem that an effort should be made to help raise the standards of this profession so that members would be capable of assuming more responsibility and of exercising better professional judgment within the realms of their own training and experience.

It shall be our aim always to work to elevate the standards of our profession; to increase the training as needed, <sup>and</sup> to help broaden the scope of practice. We believe that Physical Therapists are proud of their profession, and we shall try in the future, as we have done in the past, to do our part to make it a profession of which we can be justly proud.

Respectfully yours,

Henry O. Kendall  
Florence P. Kendall

March 15, 1954

Earl C. Elkins, M. D.  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Elkins:

Thank you for your letter of November twenty-third.

We have signed a three-year contract for office space in a professional building where there are about forty-five doctors, and we expect to occupy the office beginning June first.

Since the Editorial in the February issue of the Archives of Physical Medicine leaves no doubt in our mind that the Registry Board considers it unethical for a physical therapist to operate a private office, we believe that it is our place to notify you of these plans, and to submit our resignations.

Respectfully yours,

Henry O. Kendall  
Florence P. Kendall

K/p

*Copies of case sent to  
Mary Haskell.*

American Physical Therapy Association

1790 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.

March 24, 1954

Mildred Elson  
*Executive Director*

Mary Haskell  
*Assistant Executive Director*

Dorothy Hewitt  
*Educational Consultant*

Lucy Blair  
Ruth Whittemore  
*Poliomyelitis Consultants*

Marjorie Hyer  
*Recruitment Consultant*

OFFICERS

Harriet Lee  
*President*  
Washington, D. C.

Mary Nesbitt  
*Vice-President*  
Boston, Mass.

Dorothy Voss  
*Secretary*  
Vallejo, Calif.

R. Lewis Brown  
*Treasurer*  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

E. Jane Carlin  
*Speaker, House of Delegates*  
Jenkintown, Pa.

DIRECTORS

Dorothy Fredrickson  
Nashville, Tenn.

Marguerite Irvine  
Seattle, Wash.

Margaret Kohli  
Madison, Wis.

Mary Clyde Singleton  
Durham, N. C.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

William T. Green, M.D.  
Boston, Mass.

Charles U. Letourneau, M.D.  
Chicago, Ill.

Aura T. Severinghaus, Ph.D.  
New York, N. Y.

Charles S. Wise, M.D.  
Washington, D. C.

Samuel M. Wishik, M.D.  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mrs. Florence Kendall  
1209 St. Paul Street  
Baltimore 2, Maryland

Dear Mrs. Kendall:

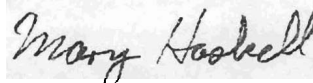
We do appreciate your sending the correspondence that you and Mr. Kendall have had with the Registry. We very definitely feel that you have taken the only course open to you.

I have reviewed Dr. Elkin's letter to you with Miss Elson and she confirms my impression this Association did not request the American Congress of Physical Medicine to form a registry for physical therapists. She has recently reviewed Executive Committee proceedings for the years during the formation of the Registry and there is considerable evidence there that our Association was very much opposed to this idea. The problem arose because a group of physiatrists proposed to start another professional organization. In order to avoid this, it was the suggestion of Dr. John Coulter that the Congress establish only a Registry and that the American Physical Therapy Association continue to be the one professional organization. I thought you would like to have this information in order to correct other erroneous statements that have been made to you.

I know that you have been concerned about this whole matter but feel sure that it has in no way jeopardized your status in the profession.

My best wishes to you both and I shall certainly hope for an opportunity to visit your new office some time soon.

Sincerely yours,



Mary E. Haskell  
Associate Executive Director

MEH:nc