

Eli's Rehab Report

NEWS BRIEF: California PTs Call Themselves 'Doctor'

If a physical therapist in California received a doctorate of physical therapy (DPT) degree, she couldn't just tack a "Dr." to the front of her name -- until now.

The California Physical Therapy Practice Act, passed in 1953, restricts physical therapists from using the title "Doctor," but beginning Jan. 1, 2007, licensed physical therapists holding a doctoral degree in physical therapy are authorized to use the title "Doctor," according to a press release from the California Physical Therapy Association (CPTA).

"This is title protection and recognition for degrees earned, while requiring the physical therapist to clearly identify his or her occupation in order to protect the public and eliminate misunderstanding," says the CPTA Web site.

CPTA's and the American Physical Therapy Association's vision is that all licensed physical therapists will be trained at the doctoral level by 2020.