

# **THE PHILIPPINE REGULATORY MODEL FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY**

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# HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

## Republic Act 5680

- Professional regulatory law created Board of PT-OT in 1969
- Board supervised by Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) with 43 other Professional Boards
- Composed of 2 PTs and 2 OTs; Chaired by a Physiatrist (who can be a PT or OT)
- PT - OT members nominated by professional organizations; Chairman nominated by organization of Physiatrists

# FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD

1. Conduct Licensing Examinations twice a year
2. Monitor standards of practice through inspection of clinical facilities and work locations
3. Monitor performance of academic institutions together with Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Board may do their own visit if they decide
4. Implement Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program as mandated by law

# FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD

5. Partners with professional organization (PPTA) to push programs to advance welfare of PTs (CPD, career progression, professional roadmap, etc)
6. Leads the programs to align education and practice with regional and global standards i.e. Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (MRPQ), Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) with ASEAN members initially
7. Participates actively in government initiatives to deal with labor mobility, regional and international migration issues, etc

# FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD

8. Reviews applications and issues Special Temporary Permits (STPs) to non-Filipino PTs
9. Participates in administrative proceedings of legal cases (complaints of malpractice, unethical behavior)
10. Performs research work on licensing trends, quality of professionals produced and related issues
11. Participates in career guidance advocacies

# LICENSURE EXAMINATION

- Paper-based, administered twice a year
- 600 multiple choice items covering 3 major subjects:  
Basic Sciences (Anatomy, Physiology, Kinesiology),  
Medical-Surgical Conditions and PT Application
- Trend is moving towards an Outcome Based Examination (OBE) where focus is more on the learning outcomes

# REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT

- A person who graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in PT
- Passed the licensure examination
- Has the taken the Oath of Professionals

If registered:

- Can append the letters PTRP (Physical Therapist Registered in the Philippines) after his/her name

## REGISTERED PTs

- Since the first licensure examination in 1973, more than 29,000 are registered with PRC
- Less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  are practicing locally
- A big percentage are employed outside the country: US, UK, Canada and Middle East countries



# STANDARDS OF PRACTICE AND CODE OF ETHICS

1. PTs have no direct access to patients. There must be a prescription from a duly registered physician
2. PTs cannot prescribe medications
3. Prescription for wheelchairs, prosthetic and orthotic devices done by physiatrists
4. Telepractice is not popular

## PENALTY

PTs found guilty of any illegal, immoral, dishonorable conduct or any violation of the offenses stipulated in the law may be penalized in ways by reprimand, monetary fine, revocation of license and even imprisonment, depending upon gravity of the offense.

# SPECIALIZATION

Specialties in practice include: sports, pediatrics, geriatrics, manual therapy, oncology, orthopedics, occupational health, wellness and community-based PT

Most PTs earn formal certification from training outside the country but recently an international institution started to offer a certification course in Manual Therapy

# PT EDUCATION

- Commission on Higher Education (CHED) evaluates and monitors PT programs through Technical Committee (TC), composed of reps from academe, PPTA and Board for PT-OT
- CHED drafts and revises curriculum, visits schools, accredits programs and affiliation centers for graduating students; implements Policies, Standards and Guidelines (PSG) for academic institutions
- CHED oversees the Masteral programs and is now drafting PSG for a Doctor of PT Program

# CHANGES IN PT CURRICULUM

- Recent government policies added two years to secondary education affecting curriculum of PT program
- From 5 years, BSPT degree will become a 4-year program by academic year 2018
- New curriculum was benchmarked with WCPT and international accrediting bodies to comply with global standards of entry-level education

# CHANGES IN PT CURRICULUM

- Curriculum drafted in consideration of program outcomes involving key roles of PT practitioners including: clinicians, educators, administrators, researchers, community-based PTs and advocates
- Courses cover all aspects of patient care: evaluation, assessment, treatment plan, intervention and documentation  
Includes ethics, professionalism and social responsibility courses

# CPD LAW

- To be implemented this 2017
- Objective is to continuously improve competence of professionals in accordance with international standards of practice
- PTs mandated to earn 45 credit units before every license renewal period (3 years)
- Credit units earned can be accumulated to build qualifications that can be applied for career progression

# LEGISLATIVE ACTION

- Filing of new legislative bill to replace Republic Act 5680
- Provisions of bill aligned with present practice and will reflect the needs and requirements of the times
- Separate the Regulatory Board for PT from OT
- Institute the more appropriate PT definition
- Revise the scope of practice
- Address the direct access to patient issue



## WCPT Definition of PHYSICAL THERAPY

It is providing services to people to develop maintain and restore maximum movement and functional ability throughout the lifespan. It is concerned with identifying and maximizing quality of life and movement potential within the spheres of promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

# CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

- I. Need to file bill to replace the 48 year old law
- II. Tighten scope of practice in light of new definition of Physical Therapy and protection from entry of pseudo professionals
- III. Raise quality of education and standard of practice to meet demands regionally and globally
- IV. Dealing with labor mobility and migration issues

# CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

- ASEAN INTEGRATION (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)
- Aims to facilitate entry of goods, investments and services of skilled workers and professionals within 10 member states (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam)

# MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS

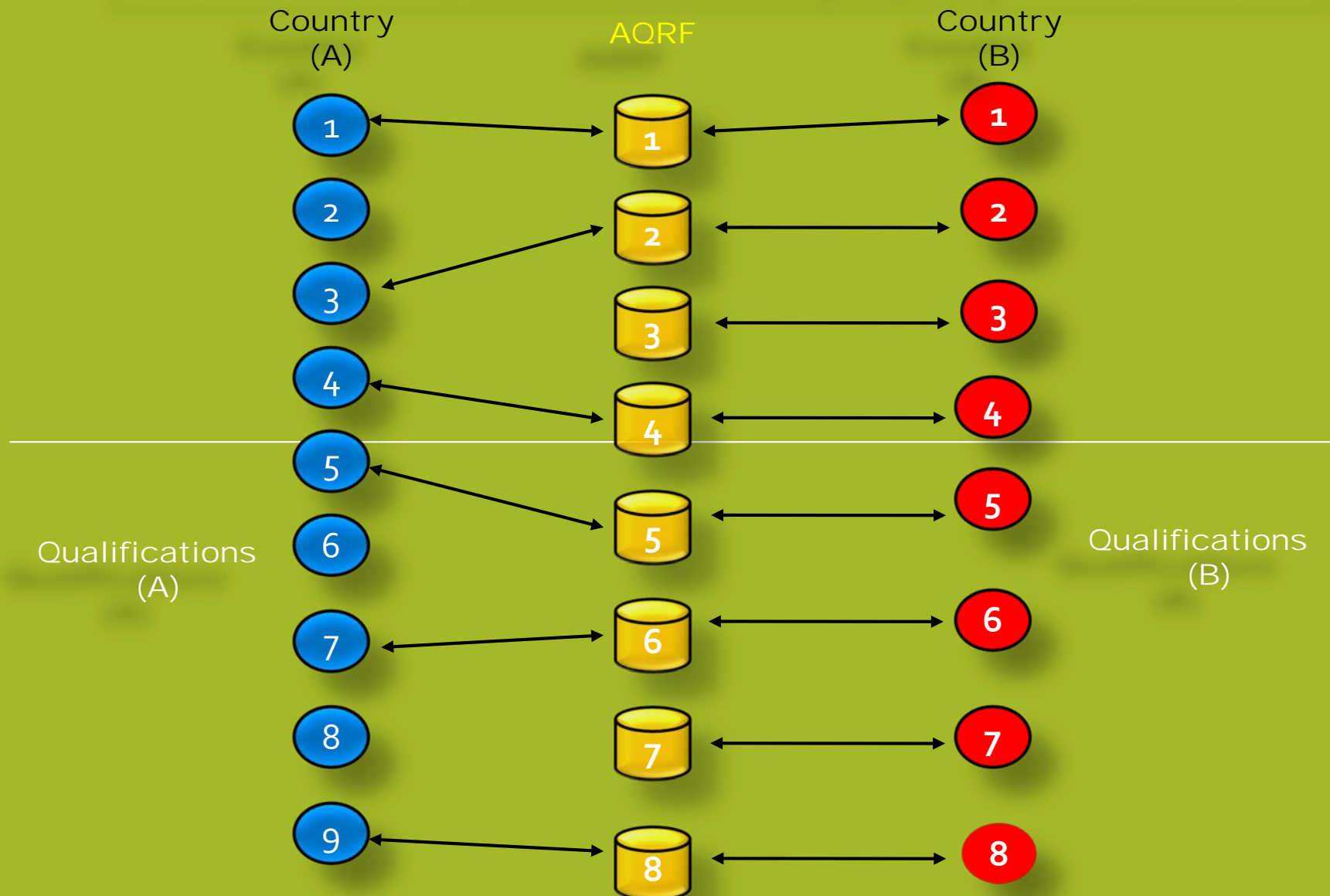
- Agreements are discussed among member states to ease mobility of professional and services.
- Initially begin with recognition of professional qualification (MRPQ) and harmonization
- Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) being finalized in fields of Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry and Engineering with some ASEAN member states.

# ASEAN QUALIFICATIONS REFERENCE FRAMEWORK (AQRF)

- A common reference framework that functions as a translation device to enable comparisons of qualifications across participating ASEAN countries
- It is used to harmonize qualifications within the ASEAN region.



# ASEAN QUALIFICATIONS REFERENCE FRAMEWORK (AQRF)



# Challenge to Filipino Physical Therapists

Because of regional and global developments and the increasing health concerns in our midst, this calls for a more responsive practice of PHYSICAL THERAPY. The Filipino PTs therefore will continue to enhance qualifications through specialization, formal graduate studies, and continuing professional development to cope up with the needs of this challenging world today.

**SALAMAT!**

**THANK YOU!**