



Licensing Exam Program – Executive Summary
Prepared for The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - June 2, 2008

The National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB) was founded in 1992 as an independent, private, nonprofit organization. Established to set high standards of ethical and professional practice through a recognized, credible credentialing program, NCBTMB certifies massage therapists and bodyworkers on behalf of the profession, and for the benefit of consumers, employers and practitioners. Today, there are more than 90,000 nationally certified practitioners in the United States. NCBTMB examinations are used/recognized in statute or rule for purposes of licensing by 32 states, plus the District of Columbia.

Facts and Relevant Data

- Nearly 2,000 Pennsylvania massage therapists and bodyworkers currently maintain NCBTMB certification. They join more than 90,000 other practitioners throughout the United States.
- The NCE (National Certification Exam) program has been accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) since 1993 and is currently pursuing accreditation through the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). These organizations ensure that our programs protect the health and safety of the public. This exam has been administered to over 250,000 therapists historically....no other exam has anything approaching this track record of administration
- After passing the examination, certificants demonstrate their continued competency through a required 48 hours of continuing professional education every four years. They are also bound to uphold NCBTMB's strict Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.
- NCBTMB performs job analyses every five years to provide evidence of validity for test content. Job analyses are extensive, descriptive, research studies that detail job related tasks and the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to practice safely. To date NCBTMB has completed four separate job analyses (1992, 1997, 2002, 2007).
- The NCE is offered at more than 200 testing sites nationwide (including nine sites in Pennsylvania) through Pearson VUE with 28,000 test administrations per year.
- The National Examination for States Licensing (NESL) option of the NCE offers the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania the ability to establish and apply all eligibility requirements for testing.
- NCBTMB has a dedicated staff of 33 based in the Chicago area, responsible for the rapid processing of some 30,000 applications for examinations, annually, both on paper and electronically.
- Currently, the NCBTMB is working with several states to create the first professional disciplinary tracking database for massage therapy and bodywork professionals. This data will be available to all jurisdictions and will be owned by the jurisdiction that posts the information. The database can be used as a conduit to report to the National Practitioner Database (NPDB).