



The North Carolina Athletic Trainers' Association is requesting that our occupational licensing board, the North Carolina Athletic Trainer Examiners Board, be removed from the list of OLA's being considered for consolidation with other licensing boards.

Who We Are: Athletic Trainers (AT's) collaborate with physicians to optimize activity and participation of patients. Athletic training encompasses the prevention, examination, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of emergent, acute or chronic injuries and medical conditions.

AT's are Health Care Professionals, therefore AT's...

- work under the direction of physicians
- are assigned National Provider Identifier (NPI) numbers
- are listed in the Bureau of Labor Statistics under "Professional and Related Occupations"
- are licensed in 49 states and the District of Columbia
- provide healthcare under the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PMR) CPT family of codes
- have established Uniform Billing (revenue) codes for the American Hospital Association
- have a bachelor's or master's degree in Athletic Training from an accredited program

The North Carolina Board Athletic Trainer Examiners (NCBATE)...

- is the occupational licensing board of AT's
- protects the health, safety, and welfare of the public
- is necessary to ensure minimum standards of competency
- protects the public from unqualified persons or unprofessional conduct by persons practicing AT
- provides regulation of persons offering AT services
- **is financially solvent**

General Assembly Actions Involving Athletic Trainers

- In 1997, the **General Assembly of North Carolina** enacted (a) 'Athletic Trainers Licensing Act'.
(b) The practice of athletic trainer services affects the public health, safety, and welfare. **Licensure of the practice of athletic trainer services is necessary** to ensure minimum standards of competency and to provide the public with safe athletic trainer services.
- In 2011, the **General Assembly of North Carolina** passed the Gfeller Waller Concussion Awareness Act. This law **specifically names athletic trainers** as one of three providers to whom a physician may delegate the return-to-play process after concussion.

Concussion Statistics

- In 2010, about 2.5 million emergency department (ED) visits, hospitalizations, or deaths were associated with concussion- either alone or in combination with other injuries—in the United States.
- Concussion contributed to the deaths of more than 50,000 people
- Concussion was a diagnosis in more than 280,000 hospitalizations and 2.2 million ED visits
- A 2011 study showed while physicians were present at the time of injury in only 7.7% of cases of reported concussions suffered by high school athletes in the 2009-2010 school years, ATs were on site for at least 70%. AT's were involved in 94.4% of the initial assessments of an athlete for concussion.
- The presence of an AT dramatically increases the chances that a concussion will be diagnosed, which is critical to avoiding not only a more lengthy recovery but the risk of permanent brain damage. 2012 research presented at the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition found that 8 times more concussions were diagnosed in girls' high school soccer and 4.5 times more in girls' basketball in high schools with ATs than those without ATs.

Distinctions of Athletic Trainers include...

- countless lives saved because of the onsite provision of care (9 lives in North Carolina saved since July, 2015)
- being 1 of only 3 medical providers to whom a physician may delegate aspects of return to play process to per G.S. 115C-12(23) Gfeller Waller Concussion Awareness Act
- NC schools being required to have an AT sign and approve all Emergency Action Plans for interscholastic sports
- leadership in the evolving scientific knowledge of and clinical practice addressing concussion, sudden death, heat illness and other catastrophic injuries and conditions
- working in diverse settings including hospitals, physician offices, rehabilitation facilities, high schools, middle schools, college/universities, professional and semi-professional teams, all branches of the military, theater & performing arts, and industrial settings, providing healthcare to the general population
- completing 50 continuing education requirements every 2 years including evidence-based practices to ensure the highest in quality and most effective practices, the most of any allied health profession
- testifying to the US House of Representatives on "The Impact of Concussions on High School Athletes"
- being key players in the development of the athletic concussion safety training program
- receiving recognition at the American Academy of Pediatrics annual meeting for providing enormous value to youth athletes