

CHANGES TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LAW

Effective October 1, 2010, a new physician assistant law went into effect. Listed below are the highlights of the new law. For a copy of the new law (Title 15), click this link <http://www.michie.com/maryland/lpext.dll/mdcode/1555a/1671d?fn=document-frame.htm&f=templates&2.0#>

Status:

- “Licensure” replaces “certification”

Qualifications:

- The Board may issue a license to a PA who passed the National Commission for the Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) exam prior to 1986, maintained all continuing medical hours and recertification requirements for the NCCPA and have been in continuous practice since the passage the NCCPA exam.
- There is no more temporary licensure.

Supervision:

- The primary supervising physician is responsible for filing a delegation agreement with the Board.
- In settings other than a hospital, correctional facility, detention center or public health facility, supervising physicians may not supervise more than **4** PAs at any one time.
- Emergency procedure created to address a sudden departure of the primary supervising physician from the practice.

Approval of Delegation Agreement:

- *Core duties only:* Delegation agreement does not require prior Board approval. PA may begin working after the Board receives the completed delegation agreement and acknowledges receipt of the delegation agreement.

Approval of Advanced Duties:

- *Previously Board-approved advanced duties:* PA may begin working after the Board receives documentation of prior approval and acknowledges receipt.
- *Advanced duties in a facility with PA credentialing, e.g. hospitals and surgi-centers:* Prior approval not needed. PA may begin working after the Board receives the request to perform advanced duties and acknowledges receipt of the request to perform advanced duties.
- *New requests for advanced duties in other setting:* After training and education are completed, PSP/PA must apply for Board approval using established criteria prior to performing advanced duties.
- *General or Neuroaxial Anesthesia:* In any setting - After training and education are completed, PSP/PA must apply for Board approval using established criteria prior to performing these procedures.

Board's Role in Delegation Agreement:

- All delegation agreements must be filed with Board.
- Board may disapprove any delegation agreement or advanced duty not meeting requirements of law or if Board believes that PA is unable to perform duties safely.

Dispensing Prescription Drugs:

- Dispensing drug samples and starter doses permitted under certain conditions.
- No other dispensing is permitted.

Continuing education:

- Board may assess a fine of up to \$100 for each missing credit.

Compliance Audit:

- Board may conduct a compliance audit to determine whether Board requirements relating to physician assistant practice are met.

Reporting Requirements:

- Healthcare facilities or employers of PAs must report to the Board any limitation, reduction or other change in terms of employment, or any termination of employment including a termination related to a quality of care issue to the Board.