

**NEW JERSEY BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HUDSON CONFERENCE ROOM, 6TH FLOOR
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2007**

FINAL

The January meeting of the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee was convened in accordance with its notice to the Secretary of State, the Bergen Record, the Trenton Times, Star Ledger and Courier Post and was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M., by Chairman Argast.

PRESENT:

George Argast
Todd Newman
Claire O'Connell
Jeffrey Maas
Dr. Jeffrey Berman

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Kevin Walsh

Also in attendance: Dorcas K. O'Neal, Executive Director Debra Levine, Deputy Attorney General, and Kathleen Griffith, Staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the Public Session Minutes for October 20, 2006. On a motion by Claire O'Connell, seconded by Todd Newman, the minutes were approved as submitted.

The Committee reviewed the Public Session Minutes for November 17, 2006. On a motion by Claire O'Connell, seconded by Todd Newman, the minutes were approved as submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

The Committee reviewed a letter from Christopher Hanifin, President, New Jersey State Society of Physician Assistants, requesting that 1) The Committee recommend to the Board of Medical Examiners that physician assistants be allowed to perform botulism toxin injections, use laser, pulsed light, radio frequency and medical microwave and 2) that the New Jersey physician assistant application be placed online. He also advised that there are pharmacists who are apparently unwilling to fill prescriptions written by physician assistants who do not have DEA numbers.

As to number one, the Committee presently adheres to the policy statement of the Board of Medical Examiners, which states in part that physician assistants may not perform laser treatments as these procedures are deemed the practice of medicine and such procedures may not be delegated to a nurse, or any other licensed health care professional other than a "physician". However, this matter is under consideration. Should the position of the Board of Medical Examiners change, a proposed regulation regarding these procedures will be promulgated and published in the New Jersey Register. At that time the New Jersey State Society of Physician Assistants will have an opportunity to comment.

As to number two, Executive Director apprised the Committee that the application is general, but the accompanying forms will also have to be placed online and that she would speak to the relevant authority and apprise the Committee of her findings.

The Committee forwarded a memo to the Board of Pharmacy advising that the law does not require all physician assistants to have a DEA number.. Mr. Hanifin will be so advised.

The Committee reviewed the response from John A. Calabria, Director, Department of Health and Senior Services, P. O. Box 358, Trenton , NJ 08625, to its referral of a letter from Aaron Block, PA-C, on October 10, 2006, inquiring as to whether physician assistants in New Jersey can pronounce death in a hospital setting.

His response states that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:43G, Hospital Licensing Standards, the relevant statutes require pronouncement by a physician (generally, the attending, covering or resident physician) or, if not available, an attending licensed registered professional nurse or the county medical examiner.

Further, there are no regulations, statutes or policies originating with the Department which specifically designate a physician assistant as one of those authorized to pronounce death in a hospital. Mr. Block and Mr. Hanifin, President of the State Society of Physician Assistants (NJSSPA), will be so advised.

REVIEW OF BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS MINUTES AND AGENDA

The Committee reviewed the Ratified Open Board Minutes for October 11, 2006 from the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

The Committee reviewed the Ratified Open Board Minutes Disciplinary-Matters for October 11, 2006 from the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

The Committee reviewed the Ratified Open Board Minutes for November 8, 2006 from the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

The Committee reviewed the Ratified Open Board Minutes Disciplinary-Matters for November 8, 2006 from the Board , as informational.

The Committee reviewed the Open Board Agenda for December 13, 2006 from the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

The Committee reviewed the Open Board Agenda Disciplinary-Matters for December 13, 2006 from the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

The Committee reviewed the Open Board Agenda for January 10, 2007 from the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

The Committee reviewed the Open Board Agenda Disciplinary-Matters for January 10, 2007 from the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS

SENATE BILL NO: 2311- This bill requires public body to post agendas and minutes on Internet site; requires any public body to devote part of each public meeting to public comment. On a motion by Todd Newman, seconded by Jeffrey Maas, the Committee voted to concur with the position taken by the Board of Medical Examiners.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO: 3514 - This bill requires health care representative to make health care decisions for incapacitated patient in accordance with patient's religious beliefs. On a motion by Claire O'Connell, seconded by Dr. Berman the Committee voted to concur with the position taken by Board of Medical Examiners.

SENATE BILL NO: 2380 - This bill requires health care representative to make health care decisions for incapacitated patient in accordance with patient's religious beliefs. On a motion by Jeffrey Maas, seconded by Todd Newman the Committee voted to concur with the position taken by Board of Medical Examiners.

REVIEW OF REGULATIONS

Danielle Swenson, Regulatory Analyst - The Committee discussed the changes to the regulations under supervision, ordering writing, prescriptions, note writing, countersignature and signing off etc.

Regulatory Analyst, Danielle Swenson recommended to the Committee that a sub-committee be appointed to meet with her to effectuate any changes to the regulation and present them to the the full Committee.

President Argast appointed Claire O'Connell and Jeffrey Maas to sit on the sub-committee with Todd Newman as the alternate member. Also, Kevin Walsh of the Board of Medical Examiners will serve on the sub-committee. The Committee will have its first meeting February 16, 2007 at 10:00 A.M., to review N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.10 Supervision.

There being no other business to come before the Committee in Public Session, on a motion by Dr. Jeffrey Berman, seconded by Claire O'Connell, the Public Session was adjourned and the Committee convened in Executive Session to review one (1) item of new business, one item of old business and four (4) statistical reports.

The Committee reconvened in Public Session.

The next scheduled meeting is March 16, 2007. There being no other business to come before the Committee in Public Session, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Physician Assistant Advisory Committee

Dorcas K. O'Neal
Executive Director