

Physician Assistant Advisory Committee

Hudson Conference Room (6th Floor)

Public Session Minutes

February 21, 2003

Final

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

President Walsh was delayed in traffic and recommended that the meeting commence at 9:30 A.M. Vice President Kral convened the meeting. A roll call was taken and the following attendance was recorded for these minutes.

PRESENT:

Kevin Walsh -Delayed
Mary Kral
LaNelle McKay
Dr. Mary Ibrahim

Also in attendance:

Dorcas K. O'Neal, Executive Director, Debra Levine, Deputy Attorney General, Kathleen Griffith and Nermin Ibrahim, Staff.

DIVISION ATTENDEES

Reni Erdos, Director
Gene Morris, Press Office, Division of Consumer Affairs

PUBLIC ATTENDEES

Janice A. King, 1000th licensee Matthew McQuillan, PA-C, Director of the Physician Assistant Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical College
Heidi Schulz, PA-C President, New Jersey state Society of Physician Assistants
Robert Cafone, PA-C, Original member of the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee
Ruth Fixelle, PA-C, Original member of the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee and Director, Physician Assistant Program at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. The Committee reviewed the Public Session Minutes of January 17, 2003. On a motion by Mary Kral, seconded by Dr. Mary Ibrahim the minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee and the 1000th licensee.

Reni Erdos, Director, Division of Consumer Affairs and Kevin Walsh, President welcome all in attendance. Dorcas K. O'Neal, Executive Director, introduced the Honoree, Janice A. King. Heidi Schulz, PA-C, President of the New Jersey State Society of Physician Assistants presented a free membership to the New Jersey State Society of Physician Assistants and a membership pin to Ms. King. Remarks were made by Robert Cafone and Ruth Fixelle, original members of the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee and Dr. Mary Ibrahim, current member of the Committee. A press release will be prepared by the Division of Consumer Affairs and sent to the newspaper where the honoree resides.

b. Inquiry regarding Fluoroscopic Procedures from Eric Weiss, Hackensack University Medical Center (October 3, 2002).

The Committee received an inquiry from Eric Weiss, Chief Physician, at Hackensack University Medical Center inquiring as to whether a physician assistant who is a licensed radiologic technologist may perform fluoroscopic procedures without having a radiologist present during the procedure.

The Committee determined that based on the limited facts presented that a physician assistant is not permitted to operate x-ray equipment or to perform radiographic procedures. However, a licensed physician assistant would be permitted to operate x-ray equipment and perform radiographic procedures if he or she is licensed in New Jersey as a radiologic technologist.

Dr. Krugman, Chairman of the Department of Radiology at Hackensack University Medical Center, sent a copy of the Committee's response to Albert Orlandi, Supervisor of Technologist Certification Section of the Department of Environmental Protection (Bureau of Radiologic Health). Mr. Orlandi contacted the Committee advising that Alvero Gomes, a physician assistant who has a license to practice diagnostic radiography is not licensed to perform independent procedures in fluoroscopy. Further, the 24 month curriculum does not include fluoroscopy procedures.

Based on the communication with Mr. Orlandi, the Executive Director requested that he speak to the Committee relative to licensure for radiologic technologists. Mr. Orlandi was unable to attend the meeting of this date. Anthony McMalton, Chief of the Bureau of Radiological Health sent a letter to the Committee specifically addressing the licensure status of Alvero Gomes as it related to the Committee's response to Eric Weiss at Hackensack University Medical Center.

The Committee accepted the letter from Chief McMalton as instructive and informative and concurred that the statutes and regulations for physician assistant licensure do not supercede the requirements for licensure as a radiologic technologist trained to perform fluoroscopic procedures, in this instance. A copy of the letter from Anthony McMalton, Chief of the Bureau of Radiological Health will be sent to Dr. Robert Krugman and Alvero Gomes.

c. The Committee reviewed the letter from **Joe DiCorpo, MMSC, PA, Director of Medicine** inquiring as to whether certification by the National Commission on Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (**NCCAA**) is equivalent to the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (**NCCPA**). **It was the consensus of the Committee that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.5(a) 4, an applicant must pass the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) examination to be licensed in the State of New Jersey. A letter will be sent to Mr. DiCorpo advising that he must comply with N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.5(a) 4, to be licensed in the State of New Jersey. Also, a copy of**

the statutes and regulations which govern the practice of physician assistants in the State of New Jersey will be provided.

d. The Committee reviewed a letter from Justin Bennett of KCI USA, Inc., a manufacturer and provider of durable equipment, (DME), inquiring as to whether physician assistants in the State of New Jersey have the authority to prescribe for DME products,. It was the consensus of the Committee that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:9-27.19, 10, Order of medications; a physician assistant treating a patient in an inpatient or outpatient setting may order or prescribe medications, subject to the following conditions:

(a) No controlled dangerous substances may be ordered. Physician assistants may prescribe durable medical equipment (DME), as such prescription falls within the scope of practice of physician assistants.

e. The Committee reviewed a fax from Helen R. Pfister inquiring as to whether a physician assistant may be partners in a partnership or joint shareholder in a professional service corporation. It was the consensus of the Committee that a physician assistant may form a partnership or be a joint shareholder in a professional service corporation in accordance with all applicable laws pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:35-6.16. Further, the Board of Medical Examiners Statutes and Regulations state that the physician's professional discretion should not be impacted by the individual with the lesser scope of practice. A letter will be sent to Ms. Pfister so advising and a copy of the statutes and regulations will be provided.

IV. REVIEW OF LICENSURE ACTION

a. The Committee reviewed the Summary Report of Licensure Action taken from January 10, 2003 to February 13, 2003 as informational.

There being no other business to come before the Committee in Public Session, on a motion by Mary Kral, seconded by Dr. Mary Ibrahim, the Public Session was adjourned, the Committee convened in Executive Session for the purpose of receiving counsel, to review one statistical report and to review 15 applications.

V. LICENSURE ACTION

The Committee certifies that the following persons have applied for licensure; that each application has been reviewed in detail; that all statutory requirements have been met; and that those applicants have been approved by the Committee for licensure.

APPROVED (PERMANENT)

Falis, Ashley
Fuller, Michelle
Patel, Neha
White, Rachel

The Committee certifies that the following applications have been reviewed and were provisionally approved pending receipt of certain information. Upon receipt of the requested information the Committee has authorized the executive Director to review the documents for compliance with statutory requirements and approve for licensure.

PROVISIONALLY APPROVED (PERMANENT) (awaiting outstanding documents)

Boner, Amy
Grzeskowiak, Marina

All deferred permanent and temporary applications must return to the Committee for review.

DEFERRED (PERMANENT)

Knotek, Marcel
Papini, Christina
Reischer, Amy
Rosado, Carolyn
Shah, Parul
Tereschuk, Debra

DEFERRED (TEMPORARY)

Feiteiro, Filipe
Freis-Blom, Elizabeth
Taylor, Alan

The next scheduled meeting is March 21, 2003. There being no other business to come before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Physician Assistant Advisory Committee

Dorcas K. O'Neal
Executive Director
