

**NEW JERSEY BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HUDSON CONFERENCE ROOM, 6TH FLOOR
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 20, 2009**

FINAL

The March meeting of the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee convened in accordance with its notice to the Secretary of State, the Bergen Record, the Trenton Times, the Star Ledger and the 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 President Argast. The following attendance was recorded for these Minutes.

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

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. The Committee reviewed the Public Session Minutes for January 16 2009. On a motion by Todd Newman, seconded by Jeffrey Maas the Public Session Minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. The Committee reviewed N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.10 5(i) and (ii) Ratios The rule was approved by the Board of Medical Examiners June 2007. At the Governor's office awaiting review before being published in the New Jersey Register.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. The Committee reviewed a fax from Sally Roslow inquiring as to whether physician assistants can prescribe medication without the physician seeing the patient first and advising that in Pennsylvania a DO must see the patient the same day as the physician assistant before the physician assistant can prescribe.

The Committee determined that a physician assistant should comply with N. J. S. A. 45-9-27.16(b) Authorized Procedures and N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.12, Requirements for issuing prescriptions for medications; special requirements for issuance of CDS . Ms. Roslow will be provided with a copy of the regulations which govern the practice of physician assistants in the State of New Jersey which serve as a guide for the practice of physician assistants.

b. The Committee reviewed a fax from Holly Hargrove, PA-C, inquiring as to whether a physician assistant can use a nurse practitioner as senior back up for house staff in lieu of a medical doctor.

The Committee determined that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B. 10 Supervision, a physician assistant must have a supervising physician at all times. Ms. Hargrove will be so advised and provided a copy of the regulations which govern the practice of physician assistants in the State of New Jersey.

c. A fax from Ron Lundeen, inquiring as to whether a physician assistant or other allied health professionals can be employed by an entity owned by laypersons. He clarifies that physician assistant employees will be properly supervised by physicians and meet all applicable licensure requirements.
REAGENDIZED.

d. The Committee reviewed a fax from Lisa Wall, PA-C, inquiring as to whether lumbar epidural injections are included in the scope of practice for physician assistants. These injections would be performed under the direct supervision. REAGENDIZED.

e. The Committee reviewed a fax from Linda Ross, RN, MS, BSN, CCM, AVP Quality Management inquiring as to whether physician assistants can read x-rays and bill for interpretation of the x-rays. The Committee has no jurisdiction over billing. The insurance carrier must be contacted.

f. The Committee reviewed a letter with a petition from Elisa Petro, Director of Site Operations, Take Care Health Systems, Onsite at Goldman Sachsto alter the number of physician assistants to one physician. She stated stating that presently the supervising physician at that facility supervises four (4) physician assistants, two physician assistants work in New York and two (2) in New Jersey. She further stated that there will never be a situation when there are more than two (2) physician assistants working in New Jersey, at any time.

The Committee determined that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.-10 (a) and (b) 5. i and ii., a physician assistant shall engage in practice only under the direct supervision of a physician and the following supervisory ratios are met: i. In a private practice which is not hospital based or institutionally affiliated, no more than two physician assistants to one physician at any one time; ii. In all other settings, no more than four physicians assistants to one physician at any one time. It appears that inasmuch as only two physician assistants will be working in New Jersey at any given time, she is in compliance. Ms. Petro, will be so advised.

IV. REVIEW OF BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS MINUTES AND AGENDA

a. The Committee reviewed the Ratified Open Board Minutes for December 3, 2008 of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

b. The Committee reviewed the Ratified Open Board Minutes Disciplinary-Matters for December 3, 2008, of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

c. The Committee reviewed the Open Board Agenda for February 11, 2009, of the Board of Medical Examiners as informational.

d. The Committee reviewed the Open Board Agenda Disciplinary-Matters for February 11, 2009, of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

e. The Committee reviewed the Ratified Open Board Minutes for January 14, 2009, of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

f. The Committee reviewed the Ratified Open Board Minutes Disciplinary-Matters for January 14, 2009, of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

g. The Committee reviewed the Open Board Agenda for March 11, 2009, of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

h. The Committee reviewed the Open Board Agenda Disciplinary-Matters for March 11, 2009, of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

V. REVENUE REPORT

a. The Committee reviewed the Revenue Report for January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008, as informational.

b. The Committee reviewed Revenue Report for January 2009, as informational.

c. The Committee reviewed the Revenue Report for February 2009., as informational.

VI. LEGISLATION/REGULATION

a. The Committee reviewed ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3765 - which establishes an 18-month moratorium on promulgation of new administrative rules and issuance of new policy circular letters by State agencies. The Physician Assistant Advisory Committee concurs with the position taken by Board of Medical Examiners.

There being no other business to come before the Committee in Public Session, on a motion by Claire O'Connell, seconded by Todd Newman, the Public Session was adjourned and the Committee convened in Executive Session for the purpose of receiving counsel, to conduct one (1) investigative inquiry, to review eight (8) matters of old business, eight (8) matters of new business and nine (9) applications.

The Committee reconvened in Public Session. The next scheduled meeting is April 17, 2009. There being no other business to come before the Committee in Public Session, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 P. M.

Respectfully submitted

Physician Assistant Advisory Committee

Dorcas K. O'Neal
Executive Director

RATIFIED BY THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS ON MAY 13, 2009