

# Physician Assistant Advisory Committee

## Hudson Conference Room 6th Floor

### Public Session Minutes

June 20, 2003

Final

The June 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 conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act.

President Walsh called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. A roll call was taken and the following attendance was recorded for these minutes.

**PRESENT:** Kevin Walsh Mary Kral  
LaNelle McKay Dr. Mary Ibrahim

**Also in attendance:** Dorcas K. O'Neal, Executive Director, Debra Levine, Deputy Attorney General, Eugene Brenycz, Regulatory Analyst, Kathleen Griffith, Staff.

## I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. The Committee reviewed the Minutes of May 16, 2003. **On a motion by LaNelle McKay, seconded by Mary Kral the minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.**

## II. OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of old business.

## III. NEW BUSINESS

a. The Committee reviewed a fax from **Maria D. Lain., VP, Regulatory Affairs & Chief Privacy Officer, Health Network, America** inquiring as to whether a physician assistant, assisting a surgeon can bill as an assistant surgeon for a total knee replacement and whether a list of codes can be provided for which a physician assistant who assists can bill as an assistant surgeon.

*As to question 1, it was the consensus of the Committee that pursuant to N.J. A.C. 13:35-4.1, a physician assistant may act as a first assistant to a surgeon pursuant to the regulation; as to the second question, regarding the provision of a listing of codes which a physician assistant may bill, the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee has no jurisdiction over billing or codes. Finally, all queries regarding reimbursement for payment for physician assistants services should be addressed with the individual insurance carrier. A letter will be sent to Ms. Lain so advising along with a copy of the statutes and regulations which govern the practice of physician assistants in the State of New Jersey.*

b. The Committee reviewed a fax from **Wanda Cooper, Sona International Corporation** inquiring (1) as to whether a physician assistant is considered a nurse and therefore subject to the ruling of the Board of Medical Examiners regarding Thermolase laser; (2) as to whether the Board of Medical Examiners governs the Physician Assistant Committee and (3) whether a physician assistant can

perform laser hair removal under the direct supervision of a physician.

*As to the first question, **it was the consensus of the Committee** that physician assistants are not nurses.*

*As to the second question, the Board of Medical Examiners governs the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee.*

*As to the third question, consistent with the determination made by the Board of Medical Examiners, physician assistants **may not** perform Thermolase laser hair removal as these procedures are deemed the practice of medicine and **may not** be delegated to a nurse or any other licensed health care professional other than a "**physician**".*

**A letter will be sent to Ms. Cooper so advising along with a copy of the statutes and regulations which govern the practice of physician assistants in the State of New Jersey**

c. The Committee reviewed a fax from **George James, Vice President** of the **Correctional Medical Services** advising that the Department of Corrections is considering employing a physician assistant to provide services within the New Jersey Department of Corrections. Specifically, he inquired as to whether there are specific protocols for medications which must be established and approved by the Committee before a physician assistant can order medications and whether a physician assistant who works in multiple sites, would require multiple supervising physicians.

**It was the consensus of the Committee that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.11 (a) 8. ii.** Licensees shall make contemporaneous, permanent entries into professional treatment records which shall accurately reflect the treatment or services rendered. To the extent applicable, professional treatment records shall reflect: *A statement indicating whether the medication order is written pursuant to protocol or specific physician direction. Acceptable abbreviations are "prt" for potocol and "spd" for specific physician direction. Further, this refers to a protocol which maybe written or verbal.*

*As it relates to physician assistants working in multiple sites and whether a physician assistant requires multiple supervising physicians, **pursuant to N.J.A.C.13:35-2B.10 (d)** A physician who is a **department head** may assign physician assistants under his or her supervision to attending and staff physicians, who shall be responsible for the practice of the physician assistant.*

*Further, **pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.3 (b)** the licensee shall file with the Committee a notice of employment for each place of employment, on forms provided by the Committee, within ten (10) days after the date on which employment commences. Additionally, the licensee shall report to the Committee any change in employment or supervisor within ten (10) days of the change.*

**A letter will be sent to Mr. James so advising along with the statutes and regulations which govern the practice of physician assistants in the State of New Jersey and copies of the verification of supervision/employment forms.**

d. The Committee reviewed a fax from **Scott MacDonald** (1) inquiring as to whether a large time frame would require an updated x-ray; (2) as to whether a physician assistant needs to be supervised by a physician when putting on a cast; (3) inquiring as to who determines the type of cast, the physician assistant or the doctor. (4) inquiring as to the "best type" of cast to be applied.

*As to question (2), **it was the consensus of the Committee that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.10 (b) 2,** in an outpatient setting, the supervising physician or physician- designee is constantly available*

*through electronic communications for consultation or recall.*

*As to questions 1, 3 and 4, the Committee deemed that these questions do not fall under its jurisdiction.*

**A letter will be sent to Mr. MacDonald so advising along with a copy of the statutes and regulations which govern the practice of physician assistants in the State of New Jersey.**

#### **IV . REVIEW OF THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS MINUTES AND AGENDA**

**a. The Committee reviewed the (Ratified) Open Board Minutes of the Board of Medical Examiners for April 9, 2003, as informational.**

**b. The Open Board Minutes-Disciplinary Matters were tabled. These minutes will be placed on the agenda when ratified.**

**c. The Committee reviewed the Open Board Agenda of the Board of Medical Examiner for June 11, 2003, as informational.**

**d. The Committee reviewed the Open Board Agenda Disciplinary -Matters of the Board of Medical Examiners for June 11, 2003, as informational.**

#### **V. LICENSURE ACTION**

**a. The Committee reviewed the Summary Report of Licensure Action taken from May 9, 2003 to June 12, 2003, as informational.**

#### **VI. SUNSET OF REGULATIONS**

**a. Eugene Brenycz, regulatory Analyst attended the meeting. The Committee continued reviewing the regulations at SUBCHAPTER 2B. N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.10, Supervision and concluded at the end of the section regarding Supervision.**

Changes were made as follow:

**N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.10 Supervision (a) No change.**

**N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B. 10 Supervision (b) 1, No change.**

**N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.10 Supervision (b) 2, No change.**

**N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.10 Supervision (b) 3, No change.**

**N.J.A.C. 13:35-2b.10. Supervision (b) 4. Line 1, after "*physician*" add "*or physician-designee*".**

**N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.10 Supervision (b) 4. i. No Change.**

**N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.10 Supervision (b) 4. ii. No Change.**

**N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.10 Supervision (b) 5. i. No Change.**

**N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.10 Supervision (b) 5. ii. No Change.**

**N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.10 Supervision (c) No Change.**

**N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.10 Supervision (d)**, line 1, after physician, delete "*who is department head*".

**N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.10 Supervision (d)**, line 3, after "to", delete "*attending and staff*" and add "*a*".

**N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.10 Supervision (d)**, line 3, make the word "physicians" singular, and add "designee".

**N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.10. Supervision (d)** last sentence after assignment delete "*In all other settings in which a physician assistant is employed, the supervising physician of record shall be considered to be the person responsible for the practice of the physician assistant*".

**b.** The Committee reviewed the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants Newsletter, citing that "99 percent" passed the first Continuing Medical Education (CME) audit in Category 1, **as informational**.

## **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

**a.** The Committee reviewed Assembly **Bill No. 3782 - The Committee supports the position of the Board of Medical Examiners as previously taken.**

There being no other business to come before the Committee in Public Session, on a motion by Dr. Mary Ibrahim, seconded by Mary Kral, the Public session was adjourned, and the Committee convened in Executive Session for the purpose of receiving counsel, and to review two statistical reports and to review 45 applications.

The Committee re-convened in Public Session. The following licensure action was taken in Executive Session.

**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 the applicants have been approved by the Committee for licensure.**

### **APPROVED (PERMANENT)**

Bernardi, Maria  
Guida, Lisa  
Hook, Freda  
Marchetta, Tracy

**The Committee certifies that these persons have applied for temporary licensure; that each application has been reviewed in detail; that all statutory requirements have been met, with the exception of passing of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) examination; that the Committee recommends each applicant for temporary license with a permanent license issue only upon successful completion of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) examination; that in the event of an unsuccessful result, the temporary license shall expire immediately upon notification to the licensee and practice as a physician assistant must cease.**

### **APPROVED (TEMPORARY)**

Carbonaro, Christine  
Carson, Carol  
Corona, Denise

Connolly, Mary  
Dotro, Thomas  
Emery, Jody  
Feiteiro, Filipe  
Freis-Blom, Elizabeth  
Groom, Kelly  
Kline, Susan  
Kwasniewski, Stephen  
Madden, Theresa  
Michael, Darcy  
O'Sullivan, Sean  
Rakler, Edward  
Santore, Jamie  
Smith, Allyson  
St. George, Frank  
Valiente, Ana

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

**PROVISIONALLY APPROVED PERMANENT (awaiting outstanding documents)**

Gable, Naomi  
Ranoewidjojo, Miyasari  
Weiss, Cherie  
Zahler, Gideon

**PROVISIONALLY APPROVED TEMPORARY (awaiting outstanding documents)**

Calavetta, Barbara  
Greer, Karin  
Marada, Leanne  
Morand, Michael  
Wasserstein, Esther

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

**DEFERRED (PERMANENT)**

Bensulock, Marie  
Criss, Charlene  
Louis, Daniel  
Roche, Kathleen  
Sheth, Hetal

**DEFERRED (TEMPORARY)**

Bonilla, Cristina  
D'Alleva, Alison  
Geary, Thomas

Rahim, Usman  
Reti, Cathryn  
Saracino, Lauren  
Serio, Rosemarie  
Tamburri, Nicholas

The next scheduled meeting is July 18, 2003. There being no other business to come before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Dorcas K. O'Neal  
Executive Director

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