

**NEW JERSEY BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ESSEX CONFERENCE ROOM, 7TH FLOOR
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 21, 2008
FINAL**

The November 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

ABSENT; Dr. Jeffrey Berman Todd Newman Claire O'Connell Jeffrey Maas

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 September 19, 2008. On a motion by Todd Newman, seconded by Jeffrey Maas, the Public Sess Minutes were approved as amended.

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. The Committee reviewed the response from Department of Health and Senior Services relative to Adult Day Health Services (ADHS), to a Committee referral from Aldo Torrente relative to the DOH ruling for eligibility assessments.

In the response it is stated that presently the Department of Health and Senior Services rule N.J.A.C. 8:86-1.5, should not be changed at this time to include physician assistants.

The Committee determined that a copy of the response be sent to the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners requesting its support as the Committee believes that physician assistants should be considered to perform eligibility assessments for the Department of Health for its prior authorization assessment process. The Committee is unclear as to the rationale for excluding physician assistants from this function and believes it is an oversight.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. The Committee reviewed a fax from Kathleen Clark, Practice Manager, Pain Specialists, PA., inquiring as to whether physician assistants can perform interventional pain management procedures independently, provided they have been properly educated and proctored.

The Committee determined that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.4(b) a licensee who has complied with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.3 Practice Requirements, may perform the following procedures in N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.4(b) provided the procedures are within the training and experience of both the supervising physician and the physician assistant, only when the supervising physician directs the licensee to perform the procedures or orders or prescribes the procedures, or the procedures are specified in a written protocol approved by the Board. Ms. Clark will be so advised.

b. The Committee reviewed an e-mail from Arzu Dickinson, inquiring as to whether physician assistants in

the State of New Jersey can write a prescription for Methotrexate, an anti cancer drug used for rheumatoid arthritis.

The Committee determined that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.12R Requirements for issuing prescriptions for medications; special requirements for issuance of CDS. A physician assistant may write prescription for Methotrexate. Ms. Dickinson will be advised and provided with the website to review the regulations which governs the practice of physician assistants in the State of New Jersey.

c. The Committee reviewed a memo from Charles A. Janousek, Liaison to the Professional Boards, inquiring s to whether physician assistants in the State of New Jersey can perform needle EMG testing.

Physician assistants can only perform duties pursuant to N.J.A.C 13:35-2B.4(b), Scope of Practice, which states a licensee who has complied with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.3, Practice Requirements, may perform . . . the procedures (which) are within the training and experience of both the supervising physician and the physician assistant, only when the supervising physician directs the licensee to perform the procedures, or orders or prescribes the procedures, or the procedures are specified in a written protocol approved by the Board.

Further, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.4(6), Scope of Practice, a physician assistant may perform other procedures for diagnostic, therapeutic or interventional purposes such as, but not limited to, introduction of contrast material for radiologic studies, use of endoscopic instruments and aspiration of fluid from joints and body cavities, collection of cerebrospinal fluid, biopsy of tissues, placement of central venous catheters or chest tubes, and endotracheal intubation. Mr. Janousek will be so advised along with a copy of the regulations which govern the practice of physician assistants in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Janousek will be so advised.

IV. REVIEW OF BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS MINUTES AND AGENDA

a. The Committee reviewed the Ratified Open Board Minutes for August 13, 2008, of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

b. The Committee reviewed the Ratified Open Board Minutes Disciplinary- Matters for August 13, 2008, of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

c. The Committee reviewed the Ratified Open Board Minutes for September 10, 2008, of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

d. The Committee reviewed the Ratified Open Board Minutes Disciplinary- Matters for September 10, 2008, of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

e. The Committee reviewed the Ratified Open Board Agenda for October 15, 2008, of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

f. The Committee reviewed the Ratified Open Board Agenda Disciplinary- Matters for October 15, 2008 of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

g. The Committee reviewed the Ratified Open Board Agenda for November 12, 2008, of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

h. The Committee reviewed the Ratified Open Board Agenda Disciplinary-Matters for November 12, 2008, of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

i. The Committee reviewed the Ratified Committee Minutes for October 15, 2008, of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.

V. REVENUE REPORT

- a. The Committee reviewed the Revenue Report for September, 2008, as informational.
- b. The Committee reviewed the Revenue Report for October, 2008, as informational.

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 review three (3) matters of old business, five (5) items of new business and three (3) applications.

The Committee reconvened in Public Session.

The next scheduled meeting is January 16, 2009. There being no other business to come before the Committee in Public Session, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted
Physician Assistant Advisory Committee

Dorcas K. O'Neal
Executive Director