

**NEW JERSEY BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HUDSON CONFERENCE ROOM, 6TH FLOOR**

REVISED PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

FEBRUARY 17, 2012

FINAL

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

President George Argast 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: George Argast
Todd Newman
Dr. Jeffrey Berman

EXCUSED: 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 of December 16, 2012. **On a motion by Claire O'Connell, seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Berman, the Minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.**

II. OLD BUSINESS

There are no items of old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of Officers. REAGENDIZED

b. *The Committee reviewed as informational the press release “Attorney General Chiesa Announces New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program - a Vital Tool in Fighting Prescription Drug Diversion and Abuse”.*

c. The Committee reviewed as informational the letter from **Thomas R. Calcagni, Director, Division of Consumer Affairs, inviting qualified prescribers or pharmacists, to register for secure, online access to the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program (NJPMP).**

d. The Committee reviewed a fax from **Lisa Smith**, inquiring as to whether physician assistants in the State of New Jersey are required to be in the operating room and assisting a surgeon when the following procedures are being performed: 29880 Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; with meniscectomy (medial and lateral, including any meniscal shaving) including debridement/shaving of articular cartilage (chondroplasty), same or separate compartment(s), when performed.

The Committee directed that a letter be sent to Ms. Smith requesting clarification of her query.

e. The Committee reviewed an e-mail from **Gaby Salib, PA-C**, inquiring as to whether a surgical physician assistant can get a surgical consent or procedure consent from a patient that is within the scope of his practice for the delegated supervising physician/surgeon in an inpatient hospital setting.

The Committee determined that a letter be sent to Mr. Salib advising that, by law, hospital policy, procedures and protocols must be followed in conjunction with the directives from the supervising physician.

f. The Committee reviewed a fax from **Mary Anne Suttles, RN, MSN, BC-NE, Vice President, Patient Care Services/CNO, St. Francis Medical Center**, inquiring as to whether physician assistants can give verbal or telephone orders for patient care in an inpatient setting to Registered Nurse and inquiring as to the rules of co-signature of supervising physician.

The Committee determined that the letter from the Board of Nursing dated February 15, 1994 be sent to Ms. Suttles which reaffirms that licensed nurses may implement patient care orders initiated by all practitioners with statutory authority to write orders. These practitioners are New Jersey licensed or certified physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse midwives, physician assistants and chiropractors.

g. A fax from **Debby Forman, Credentialing Coordinator, Centra State Medical Center**, inquiring as to whether physician assistants can assist podiatrists in the operating room.

The Committee determined that a podiatrist cannot supervise physician assistants in the operating room. The supervising physician must be a plenary physician.

IV. REVIEW OF BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS MINUTES AND AGENDA

a. The Committee reviewed the **Ratified Open Board Minutes for November 9, 2011 of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.**

b. The Committee reviewed the **Ratified Open Board Minutes Disciplinary-Matters of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.**

c. The Committee reviewed the **Open Board Agenda for December 14, 2011 of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.**

d. The Committee reviewed the **Open Board Agenda Disciplinary-Matters for December 14, 2011 of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.**

e. The Committee reviewed the **Open Board Ratified Minutes for December 14, 2011 of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.**

f. The Committee reviewed the **Ratified Open Board Minutes Disciplinary-Matters for December 14, 2011 of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.**

g. The Committee reviewed the **Open Board Agenda for January , 2012 of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.**

h. The Committee reviewed the **Open Board Agenda Disciplinary-Matters for January, 2012 of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.**

i. The Committee reviewed the **Open Board Agenda for February 8, 2012 of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.**

j. The Committee reviewed the **Open Board Agenda Disciplinary Matters for February 8, 2012, as informational.**

k. The Committee reviewed the **Ratified Committee Minutes for December 14, 2011 of the Board of Medical Examiners, as informational.**

V. LEGISLATION/REGULATION

a. **ASSEMBLY BILL NO: 690** - Exempts individuals with certain types of military service from certain professional and occupational fees and continuing education requirements. The Committee concurs with the position taken by the 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 review eight (8) items of old business, three (3) items of new business and four (4) applications.

The Committee reconvened in Public Session. The following disciplinary actions are being reported out in Public Session.

a. **I/M/O ANTHONY BELLS, PA-C** - Respondent was engaged in professional misconduct in connection with his prescriptive authority. Specifically, it has been alleged that Respondent wrote an additional prescription for a patient for a controlled dangerous substance in contravention of his supervising physician's instructions and forged another doctor's signature on the prescription.

The next meeting is March 16, 2012. There being no other business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Claire O'Connell, seconded by Todd Newman, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Physician Assistant Advisory Committee

Dorcas K. O'Neal
Executive Director