

The following is provided as a source of general reference
(maintain in the physician assistant's personnel file or such readily available location)

GUIDELINES

Governing the Prescription Practices of Physicians Assistants

(Adopted by the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners on August 19, 1998)

These Guidelines and any and all additions, deletions, corrections or changes thereto shall not be considered a rule or regulation requiring publication under the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act, according to Ala. Code § 34-24-293(1)(Cum. Supp. 1994).

1. The primary supervising physician shall review the prescribing practice of his / her physician assistant on a weekly basis, as part of overall quality assurance review. This requirement may be met by reviewing a minimum of ten percent (10%) of patients for whom drugs have been prescribed by the physician assistant; however, every patient who has not responded to treatment or who has unusual problems shall be reviewed. A log of this review shall be maintained at the practice location.
2. A verbal order by a supervising physician for any drug which is a prescription called in by the physician assistant in the name of the physician and which is a drug the physician assistant is not authorized to prescribe must be reduced to writing and signed by the physician within seventy-two (72) hours of the date of the prescription.
3. The physician assistant's license number shall be recorded on every prescription issued by a physician assistant. See Rule 540-X-7-.27 for complete regulations on prescribing.

NOTICE: Physician Assistants who are scheduled to take or have taken and are awaiting the results of the PANCE examination for national certification may make application for temporary licensure and for registration. **The current rules do not allow these assistants to prescribe while they hold temporary licensure. Please do not complete and return the enclosed formulary until applicant is nationally certified and is making application for full licensure.**

540-X-7-.27 Prescriptions And Medication Orders - Physician Assistants.

(a) A physician assistant may prescribe a legend drug to a patient subject to both of the following conditions being met:

1. The drug type, dosage, quantity prescribed, and number of refills are authorized in the job description which is signed by the supervising physician to whom the physician assistant is currently registered and which is approved by the Board;
2. The drug is included in the formulary approved under the guidelines established by the Board for governing the prescription practices of physician assistants.

(b) A physician assistant may prescribe any drug, substance or compound which is listed in Schedules III through V of the Alabama Uniform Controlled Substances Act upon being granted a Qualified Alabama Control Substance Certificate and upon submission of an approved QACSC formulary.

(c) The supervising physician and the physician assistant shall adhere to and follow all requirements and procedures stated in written guidelines established by the Board to govern the prescribing practices of physician assistants.

(d) A physician assistant may not initiate a call-in prescription in the name of the supervising physician for any drug which the assistant is not authorized to prescribe unless the drug is specifically ordered for the patient by the supervising physician either in writing or by a verbal order reduced to writing and signed by the physician within the time specified in the guidelines established by the Board.

(e) For any drug which the physician assistant is authorized to prescribe, a written prescription signed by the physician assistant and entered into the patient's chart may be called-in to a pharmacy.

(f) Whenever a physician assistant calls in a prescription to a pharmacy, the physician assistant shall identify his or her supervising physician.

(g) A physician assistant may administer any legend drug which the assistant is authorized to prescribe.

(h) For hospitalized patients, physician assistants may enter verbal admission orders and verbal subsequent orders for medications from the physician. All such orders must be validated by the ordering physician within 24 hours or within the time period specified in the hospital bylaws or policies.

(i) When prescribing legend drugs a physician assistant shall use a prescription form which includes all of the following:

1. The name, medical practice site address and telephone number of the physician supervising the physician assistant;
2. The physician assistant's name printed below or to the side of the physician's name;
3. The medical practice site address and telephone number of the physician assistant, if different from the address of the supervising physician;
4. The physician assistant's license number assigned by the Board;
5. The words "Product Selection Permitted" printed on one side of the prescription form directly underneath a signature line;
6. The words "Dispense as written" printed on one side of the prescription form directly underneath a signature line.

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