Supervision of PAs: Are You Missing an Opportunity?

Oregon Medical Board

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## TOPICS FOR TODAY

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The mission of the OREGON MEDICAL BOARD is to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of Oregon citizens by regulating the practice of medicine in a manner that promotes access to quality care.
The OMB in 2017

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* Public Members
OMB Licensees
Total – 22,487

- MDs/DOs – 18,720
- Physician Assistants – 2,031
- Acupuncturists – 1,505
- Podiatrists – 231

Information current as of July 1, 2017
PA Profession
Supervising Physicians
ORS 677.510
OAR 847-050-0027
Board Approval

Prior to using the services of a PA, a supervising physician must be approved by the Board.

- Online Application
- Open-Book Exam
- $100 ($50) Application Fee
- Approved in 7 Days
The mission of the Oregon Medical Board is to protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of Oregon citizens by regulating the practice of medicine in a manner that promotes access to quality care.
Sample Open-Book Exam Question

True or False

A supervising physician must be competent to perform all of the duties he or she delegates to the physician assistant.
Supervision Levels

- "General Supervision" – supervising physician is not on-site with the PA, but is available for synchronous communication
- "Direct Supervision" – supervising physician must be in the facility when the PA is practicing
- "Personal Supervision" – supervising physician must be at the side of the PA at all times, personally directing the action of the PA

- Minimum 8 hours of on-site supervision monthly
- Regular and routine chart review
Agents

A physician who supervises the PA when the supervising physician is unavailable for short periods of time (eg. vacation).

- Licensed and in good standing with the OMB
- Qualified and competent to supervise the delegated services

Designated in writing and kept at the practice location.

- “Agent Acknowledgement” form available online
- Do not submit to OMB
Agent Acknowledgement Form

Agent Acknowledgment for Practice Agreement

NOTE: Does Not Apply to SPO

Revised 10/31/2014

An agent must sign this agent agreement to acknowledge understanding and acceptance of supervisory responsibilities prior to serving as an agent for any practice agreement under which the agent will be supervising a physician assistant. This signed acknowledgment must be attached to the practice agreement and retained at the primary practice location. (Please do not submit this form to the Board.)

Please type or print legibly

This acknowledgment applies to the standing practice agreement between:

Primary Supervising Physician: __________________________________________

and

Physician Assistant: __________________________________________

By signing below, I acknowledge that I am qualified to supervise as designated in the practice agreement and competent to perform the duties delegated to the physician assistant under my supervision.

Agent Name: ______________________________________________________

Agent Oregon License Number: ________________________________________

Effective Date of agent supervision (mm/dd/yy): _________________________

Agent Signature: ___________________________________________________
Sample Open-Book Exam Question

True or False

The supervising physician or agent is responsible for the acts of the PA and may be subject to discipline for violations of the medical practice act by the PA.
1:4 Ratios

• Each physician may supervise up to 4 PAs (or as approved by the Board)

• Each PA may be supervised by up to 4 supervising physicians (or as approved by the Board)
Supervising Physician Organizations (SPOs)

ORS 677.495, 677.510
OAR 847-050-0010, 847-050-0036
Supervising Physician Organizations (SPOs)

A group of supervising physicians that collectively supervises the PA(s)

- Any member of the SPO may supervise the PA (communication, chart review, on-site supervision)
- Not subject to ratios
- May not use agents
Creating and Maintaining

Send a letter to the Board, preferably on letterhead, providing:

- SPO name and address,
- Name of the primary supervising physician, and
- Names of all member physicians who will be supervising PAs as part of the SPO.

To maintain, send an updated SPO letter to the Board with any changes.
SPO Physicians

Primary supervising physician:

- Responsible for providing administrative direction.
- May (or may not) also be a clinical supervisor.
- No longer responsible for all clinical oversight within the SPO.

Member supervising physicians:

- May share the responsibilities for clinical supervision.
- Must be Board-approved supervising physicians.
Practice Agreements
ORS 677.495, 677.510, 677.515
OAR 847-050-0010, 847-050-0037, 847-050-0040
Practice Agreements

A written agreement between a PA and a supervising physician that describes the manner in which the PA’s services will be used.

- **Submit** to the Board online within 10 days of beginning practice
- **Modify** online within 10 days of a change to the agreement
- **Terminate** online within 15 days of a physician-PA relationship ending
Practice Agreements

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Sample Open-Book Exam Question

True or False

If changes need to be made to a practice agreement, the supervising physician must request the Board’s approval before making the changes.
Delegated Duties

Medical duties may be delegated by the supervising physician:

• Services must be generally described in the practice agreement.
• Services must be within the scope of practice and the competency of the supervising physician.
• Services must be within the scope of practice and the competency of the PA.
• Services must be provided under appropriate supervision.
• PA must obtain informed consent, if required.
Prescribing Authority

• A PA’s prescriptions must include the supervising physician’s name, address, and phone number.
• Signature must include “P.A.”
• PA’s DEA number must be included for controlled substances.
• Prescribing authority must be delegated in the practice agreement.

*Note: Schedule II prescribing must be approved by the Board. The PA must maintain certification with NCCPA.*
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Oregon Medical Board
128 Years of Ensuring Patient Safety

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