



GUIDANCE DOCUMENT: Supervision of a Physician Assistant

Effective October 15, 2015

When performing authorized services, the physician assistant acts as the agent of the supervising physician. The supervising physician is legally responsible and assumes legal liability for the services performed by the physician assistant. Section 4730.22, Ohio Revised Code (Hereinafter "ORC").

- I. A supervision agreement between the physician and the physician assistant is required in all settings. The supervision agreement must be maintained in the records of the supervising physician, with a copy of it submitted to the State Medical Board of Ohio.**
 - A. For all practice locations, the supervision agreement must contain all of the following items:
 1. A statement that the supervising physician is legally responsible and assumes legal liability for the physician assistant's services;
 2. The signatures of the supervising physician and the physician assistant(s);
 3. If the physician assistant will be authorized to delegate the performance of tasks to implement a patient's plan of care and/or delegate the administration of drugs, that authority must be stated in the supervision agreement. See Section 4730.203, ORC.
 - The physician assistant is prohibited from delegating the administration of drugs in a hospital inpatient care unit, hospital emergency department, freestanding emergency department, or ambulatory surgical center.
 4. For all practice locations, if the physician assistant will be authorized to order or direct the execution of procedures or techniques by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse in the care and treatment of a person, that authority must be stated in the supervision agreement. See Section 4730.03, ORC.
 - B. In a healthcare facility, in addition to items in paragraph (A), above, a statement that the physician assistant will practice in accordance with the facility's policies for physician assistant practice;
 - C. Outside of a healthcare facility, in addition to the items in paragraph (A), above, all of the following:
 1. The responsibilities to be fulfilled by the supervising physician;

2. The responsibilities of the physician assistant when performing services under the supervising physician;
 - There are permissible physician assistant services specifically listed in Section 4730.20, ORC. However, the physician assistant may be authorized to perform other services that are within the supervising physician's normal course of practice and expertise and which are not prohibited by a provision of the ORC or the Ohio Administrative Code. (See "Guidance Document: Permissible Physician Assistant Services, Effective October 15, 2015.")
3. Any limitations on the responsibilities to be fulfilled by the physician assistant;
4. Circumstances under which the physician assistant is required to refer a patient to the supervising physician;
5. At the discretion of the supervising physician, alternate supervising physician information.

II. A supervising physician's supervision of a physician assistant must be consistent with the following:

- A. The supervising physician may authorize the physician assistant to practice in any setting within which the supervising physician has supervision, control, and direction of the physician assistant.
- B. The supervising physician must be continuously available for direct communication by either of the following:
 1. Being physically present where the physician assistant is practicing, or
 2. Being readily available through some means of telecommunication and being in a location that is a distance away that reasonably allows the physician to assure proper care of patients.
- C. A supervising physician may have supervision agreements with numerous physician assistants but may not supervise more than three physician assistants practicing at any one time.
- D. A supervising physician may not authorize a physician assistant to perform a service for which such authorization is prohibited by any statute or rule. For example, a supervising physician may not authorize a physician assistant to utilize light-based medical devices (except for laser hair removal), operate a radiologic machine, or perform radiologic procedures.
- E. A supervising physician and physician assistant must keep records of quality assurance activities that are consistent with the rules of the Medical Board. On request, the quality assurance records must be made available to the Medical Board.