

4. The licensee conspicuously wears an identification tag using the term "physician assistant" whenever acting in that capacity; and

5. The licensee complies with the recordkeeping requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.11.

(b) The licensee shall file with the Board a notice of employment for each place of employment, on forms provided by the Committee, within 10 days after the date on which employment commences. Furthermore, the licensee shall report to the Board any change in employment or supervisor within 10 days of the change.

13:35-2B.4 Scope of practice

(a) A licensee who has complied with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.3 may perform the following procedures on a discretionary and routine basis:

1. Approaching a patient to elicit a detailed and accurate history, perform an appropriate physical examination, identify problems, record information and interpret and present information to the supervising physician, determine and implement therapeutic plans jointly with the supervising physician and compile and record pertinent narrative case summaries;

2. Suturing and follow up care of wounds including removing sutures and clips and changing dressings, except for facial wounds, traumatic wounds requiring suturing in layers and infected wounds;

3. Providing patient counseling services and patient education consistent with directions of the supervising physician;

4. Assisting a physician in an inpatient setting by conducting patient rounds, recording patient progress notes, determining and implementing therapeutic plans jointly with the supervising physician and compiling and recording pertinent narrative case summaries;

5. Assisting a physician in the delivery of services to patients requiring continuing care in a private home, nursing home, extended care facility, private office practice or other setting, including the review and monitoring of treatment and therapy plans;

6. Facilitating the referral of patients to, and promoting their awareness of, health care facilities and other appropriate agencies and resources in the community;

7. Collecting fluids for diagnostic purposes, including, but not limited to, blood, urine, sputum and exudates;

8. Placing and utilizing access catheters and tubes for diagnostic, therapeutic or interventional purposes, including, but not limited to, intravenous, arterial, nasogastric and urinary;

9. Performing minor surgical procedures such as simple excisions, incision and drainage, debridement and packing of wounds;

10. Applying and removing medical and surgical appliances and devices such as splints, casts, immobilizers, traction, monitors and infusion pumps;

11. Management of emergency and life threatening conditions;

12. Performing low-risk obstetrical deliveries in a licensed hospital with the supervising physician or physician designee on premises and available to respond immediately; and

13. Subject to review by the Board, such other written procedures established by the employer, provided the procedures are within the training and experience of both the supervising physician and the physician assistant.

(b) A licensee who has complied with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.3 may perform the following procedures, 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.

1. Performing non-invasive laboratory procedures and related studies or assisting licensed personnel in the performance of invasive laboratory procedures and related studies;

2. Giving injections, administering medications and ordering diagnostic studies;

3. Suturing and caring for facial wounds, traumatic wounds requiring suturing in layers and infected wounds;

4. Ordering medications and prescribing other than controlled dangerous substances and writing orders to implement therapeutic plans identified pursuant to (a)4 above.

5. In the operating room, assisting a supervising surgeon as a first assistant or as a second assistant when deemed necessary by the supervising surgeon and when a qualified assistant physician is not required by N.J.A.C. 13:35-4.1;

6. Performing 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.

i. The supervising physician or physician designee shall be available on premises for those procedures requiring intravenous or intra-arterial injection of contrast material, endoscopic biopsy of tissue, and elective endotracheal intubation.

ii. The supervising physician shall maintain documentation, or ensure that documentation is maintained,

evidencing that the physician assistant has the training, experience and proficiency to perform such procedures; and

7. Subject to review and approval by the Board, such other written procedures established by the employer, provided the procedures are within the training and experience of both the supervising physician and the physician assistant.

Amended by R.1996 d.126, effective March 4, 1996.

See: 27 N.J.R. 1956(a), 28 N.J.R. 1390(a).

In (a) added low-risk obstetrical deliveries and in (b) added other procedures for diagnostic, therapeutic or interventional purposes.

Amended by R.1999 d.356, effective October 18, 1999.

See: 31 N.J.R. 1742(a), 31 N.J.R. 3117(a).

In (b)4, deleted "In an inpatient setting," at the beginning.

13:35-2B.5 Eligibility for licensure

(a) An applicant for licensure shall submit to the Board, with the completed application form and the required fee, evidence that the applicant:

1. Is at least 18 years of age;
2. Is of good moral character, evidence of which shall require the applicant for licensure to respond to such inquiry as the Board deems appropriate regarding past and present fitness to practice, and issues pertinent thereto;
3. Has successfully completed an education program for physician assistants which is approved by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation, or its successor; and
4. Has passed the examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), except as set forth in (b) below.

(b) An applicant who submits satisfactory proof that he or she holds a current license, certification or registration to practice as a physician assistant in a state which has standards substantially equivalent to those of this State shall be deemed to satisfy the examination requirement set forth in (a)4 above.

13:35-2B.6 Refusal to issue, suspension or revocation of license

(a) The Board may refuse to issue or may suspend or revoke any license issued by the Board for any of the reasons set forth in N.J.S.A. 45:1-21.

(b) Prior to any license suspension or revocation, the licensee shall be afforded the opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. and 52:14F-1 et seq., and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1.

13:35-2B.7 License renewal, continuing education requirement

(a) The Board shall not issue a biennial license renewal unless the applicant submits, with the renewal application, proof that he or she completed courses of continuing professional education of the types and number of credits specified in N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.8.

(b) Falsification of any information submitted with the renewal application may result in an appearance before the Board or a duly appointed Committee thereof and, after due notice to the licensee and the opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, penalties and/or suspension or revocation of the license.

(c) The Board will, from time to time, conduct inquiries among licensees on a random basis to determine compliance with continuing education requirements.

13:35-2B.8 Credit-hour requirements

(a) Each applicant for a biennial license renewal shall be required to complete, during the preceding biennial period, a minimum of 40 continuing education credit hours in category I courses approved by the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Physician Assistants, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Osteopathic Association or the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education. The Board reserves the right to review and approve continuing education courses offered by entities other than those set forth above.

(b) Fifteen credits may be carried over into a succeeding biennial period only if earned during the last six months of the preceding biennial period.

13:35-2B.9 Waiver of continuing education requirement

(a) The Board may, in its discretion, temporarily waive continuing education requirements on an individual basis for reasons of hardship, such as illness or disability, or other good cause.

(b) Any licensee seeking a waiver of the continuing education requirements must apply to the Board in writing and set forth with specificity the reasons for requesting the waiver. The licensee shall also provide the Board with such additional information as it may reasonably request in support of the application.

13:35-2B.10 Supervision

(a) A physician assistant shall engage in practice only under the direct supervision of a physician.

(b) The physician assistant shall not render care unless the following conditions are met:

1. In an inpatient setting, the supervising physician or physician-designee is continuously or intermittently present on-site with constant availability through electronic communications for consultation or recall;

2. In an outpatient setting, the supervising physician or physician-designee is constantly available through electronic communications for consultation or recall;

3. The supervising physician regularly reviews the practice of the physician assistant;

4. The supervising physician personally reviews all charts and patient records and countersigns all medical orders as follows:

i. In an inpatient setting, within 24 hours of the physician assistant's entry of the order in the patient record; and

ii. In an outpatient setting, within a maximum of seven days of the physician assistant's entry of the order in the patient record; and

5. The following supervisory ratios are met:

i. In a private practice which is not hospital based or institutionally affiliated, no more than two physician assistants to one physician at any one time;

ii. In all other settings, no more than four physician assistants to one physician at any one time.

(c) Upon application to the Board, the Board may alter the supervisory ratios set forth in (b) above.

(d) A supervising physician who is a department head may assign physician assistants under his or her supervision to attending and staff physicians, who shall be responsible for the practice of the physician assistant during the assignment. In all other settings in which a physician assistant is employed, the supervising physician of record shall be considered to be the person responsible for the practice of the physician assistant.

13:35-2B.11 Recordkeeping

(a) Licensees shall make contemporaneous, permanent entries into professional treatment records which shall accurately reflect the treatment or services rendered. To the extent applicable, professional treatment records shall reflect:

1. The dates and times of all treatments;
2. The patient complaint;
3. The history;
4. Findings on appropriate examination;
5. Progress notes;
6. Any orders for tests or consultations and the results thereof;

7. Diagnosis or medical impression; and

8. Treatment ordered. If medications are ordered, the patient record shall include:

i. Specific dosages, quantities and strengths of medications;

ii. A statement indicating whether the medication order is written pursuant to protocol or specific physician direction. Acceptable abbreviations are "prt" for protocol and "spd" for specific physician direction;

iii. The physician assistant's full name, printed or stamped, and the license number; and

iv. The supervising physician's full name, printed or stamped.

(b) If the information required pursuant to (a)8iii and iv appears at least once in the patient record, it need not be repeated each time a medication order is entered in the patient record.

(c) The physician assistant shall sign each entry in the patient record and record the designation "PA-C" following his or her signature.

(d) To the extent a physician assistant is charged with independent responsibility for the provision of information used to prepare bills and claims forms, such information shall accurately reflect the treatment or services rendered.

13:35-2B.12 Requirements for issuing prescriptions for medications

(a) A physician assistant may issue prescriptions only in accordance with the following conditions:

1. A physician assistant shall not issue prescriptions for controlled dangerous substances.

2. A physician assistant shall provide the following on all prescription blanks:

i. The physician assistant's full name, professional identification ("PA-C"), license number, address and telephone number. This information shall be printed or stamped on all prescription blanks;

ii. The supervising physician's full name, printed or stamped;

iii. A statement indicating whether the prescription is written pursuant to protocol or specific physician direction. Acceptable abbreviations are "prt" for protocol and "spd" for specific physician direction;

iv. The full name, age and address of the patient;

v. The date of issuance of prescription;

vi. The name, strength and quantity of drug or drugs to be dispensed and route of administration;

vii. Adequate instruction for the patient. A direction of "p.r.n." or "as directed" alone shall be deemed an insufficient direction;

viii. The number of refills permitted or time limit for refills, or both;

ix. The signature of the prescriber, hand-written; and

x. Every prescription blank shall be imprinted with the words "substitution permissible" and "do not substitute" and shall contain space for the physician assistant's initials next to the chosen option, in addition to the space required for the signature in (a)3ix above.

Amended by R.1999 d.356, effective October 18, 1999.

See: 31 N.J.R. 1742(a), 31 N.J.R. 3117(a).

In (a), deleted a former 1, and recodified former 2 and 3 as 1 and 2.

13:35-2B.13 Eligibility for temporary licensure

(a) An individual who has filed an application for licensure and is waiting to take the next scheduled examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) or awaiting the results of the examination may apply to the Board for a temporary license to be employed under the direct supervision of a physician, as defined in N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.2 and 2B.15.

(b) An applicant for temporary licensure shall submit to the Board, with the completed application form, the documents required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.5, the required fee, and evidence that the applicant has filed an application for the NCCPA examination.

New Rule, R.1995 d.423, effective August 7, 1995.

See: 27 N.J.R. 1526(a), 27 N.J.R. 2959(a).

13:35-2B.14 Temporary licensure; scope of practice

(a) A temporary license holder who has complied with the practice requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.3 may perform all of the procedures within the scope of practice of a physician assistant, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.4(a) and (b) and subject to the limitations therein, except that a temporary license holder shall not issue prescriptions.

(b) A temporary license holder shall engage in practice only under the direct supervision of a physician pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.15.

New Rule, R.1995 d.423, effective August 7, 1995.

See: 27 N.J.R. 1526(a), 27 N.J.R. 2959(a).

13:35-2B.15 Supervision of temporary license holder

(a) A temporary license holder shall not render care unless the following conditions are met:

1. In any setting, the supervising physician or physician designee or a licensed physician assistant with privileges in the same discipline:

i. Is continuously present on-site; and

ii. Countersigns, immediately after its entry in the chart, any order for medication written by the temporary license holder.

2. The supervising physician or physician designee:

i. Personally reviews all charts and patient records within 24 hours of the temporary license holder's entry in the chart and record; and

ii. Countersigns any order for medication written by the temporary licensee and countersigned by a licensed physician assistant.

New Rule, R.1995 d.423, effective August 7, 1995.

See: 27 N.J.R. 1526(a), 27 N.J.R. 2959(a).

13:35-2B.16 Expiration of temporary license; renewal

(a) A temporary license shall expire 30 days after the temporary license holder has received notification of successful completion of the examination or immediately upon the applicant's receipt of notification of failure to pass the examination.

(b) An applicant who fails an examination shall cease and desist from the performance of his or her duties.

(c) Except in extenuating circumstances such as the applicant's critical illness or incapacitation, a temporary license may not be renewed. An applicant seeking to renew based upon extenuating circumstances shall be required to present to the Board satisfactory documentation of the basis for the renewal request.

New Rule, R.1995 d.423, effective August 7, 1995.

See: 27 N.J.R. 1526(a), 27 N.J.R. 2959(a).

SUBCHAPTER 3. LICENSING EXAMINATIONS AND ENDORSEMENTS, LIMITED EXEMPTIONS FROM LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

13:35-3.1 Licensing examination; physicians

(a) Effective December 1994, the standard medical and surgical licensing examination in the State of New Jersey shall be the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE), Step 3. The licensing examination administered by the National Osteopathic Board of Examiners shall also be recognized as an alternative standard licensing examination for graduation of American Osteopathic Association-approved Osteopathic Medical Schools.

(b) Prior to January 1995, the Federation Licensing Examination (FLEX) shall serve as one of the two standard medical and surgical licensing examinations in the State of New Jersey.