

**NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HUDSON CONFERENCE ROOM, 6TH FLOOR
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
JULY 21, 2006**

FINAL

The July meeting of the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee was convened in accordance with its notice to the Secretary of State, The Record of Hackensack, the Trenton Times, Star-Ledger and Courier Post and was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

PRESENT: George Argast, Jeffrey Maas, and Todd Newman

EXCUSED OR ABSENT: Jeffrey Berman, M.D., and Claire O'Connell

Also in attendance: Debra Levine, Deputy Attorney General, Dorcas O'Neal, Executive Director, Kathleen Griffith and Bonnie Sheppard, staff.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. The Committee reviewed the Public Session Minutes for May 19, 2006 and June 16, 2006. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved the May 19, 2006 Public Minutes with an amendment and the June 16, 2006 Public Minutes as submitted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

None

III. NEW BUSINESS

Correspondence

a. Maryann W. Gibbons, PA-C

The Committee reviewed a letter from Ms. Gibbons inquiring about co-signature responsibilities for supervising physicians in licensed nursing facilities and acute rehabilitation facilities and inquiring as to whether orders can be co-signed by facsimile in these settings. The Committee directed that the regulations governing co-signature responsibilities be sent to Ms. Gibbons along with a letter advising her that as it relates to inpatient and outpatient co-signature by facsimile, no pronouncement has been made. Her letter of inquiry will be referred to the Board of Medical Examiners.

b. Christopher Hanifin, President, New Jersey State Society of Physician Assistants (NJSSPA)

In response to a number of issues raised in a letter from Mr. Hanifin, the Committee commented as follows:

1. Committee members sincerely welcome comments from the public at monthly meetings and further have no desire to inhibit dialogue between and among interested parties. Public sessions of Committee meetings are not the forum for dialogue, however, because issues raised there have not been deliberated by the Committee, and the Committee has had no opportunity to reach consensus. Often meetings are scheduled in Committee format where opportunities for dialogue among groups are possible. Such Committee meetings are scheduled at the pleasure of the Committee; a quorum of committee members cannot be present. Information resulting from such Committee meetings can be brought back to the full Committee for deliberation.

2. The Committee will provide Mr. Hanifin the instructions he requested concerning the filing of OPRA requests. Mr. Hanifin will be advised, however, that the particular record he is seeking, a listing of supervising physicians in New Jersey, does not exist per se, nor does the Open Public Records Act require that the Committee provide such a report, as the information is not kept in that form.

3. The Committee is of the opinion that supervising physicians have control over whether transcription services will be used and whether countersignatures can be obtained in the time frame required by the PA regulations. Mr. Hanifin's question concerning countersignatures and transcription services will be referred to the Board of Medical Examiners along with a request that the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee be apprised of its opinion.

4. Because the PA statute requires supervision of physician assistants by a plenary licensed physician in good standing, and in the absence of a statutory definition of "in good standing," Mr. Hanifin's question as to whether a PA whose supervising physician has been restricted will have to practice under the same restrictions as imposed upon his supervising physician or will have to be assigned to a different supervising physician will be referred to the Board of Medical Examiners.

5. With regard to whether it is permissible for a supervising physician to be in contact with a PA via telecommunication while he/she is away, the Committee responded that the specific situation being addressed in the June, 2006 meeting was one in which the supervising physician was going to be away for a long time. In such instances, it would behoove all involved for someone else to be designated as delegated physician/supervisor.

Mr. Hanifin will be advised of the Committee's responses to his questions.

c. The Committee reviewed an e-mail letter from Melissa Kohler Justice, PA-C, Chestnut Hill Hospital, PA., inquiring as to whether physician assistants in New Jersey can perform vascular access procedures, paracentesis, thoracentesis, CT-guided diagnostic liver biopsies, breast needle localizations and stereotactic core biopsies.

The Committee determined that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B4(b)(6) a licensee who has complied with N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B-3, Scope of Practice, may perform 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, as such procedures fall within the scope of practice for a physician assistant. A letter along with a copy of the statutes and regulations which govern the practice of physician assistants in the State of New Jersey will be sent to Ms. Kohler.

d. Lisa Principe, PA-C

Ms. Principe wrote to the Committee inquiring as to whether physician assistants in the State of New Jersey are permitted to perform:

- Microdermabrasion with the Partile Skin System microdermabrasion machine manufactured by Genesis and, if so, may they do so without the direct supervision of a physician;
- Microdermabrasion, chemical peels, botox and restylane injections without a supervising physician being physically in the office.
- Further, she asks whether New Jersey PAs are certified to use Palomar's Intense Pulse Light for hair removal, acne, and photodamage repair without the direct supervision of a physician in an outpatient setting

Ms. Principe will be advised that based on the limited facts presented, consistent with the determination made by the Board of Medical Examiners, physician assistants may not perform laser treatments as these procedures are deemed the practice of medicine and may not be delegated to a nurse or any other licensed healthcare professional other than a physician. However, she will be advised that the Board is further investigating this latter issue and obtaining opinions from appropriate expert professionals. If the Board promulgates a regulation in this regard in the future it will be noticed in the New Jersey Register.

IV. LICENSURE ACTION

a. The Committee reviewed as informational the Summary Report of Licensure Action taken from June 9, 2006 to July 13, 2006.

V. LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS

a. ASSEMBLY BILL NO: 3063 - Concerning meeting notices and minutes requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act. On a motion by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Maas, the Executive Director is directed to advise the Division that the Committee believes the requirements proposed by the bill would put an onerous responsibility on the staff and would be impractical both for the Committee and staff. The Committee is against passage of the bill.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jan U. Jansen, a second-year PA student at UMDNJ, introduced himself and indicated that he was attending the meeting to familiarize himself with the workings of the Committee.

There being no other business to come before the Committee in Public Session, on a motion made and seconded, the Public Session was adjourned and the Committee convened in Executive Session to receive counsel, to conduct one investigative inquiry, to review two items of old business, one statistical report and 32 applications.

The Committee reconvened in Public Session and announced the following licensure actions:

APPROVED (PERMANENT)

The Committee certifies that the following persons have applied for licensure, that each application has been reviewed in detail, that all statutory requirements have been met, and that the applications have been approved by the Committee for licensure.

Farid, Osama
Leverett, Terri-Ann
Papini-Tennyson, Christina

PROVISIONAL APPROVALS

The Committee certifies that the following applications have been reviewed and were provisionally approved pending receipt of certain information. Upon receipt of the requested information, the Committee has authorized the Executive Director to review the documents for compliance with statutory requirements and to approve for licensure

PROVISIONALLY APPROVED (PERMANENT)

Austin, Louise Maurino, Marissa
Bosler, Christy Miller, David
Cattell, Mark Reynaldo, Jennifer
Copeland, Kelli Riely, Monica
Frazier, Crystal Saunders, Lorraine
Garetano, Nicole Torres, Melody
Jahn, Nicole White, Stephanie
Lisman, Tina Zone, Jennifer

PROVISIONALLY APPROVED (TEMPORARY)

Ariyan, Wendy Shah, Rachna
Brower, Stacey Sharma, Manju
Joyothirmayi, Garikiparthi Wolski, JessicaR Maggio, Arielle Wrigley, Katherine

Reyes, Elizabeth

DEFERRED

The Committee reviewed the following applications which were deferred due to lack of specific documents required by law. All deferred permanent and temporary applications must return to the Committee for review.

DEFERRED (PERMANENT)

**Katanov, Jacob
Leveque, Ordith
Myers, Jennifer**

DEFERRED (TEMPORARY)

Chagnan, Kari

Whereas the Committee will not meet in August, two members will meet on August 18, 2006 to review applications.

The next scheduled meeting is September 15, 2006. There being no other business to come before the Committee in Public Session, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Physician Assistant Advisory Committee**

**Dorcas K. O'Neal
Executive Director**