



Alaska State Medical Board
Natalie Norberg, Executive Administrator
P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, AK 99811-0806
Natalie.Norberg@alaska.gov

Dear Ms. Norberg,

Alaskans are facing significant health care shortages. Current state regulations pose barriers that prevent currently licensed PAs from filling gaps in care and detract qualified applicants from considering Alaska as a place to practice. Michigan, Washington, North Dakota, Maine, and Idaho have updated their PA statutes and regulations to increase access to care for residents. Modernizing PA practice in Alaska will optimize the health care workforce and allow access to care for more Alaskans.

Impactful changes to current regulations include:

- 1) Personalized practice agreements between a PA and physician that represents what is best for their clinical setting.
- 2) Methods of assessment that better represent the PA and Physician collaboration in practice.
- 3) Simplified requirements for remote practice and new graduate practice.
- 4) Elimination of alternate collaborative physician requirements in recognition of ongoing physician shortages.
- 5) Removal of delegatory prescription authority. Over 30 states have removed delegatory authority for prescriptive privileges in recognition that PAs are trained and responsible for the prescriptions they write.

Restrictive regulations prevent PAs from practicing to their fullest potential, limiting access to high-quality care for patients. Compliance with current regulations as written does not reflect the safe and effective way that PAs currently practice. Interpretation of current state medical board regulations is difficult and makes compliance more complicated than necessary. The administrative burden required to comply does not improve patient safety or improve quality of care.

Please consider revising current regulations in alignment with requests outlined above and during previous meetings between AKAPA board members and representatives from the state medical board. Our recent efforts with the PA regulation work group were educational but have not yet created meaningful change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy Smith", written in a cursive style.

Wendy Smith, PA-C, AKAPA President
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