



Alaska State Medical Board
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Natalie.norberg@alaska.gov

June 22, 2022

Natalie Norberg, Executive Administrator

Dear Ms. Norberg,

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss Modernization of PA Practice in Alaska at your last board meeting. We understand the goal of the Alaska State Medical Board is to protect the public from dangerous care. Empirical research on care delivered by physicians and PAs have demonstrated similar outcomes in both acute settings and chronic disease management.¹⁻⁴ PAs are trained to collaborate within a team setting, understand their scope of practice, and consult with the appropriate member of the health care team, be it this their collaborative physician, a specialist, or an acute care provider.

The unintended consequences of our current regulations are unnecessary administrative burden and fear of reprimand from governing bodies. We are asking for modernization of regulation language to simplify PA practice in Alaska. This will ease the burden for healthcare employers to employ skilled providers who in turn provide needed access to high quality care for all Alaskans.

Changes to regulations:

- 1) Personalized practice agreements between the physician and PA that represents what is best for their practice. This includes meaningful methods of assessment that better represent the PA and Physician collaboration in practice.
- 2) Simplified or elimination of requirements for remote practice and new graduate practice.
- 3) Elimination of alternate collaborative physician requirements per PA due to physician shortages.
- 4) Removal of delegatory prescription authority. PAs receive 75 hours of pharmacology and 580 hours of clinical medicine education during PA training and must maintain 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years in order to remain certified.⁵ Upon graduation and for the duration of their careers, PAs have the pharmacological acumen necessary for prescriptive privileges to be granted upon licensure.

The matrix provided was not inclusive of the working groups discussion. Please note our comments regarding this document and the opinions expressed. AKAPA continues to be a voice for Alaska PAs and supports access to care by reducing administrative burdens while maintaining patient safety.

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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References

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