



Alaska PA Practice Modernization Proposal

Proposed updates to PA Practice Statutes are being sought to align legislative language with how PAs currently practice in the state of Alaska. This will allow Alaska's health care system to fully utilize their workforce.

Proposals in SB115 include:

- Maintaining PA commitment to practice medicine in collaboration with physicians and other members of the healthcare team.
- Define PA scope of practice in the statute, as PAs can perform any legal medical task based on their education, training, and experience that they are competent to perform.
- Grant prescriptive authority under federal law with state license for PAs with a valid DEA registration.
- Require collaborative plan for new PAs (<2000 hours) that is filed at the practice level. Including a plan to have the collaborative physician available to the new PA during work hours, while a PA is still responsible for the care they provide.
- Recognize PAs as practitioners and as responsible for the care they provide.
- Prevent insurance companies from imposing practice, education, or collaboration requirements on PAs that are inconsistent with or more restrictive than imposed in state statute or regulations.

What is a Physician Assistant?

- PAs are nationally certified by the NCCPA and licensed at the state level.
- All PA training programs confer a master's degree. Average PA program length is 27 continuous months.
- PAs are trained in the medical model. Curriculum includes more than 400 hours of basic sciences, 75 hours of pharmacology, and nearly 580 hours of clinical medicine.
- PAs complete at least 2,000 hours of supervised clinical training with rotations in family medicine, internal medicine, general surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, emergency medicine, and behavioral and mental health.
- Certified and licensed PAs diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medication, and may serve as principal healthcare providers.
- The Alaska State Medical Board regulates and oversees PA practice in Alaska. There is currently one PA seat on the board.

