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Code: Select Code ✓ Section: 1 or 2 or 1001

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**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE - BPC** 

DIVISION 2. HEALING ARTS [500 - 4999.129] (Division 2 enacted by Stats. 1937, Ch. 399.)

CHAPTER 7.7. Physician Assistants [3500 - 3545] (Heading of Chapter 7.7 amended by Stats. 1992, Ch. 427, Sec. 5.)

ARTICLE 3. Certification and Approval [3513 - 3519.5] (Article 3 added by Stats. 1975, Ch. 634.)

3513. The board shall recognize the approval of training programs for physician assistants approved by a national accrediting organization. Physician assistant training programs accredited by a national accrediting agency approved by the board shall be deemed approved by the board under this section. If no national accrediting organization is approved by the board, the board may examine and pass upon the qualification of, and may issue certificates of approval for, programs for the education and training of physician assistants that meet board standards.

(Amended by Stats. 2012, Ch. 332, Sec. 42. (SB 1236) Effective January 1, 2013.)

- 3514.1. (a) The board shall formulate by regulation guidelines for the consideration of applications for licensure as a physician assistant.
- (b) The board shall formulate by regulation guidelines for the approval of physician assistant training programs. (Amended by Stats. 2012, Ch. 332, Sec. 43. (SB 1236) Effective January 1, 2013.)
- 3516. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a physician assistant licensed by the board shall be eligible for employment or supervision by a physician and surgeon who is not subject to a disciplinary condition imposed by the Medical Board of California prohibiting that employment or supervision.
- (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) and in Section 3502.5, a physician and surgeon shall not supervise more than four physician assistants at any one time.
  - (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a physician and surgeon may supervise up to, but no more than, eight physician assistants at one time, but only if the following conditions are satisfied by all supervised physician assistants:
    - (A) The physician assistants are focused solely on performing in home health evaluations.
    - (B) The physician assistants are performing in home health evaluations solely for the following purposes:
      - (i) Gathering patient information.
      - (ii) Performing an annual wellness visit or health evaluation, if it does not involve direct patient treatment or prescribing medication.
  - (3) A physician assistant who performs an in home health evaluation for the purposes specified in subparagraph (B) of paragraph
  - (2) remains subject to all supervisory and scope requirements pursuant to this chapter and shall provide the supervising physician and surgeon with all information related to their evaluation under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2).
- (c) The Medical Board of California may restrict a physician and surgeon to supervising specific types of physician assistants including, but not limited to, restricting a physician and surgeon from supervising physician assistants outside of the field of specialty of the physician and surgeon.
- (d) For purposes of this section:
  - (1) "In home health evaluation" means a comprehensive physical exam, assessment of current and prior health conditions, a complete medication review, screening tests, health education, and assessment of social determination of health needs to be used

for diagnosing individual medical conditions.

(2) "Annual wellness visit" means a preventive visit with correlating current procedural terminology codes performed annually to a patient, to be used for the purposes of diagnosing patient conditions during the annual wellness visit, which may include a nonphysical examination for patients covered by Medicare Part B for more than 12 months.

(Amended by Stats. 2023, Ch. 827, Sec. 1. (AB 1070) Effective January 1, 2024.)

- **3517.** (a) The board shall require a written examination of physician assistants in the manner and under the rules and regulations as it shall prescribe, but the examination shall be conducted in that manner as to ensure that the identity of each applicant taking the examination will be unknown to all of the examiners until all examination papers have been graded. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, or by regulation, no physician assistant applicant shall receive approval under this chapter without first successfully passing an examination given under the direction of the board.
- (b) Examinations for licensure as a physician assistant may be required by the board under a uniform examination system, and for that purpose the board may make those arrangements with organizations furnishing examination material as may, in its discretion, be desirable. The licensure examination for physician assistants shall be held by the board at least once a year with such additional examinations as the board deems necessary.

(Amended by Stats. 2021, Ch. 649, Sec. 36. (SB 806) Effective January 1, 2022.)

3518. The board shall keep a current register for licensed PAs, if applicable. The register shall show the name of each licensee, the licensee's last known address of record, and the date of the licensee's licensure. Any interested person is entitled to obtain a copy of the register in accordance with the Information Practices Act of 1977 (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 1798) of Title 1.8 of Part 4 of Division 3 of the Civil Code) upon application to the board together with a sum as may be fixed by the board, which amount shall not exceed the cost of this list so furnished.

(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 707, Sec. 9. (SB 697) Effective January 1, 2020.)

- 3519. The board shall issue a license to all physician assistant applicants who meet all of the following requirements:
- (a) Provide evidence of successful completion of an approved program.
- (b) Pass any examination required under Section 3517.
- (c) Not be subject to denial of licensure under Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) or Section 3527.
- (d) Pay all fees required under Section 3521.1.

(Amended by Stats. 2021, Ch. 649, Sec. 37. (SB 806) Effective January 1, 2022.)

- <u>3519.5.</u> (a) The board may issue a probationary license to an applicant subject to terms and conditions, including, but not limited to, any of the following conditions of probation:
  - (1) Practice limited to a supervised, structured environment where the applicant's activities shall be supervised by another physician assistant.
  - (2) Total or partial restrictions on issuing a drug order for controlled substances.
  - (3) Continuing medical or psychiatric treatment.
  - (4) Ongoing participation in a specified rehabilitation program.
  - (5) Enrollment and successful completion of a clinical training program.
  - (6) Abstention from the use of alcohol or drugs.
  - (7) Restrictions against engaging in certain types of medical services.
  - (8) Compliance with all provisions of this chapter.
- (b) The board may modify or terminate the terms and conditions imposed on the probationary license upon receipt of a petition from the licensee.
- (c) Enforcement and monitoring of the probationary conditions shall be under the jurisdiction of the board. These proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government

Code.

(Amended by Stats. 2021, Ch. 649, Sec. 38. (SB 806) Effective January 1, 2022.)