



**WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

**MAC WARNER**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

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OFFICE OF  
WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE

**FORM 6 -- NOTICE OF FINAL FILING AND ADOPTION OF A LEGISLATIVE RULE AUTHORIZED  
BY THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

AGENCY **Osteopathic Medicine**  
RULE TYPE **Legislative** AMENDMENT TO EXISTING RULE **Yes** TITLE-SERIES **24-02**  
RULE NAME **Osteopathic Physician Assistants**

CITE AUTHORITY **W. Va. Code § 30-1-7(a), §30-3E-3(a)(1)-(10)**

|                             |                   |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| HOUSE OR SENATE BILL NUMBER | SECTION           | PASSED ON         |
| <b>2219</b>                 | <b>64-9-11(b)</b> | <b>04/08/2017</b> |

THIS RULE IS FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THIS RULE BECOMES EFFECTIVE ON THE  
FOLLOWING DATE

**Saturday, July 01, 2017**

THIS RULE SHALL TERMINATE AND HAVE NO FURTHER FORCE OF EFFECT FROM THE  
FOLLOWING DATE

**Friday, April 08, 2022**

**Diana K Shepard -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in  
accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.**



Title-Series: 24-02



Rule Id: 10252



Document: 49335

**TITLE 24  
LEGISLATIVE RULES  
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**

**SERIES 2  
OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**

**§24-2-1. General.**

1.1. Scope. -- This rule relates to physician assistants and to their licensing, practice, complaint procedures and professional discipline, and continuing education.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code § 30-1-7(a), §30-3E-3(a)(1)-(10).

1.3. Filing Date. -- May 9, 2017

1.4. Effective Date. -- July 1, 2017

1.5. Sunset Provision. – This rule shall terminate and have no further force or effect on April 20, 2022.

**§24-2-2. Definitions.**

2.1. For purposes of this rule, the following words and terms mean the following:

2.1.a. “Advanced duties” means medical acts that require additional training beyond the basic education program training required for licensure as a physician assistant.

2.1.b. “Alternate supervising physician” means one or more physicians licensed in this state and designated by the supervising physician to provide supervision of a physician assistant in accordance with an authorized practice agreement.

2.1.c. “Antineoplastics” means chemotherapeutic agents used in the active treatment of current cancer.

2.1.d. “Authorization to practice” means written notification from the Board that a physician assistant may commence practice pursuant to an authorized practice agreement.

2.1.e. “Authorized practice agreement” means a practice agreement which has been authorized by the Board.

2.1.f. “Board” means the West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

2.1.g. “Chronic condition” is a condition which lasts three months or more, generally cannot be prevented by vaccines, can be controlled but not cured by medication and does not generally disappear.

These conditions include anemia, anxiety, arthritis, asthma, bladder outlet obstruction, cardiovascular and pulmonary disease, cancer, controlled diabetes, epilepsy and seizures, thyroid disease, and obesity, and do not include chronic pain or any condition which requires antineoplastics excluded from the physician assistant formulary by law, all subject to the scope of practice of the physician assistant and supervising physician as set forth in W. Va. Code § 30-3E-1 et seq., subsection 9 of this rule, and the approved formulary.

2.1.h. “Controlled substances” means drugs that are classified by federal or state law in Schedules I, II, III, IV or V, as defined in W. Va. Code § 60A-2-204 through 212.

2.1.i. “Core duties” means medical acts that are included in the standard curricula of accredited physician assistant education programs.

2.1.j. “Direct supervision” means the supervising physician must be present on site and immediately available to furnish assistance and directions to the physician assistant.

2.1.k. “Drug diversion training and best practice prescribing of controlled substances training” means training which includes all of the following:

2.1.k.1. Drug diversion, including West Virginia statistics on prescription drug abuse and resulting deaths.

2.1.k.2. Epidemiology of chronic pain and misuse of opioids.

2.1.k.3. Indication for opioids in chronic pain treatment including general characteristics, toxicities and drug interactions.

2.1.k.4. Examination of patient evaluation and risk assessment and tools to assess risk and monitor benefits.

2.1.k.5. Initiation and ongoing management of chronic pain patient treated with opioid based therapies, including treatment objectives; monitoring and periodic review; referrals and consultations; informed consent; prescription of controlled substance agreements, urine screens and pill counts; patient education on safe use, storage and disposal of opioids; discontinuation of opioids for pain due to lack of benefits or increased risks; documentation and medical records.

2.1.k.6. Case study of a patient with chronic pain.

2.1.k.7. Identification of diversion and drug seeking tactics and behaviors.

2.1.k.8. Best practice methods for working with patients suspected of drug seeking behavior and diversion.

2.1.k.9. Compliance with controlled substances laws and rules.

2.1.k.10. Registration with and use of the West Virginia Controlled Substances Monitoring Program established in West Virginia Code Chapter 60A, Article 9.

2.1.k.11. Maintenance of a record of attendance of each individual who successfully completes the drug diversion training and best practice prescribing of controlled substances training.

2.1.l. “Endorsement” means a summer camp or volunteer endorsement to practice as a physician assistant under West Virginia Code § 30-3E-1.

2.1.m. “Health Care Facility” means any licensed hospital, nursing home, extended care facility, state health or mental institution, clinic or physician’s office.

2.1.n. “Hospital” means a facility licensed pursuant to article five-b, chapter sixteen of this code, and any acute-care facility operated by the state government that primarily provides inpatient diagnostic, treatment or rehabilitative services to injured, disabled or sick persons under the supervision of physicians and includes psychiatric hospitals.

2.1.o. “License” means a license issued by the Board to a physician assistant applicant pursuant to the provisions of this article.

2.1.p. “Licensee” means a physician assistant licensed pursuant to the provisions of W. Va. Code §30-3E-1 et. seq. and the provisions of this legislative rule.

2.1.q. “Licensure” means the approval of individuals by the Board to practice as a physician assistant to an osteopathic medical doctor, and the process of application and consideration for this authorization.

2.1.r. “NCCPA” means The National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants.

2.1.s. “Opioid” means natural and semi-synthetic derivatives of the opium poppy, as well as similar synthetic compounds that have analgesic or pain relieving properties because of their effects in the central nervous system. These include, but are not limited to, codeine, morphine, hydromorphone, hydrocodone, oxycodone, methadone, and fentanyl.

2.1.t. “Medical Board” means the West Virginia Board of Medicine.

2.1.u. “Personal supervision” means the supervising physician must be in attendance in the room with the physician assistant throughout the rendering of care by the physician assistant.

2.1.v. “Physician” means a doctor of allopathic or osteopathic medicine who is fully licensed by this Board or the Board of Medicine to practice medicine or surgery in this state.

2.1.w. “Physician Assistant” means a person who meets the qualifications set forth in the Physician Assistants Practice Act, W. Va. Code §30-3E-1 et seq., and is licensed to practice medicine under supervision.

2.1.x. "Practice Agreement" means a document that is executed between a supervising physician and a physician assistant pursuant to the provisions of Physician Assistants Practice Act, W. Va. Code §30-3E-1 *et seq.*, and section 11 of this rule, and is filed with and approved by the Board.

2.1.y. "Prescription drug" or "legend drug" means a drug that may be dispensed under federal or state law only pursuant to the prescription of an authorized prescriber.

2.1.z. "Primary place of practice" means each practice location where a physician assistant practices greater than twenty percent of his or her total monthly practice hours pursuant to an authorized practice agreement.

2.1.aa. "Protocol" means written treatment instructions prepared by a supervising physician for use by a physician assistant. The instructions should be flexible, in accordance with the setting where the physician assistant is employed.

2.1.bb. "Supervision" means overseeing the activities of, and accepting responsibility for, the medical services rendered by a physician assistant.

2.1.cc. "Supervising Physician" means a doctor of osteopathic medicine fully licensed, without restriction or limitation, who supervises physician assistants.

### **§24-2-3. Qualification and Application for Licensure to Practice as a Physician Assistant.**

3.1. Minimum qualifications for licensure as a physician assistant are set forth in West Virginia Code §30-3E-4.

3.2. An application for a license to practice as a physician assistant shall be completed on a form provided by the Board. The board will not consider an application or decide upon the issuance of a license to an applicant until the complete application, including all third-party documentation or verification, is on file with the board and the board has had at least fifteen days to review the application. An application for licensure must be accompanied by payment of a nonrefundable application fee in an amount established by 24 CSR 5.

3.3. The Board's physician assistant licensure application ~~form~~ shall include, and applicants must provide, the following information:

3.3.a. The applicant's name, e-mail address, home address, preferred mailing address and primary practice location address(es) telephone numbers and email address;

3.3.b. Demographic information of the applicant, such as date of birth, sex, etc.;

3.3.c. A photograph taken within the previous twelve (12) months which substantially resembles the applicant;

3.3.d. Documentation establishing that the applicant:

3.3.d.1. Obtained a baccalaureate or master's degree from an accredited program of instruction for physician assistants;

3.3.d.2. Graduated from an approved program of instruction in primary health care or surgery prior to July 1, 1994;

3.3.e. Documentation that the applicant has passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination administered by the NCCPA and is currently certified by the NCCPA;

3.3.f. Documentation and/or certification which establishes that the applicant does not hold a physician assistant license, certification or registration in any jurisdiction which is currently suspended or revoked;

3.3.g. Information with respect to the applicant's character and fitness to practice as a physician assistant;

3.3.h. Other information as determined by the Board which relates to whether the applicant is mentally and physically able to engage safely in practice as a physician assistant; and

3.3.i. Any additional information identified by the Board for licensure.

3.3.j. Submission to a state and national criminal history record check, based on fingerprints submitted to the West Virginia State Police or its assigned agent for forwarding to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, pursuant to West Virginia Code § 30-1D-1 et seq.. The applicant must pay all costs associated with the criminal history record check. Should criminal offenses be reported on an applicant's criminal history record check, the Board will consider the nature, severity, and recency of offenses, as well as rehabilitation and other factors on a case by case basis for licensure. Criminal history record checks shall be verified by a source acceptable to the Board, other than the applicant.

3.4. The Board may require production of original documents and/or certified documents in support of an application for licensure. The applicant will provide all documentation required by the board and the West Virginia Code. The application, together with all documents submitted, becomes the property of the Board and will not be returned.

3.5. Any applicant may be required to appear before Board members at a meeting at which his or her application may be considered. The purpose of required attendance at a Board meeting is to enable the Board to clarify information contained in the application.

3.6. The burden of satisfying the Board of the applicant's qualifications for licensure is upon the applicant. The Board may deny an application for a physician assistant license to any applicant determined to be unqualified for licensure by the Board.

#### **§24-2-4. Special Licenses and/or Endorsements.**

4.1. To the extent authorized by W. Va. Code §30-3E-15, a physician assistant licensed by this Board may apply for an endorsement to practice at a summer camp or as a volunteer at a community event by completing the application form prepared by the Board. No application fee shall be assessed with respect to an application made under this section. The Board may authorize its staff to issue summer camp and community event endorsements to any applicant who holds an unrestricted license issued by the Board and has submitted a complete and timely application.

4.2. To the extent authorized by W. Va. Code §30-3E-16, a physician assistant currently holding a license, registration or certification to practice in another jurisdiction may apply for an endorsement to practice at a summer camp or as a volunteer at a community event by completing the application form prepared by the Board and submitting a fee equal to the fee set by the Board for a temporary license.

4.3. The board will not consider an application for a summer camp or a community event volunteer license or endorsement made pursuant to W. Va. Code §30-3E-16 until the complete application is on file with the board, the appropriate fee has been submitted, and the board has had at least fifteen days to review the application.

#### **§24-2-5. License Renewal.**

5.1. With the exception of an initial license, a license to practice as a physician assistant is issued for a term of two (2) years. An initial license expires on the thirty-first day of March two years from the initial issuance for physician assistant license renewal. Physician assistants whose initial licenses are issued between the first of January and the thirty-first day of March are not required to renew their license prior to the thirty-first day of March.

5.2. A license shall expire, if not renewed by the renewal deadline, which shall be set by the Board and published on the Board's website.

5.3. A physician assistant license shall be renewed upon timely submission of a fully completed renewal application form and payment of a nonrefundable renewal fee in an amount established by the Board under 24 CSR 5.

5.4. The Board will make available to each licensee a renewal form on the Board's website. The licensee will inform the Board of the licensee's preferred mailing address and to alert the Board of any changes or updates to the preferred mailing address on record with the Board.

5.5. The licensee will acquire and submit renewal application forms. Failure of the licensee to receive notice of required renewal from the Board will not constitute justification for any physician assistant to practice on an expired license, even if the physician assistant is otherwise authorized to practice as a physician assistant under a current practice agreement.

5.6. The Board's physician assistant renewal application form shall include, and applicants must provide, the following information:

5.6.a. The applicant's name, e-mail address, home address, preferred mailing address and primary practice location address(es) and telephone numbers;

5.6.b. Demographic information of the applicant, such as date of birth, sex, etc.;

5.6.c. A statement concerning any disciplinary action taken against the applicant in the last two (2) years in any jurisdiction;

5.6.d. Information with respect to the applicant's character and fitness to practice as a physician assistant;

5.6.e. A statement of all other jurisdictions in which the applicant is licensed to practice as a physician assistant;

5.6.f. Documentation of current and continuous NCCPA certification;

5.6.g. Certification of successful completion of all continuing education requirements;

5.6.h. An attestation by the physician assistant and supervising physician that, to the extent he or she has been authorized to work pursuant to a practice agreement during the last two (2) years, the physician assistant has practiced under supervision and within the delegation of duties set forth in the licensee's authorized practice agreement(s); and

5.6.i. Any other information required by the Board for renewal of a license.

5.7. The license of a physician assistant who fails to certify his or her successful completion of all continuing education requirements by the renewal deadline established by the Board shall automatically expire.

#### **§24-2-6. Termination of License.**

6.1. A licensed physician assistant must immediately notify the Board, in writing, upon losing NCCPA certification. Failure to immediately report the loss of NCCPA certification shall constitute unprofessional, dishonorable and/or unethical conduct which may result in the imposition of discipline against the licensee. Notification to the Board shall be considered to have occurred as required if such notification is received within one business day of the effective date of the loss of NCCPA certification.

6.2. If a licensee is no longer certified by the NCCPA, his or her license automatically terminates without notice to the physician assistant.

6.3. Upon loss of NCCPA certification and/or license termination, a physician assistant must immediately cease practicing as a physician assistant and notify all supervising physicians of the loss of NCCPA certification, licensure and Board authorization to practice. All practice agreement authorizations issued by the Board automatically terminate with the expiration of NCCPA certification and the termination of licensure.



6.4. A physician assistant becomes eligible for reinstatement of a terminated license once he or she becomes recertified by the NCCPA.

#### **§24-2-7. Reinstatement of an Expired or Terminated License.**

7.1. A physician assistant may seek reinstatement of an expired license within one year of the expiration by submitting:

7.1.a. A complete reinstatement application with all required supporting documentation;

7.1.b. Proof that he or she is currently certified, and has been continuously certified during the preceding licensure period and expiration period, by the NCCPA;

7.1.c. A renewal fee; and

7.1.d. A reinstatement fee equal to fifty percent of the renewal fee.

7.2. If greater than one year has passed since a physician assistant's license automatically expired, the physician assistant may only reinstate by completing the application process and meeting all of the qualifications for an initial license.

7.3. A physician assistant may seek reinstatement of an automatically terminated license within one year of termination by submitting:

7.3.a. A complete reinstatement application with all required supporting documentation;

7.3.b. Proof that the physician assistant has passed his or her most recent NCCPA certification and/or recertification examination and that he or she has had his or her NCCPA certification restored;

7.3.c. A reinstatement fee equal to fifty percent of the renewal fee; and

7.3.d. Any renewal application and fee which the physician assistant would have submitted had his or her license not automatically terminated.

7.4. If a physician assistant is not eligible for reinstatement of a terminated license within one year of the termination date, the physician assistant may only reinstate by completing the application process and meeting all of the qualifications for an initial license.

#### **§24-2-8. Practice Requirements.**

8.1. A physician assistant may not practice independent of a supervising physician.

8.2. To practice as a physician assistant under the supervision, a person must:

8.2.a. Be licensed as a physician assistant by the Board;

8.2.b. Submit a practice agreement on a form authorized by the Board with the appropriate fee;

8.2.c. Receive authorization from the Board to practice pursuant to the submitted practice agreement;

8.2.d. Limit his or her practice to the delegated medical acts contained within the physician assistant's authorized practice agreement.

#### **§24-2-9. Physician Assistant's Scope of Practice.**

9.1. A physician assistant shall have, as a minimum, the knowledge and competency to perform the following core duties under appropriate physician supervision:

9.1.a. Screen patients to determine the need for medical attention;

9.1.b. Review patient records to determine health status;

9.1.c. Take a patient history;

9.1.d. Perform a physical examination;

9.1.e. Perform development screening examinations on children;

9.1.f. Record pertinent patient data;

9.1.g. Make decisions regarding data gathering and appropriate management and treatment of patients being seen for the initial evaluation of a problem or the follow-up evaluation of a previously diagnosed and stabilized condition;

9.1.h. Prepare patient summaries;

9.1.i. Initiate requests for commonly performed initial laboratory studies;

9.1.j. Collect specimens for and carry out commonly performed blood, urine and stool analyses and cultures;

9.1.k. Identify normal and abnormal findings in patient history and physical examination and in commonly performed laboratory studies;

9.1.l. Initiate appropriate evaluation and emergency management for emergency situations; for example, cardiac arrest, respiratory distress, injuries, burns and hemorrhage;

9.1.m. Provide counseling and instruction regarding common patient problems and/or questions;

9.1.n. Execute documents at the direction of and for the supervising physician;

- 9.1.o. Perform clinical procedures such as, but not limited to:
- 9.1.o.1. Venipuncture;
  - 9.1.o.2. Electrocardiogram;
  - 9.1.o.3. Care and suturing of minor lacerations, which may include injection of local anesthesia;
  - 9.1.o.4. Casting and splinting;
  - 9.1.o.5. Control of external hemorrhage;
  - 9.1.o.6. Application of dressings and bandages;
  - 9.1.o.7. Removal of superficial foreign bodies;
  - 9.1.o.8. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
  - 9.1.o.9. Audiometry screening;
  - 9.1.o.10. Visual screening; and
  - 9.1.o.11. Carry out aseptic and isolation techniques;
- 9.1.p. Assist in surgery;
- 9.1.q. Prepare patient discharge summaries if physician assistant has been directly involved in patient care; and
- 9.1.r. Assist physician under personal supervision in a manner by which to learn and become proficient in new procedures.
- 9.2. In addition to core duties, a physician assistant may perform properly delegated medical acts within a medical specialty that he or she, by education, training and/or experience has the knowledge and competency to perform.
- 9.3. A physician assistant may pronounce death provided that:
- 9.3.a. The delegation of this duty is contained in his or her authorized practice agreement;
  - 9.3.b. The physician assistant has a need to do so within his or her scope of practice; and
  - 9.3.c. That the pronouncement is in accordance with applicable West Virginia law and rules.

9.4. A physician assistant may, under appropriate direction and supervision by a physician, augment the physician's data gathering abilities in order to assist the supervising physician in reaching decisions and instituting care plans for the physician's patients.

9.5. Unless prohibited by the place of practice, a physician assistant may sign orders to be countersigned later by his or her supervising physician.

9.6. A supervising physician may delegate limited prescriptive authority to a physician assistant in accordance with the provision of subsections 11 and 12 of this rule.

9.7. A physician assistant may not perform any services which his or her supervising physician is not qualified to perform, including the treatment of chronic conditions.

9.8. A physician assistant may not perform any services which are not included in his or her authorized practice agreement.

9.9. A physician assistant may not maintain an independent place of practice or independently bill patients for services provided.

9.10. A physician assistant may not independently delegate a task assigned to him or her by his or her supervising physician to another individual.

9.11. A supervising physician may, with due regard for the safety of the patient and in keeping with sound medical practice, delegate to the physician assistant those medical procedures and other tasks that are customary to the supervising physician's practice, subject to the limitations set forth in this section and the West Virginia Physician Assistants Practice Act, W. Va. Code §30-3E-1 et seq., and the training and expertise of the physician assistant.

#### **§24-2-10. Responsibilities of the Supervising Physician.**

10.1. A supervising physician is responsible for observing, directing and evaluating the work, records and practices performed by the physician assistant pursuant to an authorized practice agreement and is legally responsible for the practice of the physician assistant at all times.

10.2. A supervising physician may not permit a physician assistant to practice independently or maintain an independent place of practice.

10.3. A supervising physician is responsible for providing continuous supervision of the physician assistant. Constant physical presence of the supervising physician is not required as long as the supervising physician and physician assistant are, or can be, easily in contact with one another by electronic communication.

10.4. Supervision does not require the constant personal presence of the supervising physician at the place or places where services are rendered.

10.5. Appropriate supervision shall include:

10.5.a. Active and continuing overview of the physician assistant's activities to determine that the supervising physician's directions are being implemented;

10.5.b. Immediate availability of the supervising physician, either in-person or by electronic communication of any kind, to the physician assistant for all necessary consultations;

10.5.c. Personal and regular review, at least monthly, by the supervising physician of selected patient records upon which entries are made by the physician assistant. The supervising physician shall select patient records for review on the basis of written criteria established by the supervising physician and the physician assistant and the chart review shall be sufficient in number to assure adequate review of the physician assistant's scope of practice; and

10.5.d. Periodic, in person, education and review sessions discussing specific conditions, protocols, procedures and specific patients, held by the supervising physician for the physician assistant under his or her supervision. Such periodic in person meetings must occur monthly, and the supervising physician and physician assistant must retain written documentation of the meetings.

10.6. A supervising physician shall only delegate medical acts that are:

10.6.a. Within the scope of practice of the supervising physician;

10.6.b. Suitable to be performed by the physician assistant, taking into account the physician assistant's education, training and level of competence and experience; and

10.6.c. Included in the physician assistant's authorized practice agreement.

10.7. A patient being treated for a chronic, degenerative, or disabling condition shall be seen by the supervising physician as frequently as the patient's condition requires.

10.8. The supervising physician will ensure that supervision is maintained in his or her absence. A supervising physician may designate alternate supervising physicians. To serve as an alternate supervising physician, an individual must hold an unrestricted license to practice osteopathic or allopathic medicine and surgery in this state. An alternate supervising physician, jointly with the supervising physician, shall be legally responsible for the acts of a physician assistant which occur during periods of time where the alternate supervising physician is providing supervision for the physician assistant. An alternate supervising physician shall accept supervisory responsibility for periods of time not to exceed the time period specified in the practice agreement, which may not exceed forty-five (45) days.

10.9. An alternate supervising physician shall supervise the physician assistant in accordance with an authorized practice agreement and shall only delegate medical acts that are:

10.9.a. Contained within the authorized practice agreement; and

10.9.b. Within the scope of practice of both the supervising physician and the alternate supervising physician.

10.10. A supervising physician may enter into practice agreements with up to five physician assistants at any one time.

10.11. A physician is prohibited from serving as a supervising physician or alternate supervising physician for greater than five physician assistants at any one time. However, a physician practicing medicine in an emergency department of a hospital or a physician who supervises a physician assistant who is employed by or on behalf of a hospital may provide supervision for up to five physician assistants per shift if the physician has an authorized practice agreement in place with the supervised physician assistant or the physician has been properly authorized as an alternate supervising physician for each physician assistant.

10.12. In the event of the sudden departure, incapacity, or death of a supervising physician, a designated alternate supervising physician may assume the role of supervising physician in order to provide continuity of care for the patients of the former supervising physician. A physician who assumes the responsibility of primary supervising physician shall submit a complete practice agreement to the appropriate licensing board within 15 days of assuming the responsibility.

#### **§24-2-11. Practice Agreements.**

11.1. A proposed practice agreement shall be completed on a form provided by the Board and shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee. The fee for the submission of a practice agreement shall be established by 24 CSR 5.

11.2. The proposed practice agreement shall include:

11.2.a. A description of the qualifications of the supervising physician, the alternate supervising physicians, if applicable, and the physician assistant;

11.2.b. The scope of practice of the supervising physician;

11.2.c. The settings in which the physician assistant will practice and a list of the physician assistant's primary place(s) of practice;

11.2.d. A description of the continuous physician supervision mechanisms that are reasonable and appropriate for the practice setting, and the experience and training of the physician assistant;

11.2.e. The delegated medical acts which the physician assistant will perform, including:

11.2.e.1. Core duties;

11.2.e.2. Any advanced duties;

11.2.e.3. Any prescriptive privileges; and

11.2.e.4. A description of any medical care the physician assistant will provide in an emergency, including a definition of an emergency;

11.2.f. An attestation by the supervising physician that the medical acts to be delegated are:

11.2.f.1. Within the supervising physician's scope of practice; and

11.2.f.2. Appropriate to the physician assistant's education, training and level of competence;

11.2.g. A description of how the physician assistant's performance will be evaluated; and

11.2.h. Any other information deemed necessary by the Board to carry out the provisions of the West Virginia Physician Assistants Practice Act, W. Va. Code §30-3E-1 *et seq.*

11.3. If a practice agreement includes delegation of one or more advanced duties, the practice agreement shall include the following additional information and documentation:

11.3.a. For advanced duties to be performed at hospital or ambulatory surgical facility:

11.3.a.1. A description of the advanced duty and the education, training, and experience that qualifies the physician assistant to perform the advanced duty;

11.3.a.2. Certification that the supervising physician and physician assistant are credentialed by the hospital or ambulatory surgical facility; and

11.3.a.3. A copy of the approved delineation of duties from the governing board of the health care facility stating that the physician assistant has been approved by the facility to perform the advanced duty;

11.3.b. For all other practice locations:

11.3.b.1. A description of the advanced duties to be delegated;

11.3.b.2. Documentation of the specialized education, training, or experience received by the physician assistant in order to perform the advanced duties; and

11.3.b.c. The level of supervision that the supervising physician will use when the physician assistant is performing the advanced duty.

11.4. A physician assistant may not commence practice pursuant to a practice agreement until he or she receives written authorization from the Board.

11.5. Upon receipt of a proposed practice agreement and the appropriate fee the Board, through its staff, shall issue a letter of authorization to practice pursuant to the proposed practice agreement if:

11.5.a. The proposed practice agreement is adequate;

11.5.b. The physician assistant holds an unrestricted license;

11.5.c. Based upon the submitted information, it appears that the physician assistant is able to perform the proposed delegated duties safely; and

11.5.d. The practice agreement:

11.5.d.1. Does not contain the proposed delegation of any advanced duties;

11.5.d.2. Proposes the delegation of advanced duties at a hospital or ambulatory surgical center;

11.5.d.3. Proposes the delegation of advanced duties that the physician assistant has previously been authorized by the Board to perform; or

11.5.d.4. Proposes only those advanced duties for which general approval protocol has been established by the Board and the physician assistant has met such protocol.

11.6. Proposed practice agreements which are not approved pursuant to the criteria established in section 11.4 of this rule shall be considered by the Board. When a practice agreement is to be reviewed by the Board because of the inclusion of certain proposed advanced duties, Board staff may issue the physician assistant authorization to practice pursuant to all portions of the practice agreement which do not require Board review.

11.7. Prior to making a determination with regard to a proposed practice agreement, the Board may request additional information from the supervising physician and/or the physician assistant, either through an appearance or through written documentation, to evaluate the proposed delegation of duties.

11.8. Where necessary to ensure patient safety, the Board may authorize a physician assistant to practice or perform certain medical acts under direct supervision or personal supervision for a period of time so that the Board and the supervising physician may assess the ability of the physician assistant to perform the tasks safely.

11.9. The Board may decline to authorize a physician assistant to commence practice pursuant to a proposed practice agreement if the board determines that:

11.9.a. The practice agreement is inadequate;

11.9.b. The proposed delegation exceeds the appropriate scope of practice; or



11.9.c. The supervising physician and physician assistant have failed to establish that physician assistant is able to perform the proposed delegated duties safely.

11.10. A new practice agreement, with the required fee, must be filed for approval by the Board if:

11.10.a. A supervising physician and physician assistant seek to alter, amend or add to the delegated medical acts incorporated into an approved practice agreement;

11.10.b. A supervising physician and physician assistant seek to alter the physician assistant's practice setting and/or principle place of practice;

11.10.c. A physician assistant seeks to enter into a practice agreement with a different supervising physician;

11.10.d. A physician assistant seeks to resume practice after reinstatement of licensure; or

11.10.e. The Board has requested the submission of a revised practice agreement as a result of any investigation, discipline or audit activity it has undertaken.

11.11. A supervising physician may amend a physician assistant's authorized list of alternate supervisors on a Board approved form without resubmitting the entire practice agreement for approval. The Board may designate a fee for the submission of changes to a physician assistant's alternate supervisors. Any such fee shall be established by the Board under West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine Rule 24 CSR 5, Fees for Services Rendered by the Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

11.12. A physician assistant may simultaneously maintain practice agreements with more than one supervising physician if:

11.12.a. The physician assistant's scope of professional duties requires multiple physician supervisors; or

11.12.b. The physician assistant has more than one employer.

11.13. A supervising physician or a physician assistant may terminate a practice agreement. A physician assistant shall immediately cease practicing upon the termination of a practice agreement. The physician assistant must notify the Board, in writing, within ten days of the termination of any practice agreement.

#### **§24-2-12. Delegation of Prescriptive Authority.**

12.1. A supervising physician may delegate limited prescriptive authority to a physician assistant in a practice agreement if:

12.1.a. The physician assistant has performed patient care services for a minimum of two years immediately preceding the request;

12.1.b The physician assistant has successfully completed an accredited course of instruction in clinical pharmacology approved by the Board of not less than 4 semester hours. The Board may, at its discretion, grant up to one credit hour equivalent for 2 or more years of prescribing experience in other jurisdictions;

12.1.c. The physician assistant provides evidence of successful completion of a minimum of three (3) hours of drug diversion training and best practice prescribing of controlled substances training through a Board approved course within two (2) years prior to his or her application submission to the Board for limited prescriptive privileges; and

12.1.d. The supervising physician and physician assistant attest that:

12.1.d.1. The physician assistant has successfully completed the necessary requirements to be eligible to prescribe pursuant to a practice agreement;

12.1.d.2. All prescribing activities of the physician assistant shall comply with applicable federal and state law governing the practice of physician assistants the Board approved limitations on physician assistant prescribing;

12.1.d.3 All medical charts or records shall contain a notation of any prescriptions written by a physician assistant; and

12.1.d.4. All prescriptions, including electronic prescriptions, written by the physician assistant will include the physician assistant's name and the supervising physician's name, business address and business telephone number.

12.2. To delegate prescriptive authority, the supervising physician shall ensure that the practice agreement includes a clear delineation of the delegated authority and whether it includes the prescribing, administering, dispensing and/or ordering of drugs and/or medical devices.

12.3. On an annual basis, the Board shall approve and publish on its website a list classifying pharmacologic categories of all drugs which physician assistants are prohibited from prescribing. This list shall, at a minimum, prohibit physician assistants from prescribing:

12.3.a. Schedules I and II of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act,

12.3.b. Greater than a 72-hour supply of any drug listed under Schedule III of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act;

12.3.c. Antineoplastics and chemotherapeutic agents used in the active treatment of current cancer; and

12.3.d. Radio-pharmaceuticals, general anesthetics and radiographic contrast materials.

12.4. A practice agreement may not delegate the prescribing of any drug that the Board has prohibited physician assistants from prescribing.

12.5. A supervising physician who seeks to delegate prescribing authority to a physician assistant shall provide the physician assistant with treatment protocols which identify maximum prescribing dosages. Prescriptions written by a physician assistant shall be issued consistent with the supervising physician's directions and treatment protocol, and in no case may the dosage exceed the manufacturer's recommended average therapeutic dose for the prescribed drug.

12.6. Each prescription and subsequent refills given by the physician assistant shall be entered on the patient's chart.

12.7. Physician assistants authorized to issue prescriptions for Schedules III through V controlled substances shall include the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration number issued to that physician assistant. Prescriptions written for Schedule III drugs shall be limited to a seventy-two (72) hour supply and may not authorize a refill. The maximum amount of Schedule IV or Schedule V drugs shall be no more than ninety (90) dosage units or a thirty (30) day supply, whichever is less, and may not authorize a refill.

12.8. Prescriptions for other legend drugs shall not be prescribed or refillable for a period exceeding six (6) months, except that an annual supply of any drug, other than a controlled substance, may be prescribed for the treatment of a chronic condition as defined in 2.1.g., other than chronic pain management: Provided, an annual supply may be prescribed or dispensed in smaller increments, at the discretion of the practitioner, in order to assess the drug's therapeutic efficacy: Provided further, the chronic disease being treated shall be noted on each such prescription by the physician assistant.

12.9. Upon receipt of a written request from the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy, the Board of Osteopathic Medicine shall provide the Board of Pharmacy with a list of physician assistants with limited prescriptive privileges along with the categories of drugs or drugs within a category that the physician assistant has been authorized to prescribe.

12.10. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to permit any physician assistant to independently prescribe or dispense drugs.

#### **§24-2-13. Continuing Medical Education Requirements.**

13.1. A physician assistant is required to complete a minimum of (100) hours of continuing education during each two year licensure cycle. A minimum of fifty hours shall be designated as Category I by either the American Medical Association, American Academy of Physician Assistants or the Academy of Family Physicians. The remaining hours may be obtained from Category I or Category II.

13.2. (3) hours of the required (100) hours continuing education hours must include a Board approved course on drug diversion training and best practice prescribing of controlled substances training. If a physician assistant has not prescribed, administered or dispensed any controlled substances during a two year licensure cycle, the physician assistant may, as part of his or her renewal application, request a

waiver from the Board for this continuing education requirement. However, the training must be completed prior to the submission of any proposed practice agreement which includes the delegation of any prescriptive privileges or duties relating to the administration or dispensing of prescription drugs.

13.3. An applicant for licensure renewal shall timely submit to the Board a certification of the successful completion of the required hours of continuing education satisfactory to the Board during the preceding two (2) year period. The certification shall include an attestation by the renewal applicant that the continuing education certification is true and correct.

13.4. The Board may conduct such audits and investigations as it considers necessary to determine if licensees are complying with continuing education requirements and if the statements made on the Board's renewal application forms as to continuing education are accurate.

13.5. Any licensee is required to provide supporting written documentation of the successful completion of the continuing education certified as received on the biennial renewal application form, if the Board requests such written documentation in writing. The licensee shall provide the Board with the written documentation so that it is received by the Board within thirty (30) days of the licensee's receipt of the written request.

13.6. Failure or refusal of a licensee to provide written documentation requested by the Board as set forth in section 13.5 of this rule is prima facie evidence of renewing a license to practice as a physician assistant by fraudulent misrepresentation and the licensee is subject to disciplinary proceedings pursuant to sections 15 and 16 of this rule.

#### **§24-2-14. Identification and Compliance Audits.**

14.1. Except as otherwise provided by law, when practicing as a physician assistant, a physician assistant must wear a name tag in a conspicuous manner which identifies the practitioner as a physician assistant. An individual may not identify himself or herself as a physician assistant unless licensed by this Board or the Medical Board.

14.2. A physician assistant shall keep his or her license and current practice agreement available for inspection at each of his or her primary places of practice.

14.3. A physician assistant shall notify the Board in writing of a change in the physician assistant's name or address within fifteen (15) days after the change.

14.4. The Board may review physician assistant utilization without prior notice to either the physician assistant or the supervising physician. An authorized representative or investigator for the Board may, without prior notice, enter at any reasonable hour a place of employment or practice of a physician or physician assistant or into public premises:

14.4.a. For the purpose of an audit to verify general compliance with the Physician Assistants Practice Act and this legislative rule; or

14.4.b. To investigate an allegation or complaint with respect to a supervising physician,

alternate supervising physician or physician assistant.

14.5. A person may not deny or interfere with an entry under this section.

14.6. The Board's representatives may require a physician, physician assistant, or facility where the physician assistant is employed or practicing to provide access to any records relating to the physician assistant's licensure, employment, credentialing, and practice and any medical records of patients seen by the physician assistant. It is a violation of this rule for a supervising physician or a physician assistant to refuse to undergo or cooperate with a review or audit by the Board.

14.7. The Board's representative shall refer possible compliance issues to the appropriate Committee of the Board and/or to any other agency that has jurisdiction over a facility, place of practice or practitioner.

#### **§24-2-15. Mental and Physical Examination.**

15.1. The board under any circumstances may require a licensed physician assistant or a person applying for licensure or other authorization to practice as a physician assistant in this state to submit to a physical or mental examination by a physician or physicians approved by the board. The expense of the examination shall be paid by the Board.

15.2. A physician assistant submitting to an examination has the right, at his or her expense, to designate another physician to be present at the examination and make an independent report to the Board.

15.3. Any individual who applies for or accepts the privilege of practicing as a physician assistant in this state is considered to have given his or her consent to submit to all examinations when requested to do so in writing by the Board and to have waived all objections to the admissibility of the testimony or examination report of any examining physician on the ground that the testimony or report is privileged communication.

15.4. If a person fails or refuses to submit to an examination under circumstances which the Board finds are not beyond his or her control, failure or refusal is prima facie evidence of his or her inability to practice as a physician assistant competently and in compliance with the standards of acceptable and prevailing physician assistant practice.

#### **§24-2-16. License Denial, Complaint and Disciplinary Procedures.**

16.1. The licensure denial, complaint and disciplinary process and procedures and appeal rights set forth in the contested case hearing procedure, W. Va. Code §29A-5-1 et seq., W. Va. Code §§30-14-11 and 30-14-12a and in the Board Procedural Rules W. Va. Code R. §24-3-1 et seq. and 24-6-1 et seq., also apply to physician assistants.

16.2. If the Board determines the evidence in its possession indicates that a physician assistant's continuation in practice or unrestricted practice constitutes an immediate danger to the public, the Board may take any of the actions provided in W. Va. Code R. §24-6-5.14 on a temporary basis and without a

hearing if institution of proceedings for a hearing before the Board are initiated simultaneously with the temporary action and begin within fifteen days of the action. The Board shall render its decision within five days of the conclusion of a hearing under this subsection.

**§24-2-17. Denial of Licensure and Discipline.**

17.1. The board may deny an application for license, or other authorization to practice as a physician assistant and may discipline a physician assistant licensed by the board who, after a hearing, has been adjudged by the Board as unqualified due to any of the following reasons:

17.1.a. Conduct by a physician assistant which is equivalent to any of the grounds cited for the discipline of physicians in W. Va. Code §§30-14-11 and 30-14-12a or section 13 of the board's rule 24-1-18, "Licensing Procedures for Physicians;"

17.1.b. Failure to comply with any portion of this rule, the provisions of W. Va. Code §30-3E-1 *et seq.* and any other rule of the Board;

17.1.c. Practicing as a physician assistant:

17.1.c.1. In the absence of an authorized practice agreement;

17.1.c.2. Outside or beyond the scope of an authorized practice agreement; or

17.1.c.3. Beyond his or her level of competence, education, training and/or experience;

17.1.d. Prescribing a prescription drug, including any controlled substance, which is not included an authorized practice agreement for that physician assistant or the Board has prohibited physician assistants from prescribing;

17.1.e. Prescribing any controlled substance to or for himself or herself, or to or for any member of his or her immediate family;

17.1.f. Failure of a physician assistant to:

17.1.f.1. Notify the Board that an authorized practice agreement has been terminated in the required time frame; or

17.1.f.2. Maintain a copy of his or her license and authorized practice agreement in each primary place of practice;

17.1.g. Independently billing for services rendered;

17.1.h. Impersonation of a licensed physician or another licensed physician assistant;

17.1.i. Misrepresentation that the physician assistant is a physician or that the physician assistant holds any position for which he or she is not qualified by license, training, or experience;

17.1.j. Knowingly permitting another person to misrepresent the physician assistant as a physician;

17.1.k. Misrepresentation or concealment of any material fact in obtaining any certification or license or a reinstatement of any certification or license related to his or her practice as a physician assistant.

17.2. If a physician assistant is found guilty of or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to any court of competent jurisdiction of any felony involving prescribing, selling, administering, dispensing, mixing or otherwise preparing any prescription drug, including any controlled substance under state or federal law, for other than generally accepted therapeutic purposes in a state or federal court of competent jurisdiction, the Board shall deny an application for licensure or revoke the physician assistant's license without resort to the procedures set forth in section 15 and 16 of this rule. A certified copy of the guilty verdict or plea rendered is sufficient proof for licensure denial or revocation.

17.3. If the Board determines that a physician assistant is unqualified, the Board may enter an order denying an application or imposing any limitation, restriction or other disciplinary measure set forth in W. Va. Code §§30-14-11 and 30-14-12a.

17.4. In their discretion, the Medical Board and this Board may refer and receive information from one another concerning:

17.4.a. Mutual applicants and/or licensees;

17.4.b. Information developed during the complaint and investigation process of one board which implicates or otherwise relates to licensees of the other board;

17.4.c. Complaints received or discovered by one board which relates to mutual licensees or licensees of the other board.