



State of West Virginia *Board of Medicine*

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SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 11 CSR 1B AND RESPONSES OF THE WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE

On June 24, 2025, the West Virginia Board of Medicine filed a Notice of Comment Period on a Proposed Rule, 11 CSR 1B. Series 1B is the Board's rule with regard to physician assistant licensure, practice requirements, disciplinary and complaint procedures and continuing education. The Notice established a thirty-day comment period on the proposed rule, which concluded at 4:30 pm on July 24, 2025. During the comment period, the Board received one comment¹ The Board has reviewed the comment received, and on July 24, 2025, the following response was authorized by the Board. A copy of this summary is being provided to the commenter.

Commenter	Date Received
Robert Johnstone, MD	July 7, 2025

Dr. Johnstone, an anesthesiologist in Morgantown, West Virginia, commented on the proposed rule and requested that the Board "add Anesthesiologists Assistants (AAs) to the PA regulations. WV is the only state in the area that does not have AAs practicing in it. The lack of AAs in WV is driving up the cost of anesthesia in the state and forcing WV graduates of AA training programs to move to other states. In most states AAs practice similarly to CRNAs" The commenter did not opine on the Board's proposed changes to the continuing education requirements for physician assistants.

Response: The Board appreciates Dr. Johnstone's interest in introducing Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants as a regulated and licensed profession in the state of West Virginia. According to the Association of Anesthesiologist Assistant Education Programs, "A Certified

Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA) is a person qualified by advanced education and clinical training to work cooperatively with an anesthesiologist in developing and implementing the anesthesia care plan. CAAs are non-physician anesthetists who practice as members of a physician led Anesthesia Care Team.” CAAs are specifically trained to work in the field of anesthesiology under the supervision of an anesthesiologist, while PAs have a broader scope of practice and can work in various medical specialties. The Board is not currently authorized to regulate CAAs, and the introduction of this profession into the Board of Medicine’s regulatory portfolio would require legislative action. The Board has made no changes to the proposed rule based upon this comment.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Board again expresses its appreciation to Dr. Johnstone for his interest in improving the healthcare environment in West Virginia, and his thoughtful comment directed at that goal.

¹ A copy of the comment received by the Board and the Board’s response thereto are attached to this summary.



Frame, Jamie C <jamie.c.frame@wv.gov>

Fwd: PA regulations

1 message

Frame, Jamie C <jamie.c.frame@wv.gov>
To: Jamie C Frame <jamie.c.frame@wv.gov>

Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 11:47 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Johnstone, Robert** <rojohnstone@hsc.wvu.edu>
Date: Mon, Jul 7, 2025 at 2:42 PM
Subject: PA regulations
To: Mark.A.Spangler@wv.gov <Mark.A.Spangler@wv.gov>

I am responding to the proposed regulations concerning Physicians Assistants.

Please add Anesthesiologists Assistants (AAs) to the PA regulations. WV is the only state in the area that does not have AAs practicing in it. The lack of AAs in WV is driving up the cost of anesthesia in the state and forcing WV graduates of AA training programs to move to other states. In most states AAs practice similarly to CRNAs.

Find more about certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants at www.nccaa.org.

Robert Johnstone, MD
Morgantown Anesthesiologist



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VICTORIA L. TARUBO, PA-C
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MARK A. SPANGLER, MA, CMBE
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July 25, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Robert Edmund Johnstone, MD
rejohnstone@hsc.wvu.edu

Re: Proposed Amendments to West Virginia Board of Medicine Rule 11 CSR 1B

Dear Dr. Johnstone:

Thank you for taking the time to review and comment on the Board's proposed amendments to rule 11 CSR 1B, *Licensure, Practice Requirements, Disciplinary and Complaint Procedures, Continuing Education, Physician Assistants*.

The Legislative Committee of the Board met on July 24, 2025, to review and consider all of the comments that were received. No modifications were made to the proposed rule in response to the comments it received. Enclosed please find the Board's *Summary of Comments Received Regarding Proposed Amendments to 11 CSR 1B and Responses of the West Virginia Board of Medicine* (without attachments).

The agency-approved version of 11 CSR 1B will be filed with the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office today and will be available for review on their website at <https://apps.sos.wv.gov/adlaw/cst/>. The enclosed summary, along with all comments, will also be available on the Secretary of State's website.

Thank you again for your participation in the rulemaking process and for your comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Spangler".

Mark A. Spangler

MAS/jef
Enclosure