

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**December 7, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:48 p.m. on Tuesday December 7, 2010.

Committee members present: Eric Luckage; Lance Talmage, M.D.; James Fry, P.A.-C.; John Jonesco, DO, and Eugene, Imbrogno, MD

Staff members present: Cathy Hacker, Sara Vollmer and Sallie Debolt.

Guests: Beth Adamson, Executive Director, OAPA

***I. Review of the October 12, 2010 minutes.***

Mr. Fry requested that Ms. Hacker amend these minutes to reflect that in the discussion regarding whether or not a PA can delegate the administration of medicine to an unlicensed person that he disagreed with the reading of the rule by Ms. Debolt. He stated that he felt that Ms. Debolt was over reading the rule.

Ms. Hacker stated that she would make the amendment and bring these minutes back to the next available meeting for a vote.

***II. Formulary rule review***

There was no discussion on the formulary due to the lack of Pharmacist members.

***III. Review of specials services applications***

The committee began the meeting by reviewing the special services application from **Mt. Carmel Heartland** that is requesting approval of an amendment to their previously approved special services for cardiac stress testing.

This group's application was previously approved for 100% direct supervision and the physician is now requesting approval of 100% onsite supervision. The committee recognized that this is in keeping with previous approvals of these types of applications.

Dr. Talmage moved to approve this application. Dr. Imbrogno seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.

The committee then considered the special services application from **Dr. Blanchard's Plastic Surgery Center** that is requesting the approval of: dermal filler injections.

Dr. Talmage noted that in the past the Board has not approved the requests for dermal filler injections as there is too much room for patient harm and patient dissatisfaction. Dr. Jonesco moved to deny this request for the reasons stated. Dr. Imbrogno seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.

The committee then considered the special services application from **Dr. George Drew** that is requesting approval of: cryotherapy.

This application had been tabled at the October 2010 PAPC meeting. The committee had requested that Dr. Drew see evaluate and make the decision that cryotherapy was the appropriate treatment for the lesion prior to the PA performing the procedure. Dr. Drew has sent in a statement agreeing to see evaluate and make the decision that cryotherapy was the appropriate treatment for the lesion prior to the PA performing the procedure

Dr. Talmage moved to approve this application. Dr. Jonesco seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.

The committee then considered the special services application from **Dr. Julian Trevino** hat is requesting approval of: cryotherapy.

Dr. Trevino cited in his application a section of the March 2010 PAPC meeting minutes where it was noted that the committee felt that cryotherapy could be performed on certain lesions by PA's without onsite supervision. Mr. Luckage pointed out that just because it is in the minutes does not make it a rule. Dr. Jonesco stated that some actinic keratoses may be squamous cell carcinoma and feels that the physician should evaluate the lesions prior to the first treatment.

Dr. Talmage moved to deny this application for inadequate supervision. Dr. Jonesco seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.

#### **IV. PA Practice Sites**

Dr. Talmage stated that the Terrence O'Donnell and Greg Lastini had attended a meeting to discuss the matter of practice site interpretation. It was the OAPA's feeling that the site location interpretation is too restrictive to the PA practice and that it should be interpreted to mean that if the PA is working in the same specialty as the physician and the physician is meeting the travel time and communication requirements the PA should be able to work in an offsite location.

Mr. Fry stated that the discussion is about where the physician routinely practices versus the type of medicine that is being practiced. Dr. Talmage stated that he was under the impression that PA's could work in an occupational setting so long as the supervising physician works there too.

Ms. Debolt stated that the location is not limited to the setting but a practice type as well. PAPC says that the relationship between a supervising physician and a physician assistant is a dependent relationship and requires supervision. OAPA is saying that the setting is a type of practice as opposed to the setting itself. The question before the committee is does the supervising physician ever have to practice in a “setting” to supervise the physician assistant.

Mr. Fry stated that PA’s are able to see new patients and prescribe medications with the physician being within the sixty minute travel time and available via some mode of real time communication and that it should be OK to work with the supervising physician offsite.

Dr. Jonesco disagreed and stated that if this is true then why is the physician assistant considered a dependent practitioner. Why does the committee and the board spend its time in approving formularies and special services applications if the supervising physician is not required to supervise. Dr. Talmage agreed with Dr. Jonesco that the supervising physician and the physician assistant require a dependent relationship and the supervising physician needs to practice with the physician assistant. Mr. Fry stated that he works on a daily basis with patients whose physician is not on site however there are other physicians onsite should he need them or if necessary he could refer the patient to the appropriate physician. Ms. Debolt stated that the supervising physician is responsible for the actions of the physician assistant and that if the physician assistant were to cause patient harm it would be the physician and the physician assistants licenses on the line. Mr. Fry stated that physician assistants in other states work with offsite supervision and it works well.

Dr. Imbrogno asked what would be considered an acceptable number of hours for the physician to work at a location in order for it to be considered routine one, two or twenty hours. He stated that as long as the physician is comfortable with their PA’s and their abilities then the physician should be able to allow them to practice with offsite supervision. He said that a stronger quality assurance system needs to be in place in these types of practices. He states that he has worked elbow to elbow with his physician assistants and is very comfortable with their abilities and feels that allowing them to work in an occupational clinic with him within the allowable travel time and methods of communication should be acceptable.

Dr. Talmage stated that he has recently attended a few national task force meetings and stated that within the next 10-15 years that there will be a shortage of physicians to serve the public due to the decrease in residency spots for physician and the healthcare reform that will increase the patient population with health insurance especially in the rural areas of Ohio.

The committee agreed that there is a need to supply healthcare to patients especially in the rural areas.

**V. Discussion of PA’s prescribing in the VA system**

Ms. Debolt informed the committee that she had a conversation with William Winsley, Executive Director, Ohio Board of Pharmacy regarding the physician assistants writing prescriptions in the VA system and the patients taking them outside of the VA system to get them filled. If a physician assistant does not have a certificate to prescribe in the state of Ohio the pharmacist at a non VA pharmacy cannot fill the prescription.

The Physician Assistant Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7, 2010.

I hereby attest that these are true and accurate minutes of the Physician Assistant Policy Committee of the State Medical Board of Ohio, meeting on December 7, 2010.

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Robert Zaayer, P.A.-C  
Chair

Copies of documents and/or materials referenced in the minutes of the Physician Assistant Policy Committee meeting are available at the Board offices.