

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:46 p.m. on Tuesday January 13, 2015.

Committee members present: Kim Routh, D.O.; Anita Steinbergh, D.O.; Margaret Huwer, Pham.D.; James Fry, PA-C; and Robert Zaayer, PA-C.

Staff members present: Sallie Debolt, and Cathy Hacker

Guests: Beth Adamson, OAPA; Tony Brigano, Teledoc, and Zach Holzapfel of Hicks Partners on behalf of Teledoc.

I. Review of the January 13, 2015 minutes:

Mr. Fry began the meeting by asking the members if anyone had comments on the minutes. Ms. Huwer stated that it was Ms. Ash who inquired as to whether or not new graduates would be willing to explain to their supervising physician that they may not be comfortable prescribing these IV medications and requested that the minutes reflect this change. Dr. Routh pointed out that he voted nay on the approval of moving the IV medications on the formulary.

Mr. Zaayer moved to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2015 meeting as amended. Dr. Steinbergh seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.

II. Formulary Review

The committee discussed the request from Dr. Dobrovich that is requesting to amend the formulary for the following medications: IV diuretics, IV Ace Inhibitors, IV electrolyte replacement solutions, IV antiarrhythmic agents, IV Inotropics, IV Hydralize, and IV antihypertensives.

Dr. Steinbergh informed the committee that Dr. Sethi, Chair, of the PA committee felt that it requires the doctor to be involved in the patient care and ordering of these medications.

Ms. Debolt stated that the PAPC may resubmit and modify their recommendation to the PA/Scope of Practice committee. Mr. Zaayer said that he was comfortable with these medications and that the new graduates would need to be credentialed by the hospital to be allowed to use them in a hospital setting. He stated that not allowing PA's to order these medications could delay patient care if the PA was unable to contact the physician. Dr. Steinbergh stated that the board feels that under no circumstances should a PA order these medications without physician involvement. She reminded the committee that PA's are meant to be supervised and these medications must stay in the PI category. She told Mr. Fry that he or anyone could come to the PA committee meeting to discuss these medications. Dr. Routh stated that he is OK with PA's ordering these medications under the hospital guidelines. He asked what the solution is to the problem of if the PA committee says no and the PAPC says yes. Ms. Debolt stated that due to the way the statutes are written this could go on for a long time. She stated that if denied the physician could have a hearing, not a formal hearing, but could come to the PAPC for a discussion. Dr. Steinbergh pointed out that if these were being done per hospital protocol and approved by the hospital credential committee that it would be no different than the nursing protocols. Ms. Debolt asked whether or not they could be used in an office setting or an ambulatory surgery

center. Mr. Fry indicated that the PA's can use them per ACLS guidelines. Dr. Steinbergh stated that all 10 board members had real concern with PA's ordering these medications. She further stated that the pharmacy member of the board does not think that PA's should prescribe these medications. Mr. Fry suggested that we table this request and he will contact Dr. Dobrovich to see if he wants to pursue this request and if so he will invite him to the next available meeting. He further stated that he could be available for the March PA committee if necessary. Dr. Routh pointed out that the formulary could prevent PA's from working in certain areas and asked if the NP formulary allows these medications. Dr. Steinbergh stated that PA's are not NP's and have different scopes of practice. Nurse practitioners are independent practitioners while physician assistants are dependent practitioners. She stated that in her 21 years on the Board that the PA's say that they do not want to be independent but that is exactly what the association and the lobbyists are trying to do by giving them the same rights as the NP's. Mr. Zaayer pointed out that if the PAPC does not make a recommendation within 60 days the Board can make a decision without the PAPC's input. Sallie stated that the statute says the board may and she felt that we can wait for a response from Dr. Dobrovich. Mr. Fry pointed out that Ohio is the only state that this is an issue. He stated that in WV it is up to the physician as to what the PA prescribes. Ms. Debolt stated that Ohio has a formulary.

Mr. Zaayer moved to table this request and have Mr. Fry contact Dr. Dobrovich and invite him to the next meeting. Dr. Routh seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.

III. New business matters:

The committee discussed the proposed changes to rules 4731-11-09 that will allow practitioners to prescribe to patients that they have not physically seen and evaluated. It was noted that there needs to be language to cover situations for PA's that are on call. Ms. Debolt stated that the Board is looking to write a rule specifically to cover PAs. Mr. Fry stated that the current rule could be amended to cover PAs without having to write a new rule. No action was taken as this rule is out for public comment until the 20th.

Ms. Debolt informed the committee that PAs practicing in an urgent care setting cannot supervise or perform radiologic procedures. It was noted that this is a prohibition from the Ohio Department of Health. No action was needed as this was for informational purposes.

The Physician Assistant Policy Committee meeting was adjourned by Mr. Fry at approximately 2:55 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2015.

I hereby attest that these are the true and accurate minutes of the Physician Assistant Policy Committee of the State Medical Board of Ohio, meeting on February 10, 2015.

James Fry, PA-C,
Chair, PAPC