

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 12, 2006

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:50 a.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2006.

Committee members present: Michael Bowen, P.A.-C.; Robert Zaayer, P.A.-C.; Aimee Rinaldi, P.A.-C.; Eugene Imbrogno, M.D., and Anquetette Sloan.

Staff members present: Diann Thompson, Kay Rieve, Sallie DeBolt, and Cathy Hacker.

I. Review of the November 10, 2005 Minutes.

It was noted that the title of the category was mislabeled "Review of the July 14, 2005 Minutes" and was recommended to change it to "Review of the October 13, 2005 Minutes." Mrs. Sloan moved to approve the November 10, 2005 Physician Assistant Policy Committee Minutes. Mr. Bowen seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.

The committee then discussed and agreed to change the dates of the PAPC meetings to the Tuesday prior to the Board meetings. This will allow agenda items to be discussed at the Board meeting in the same month as they are discussed at the PAPC meeting.

II. Review of supplemental utilization plans

The committee discussed the supplemental utilization plan application from **Radiology Associates of Canton** that is requesting that their PA(s) be approved to perform insertion of PICC lines.

The committee noted that this was a very well-completed application and suggested that it could be used as a model for this function in the future. The committee further noted that the training, education, and supervision were in line with previous applications that had been approved to perform this function.

Mrs. Sloan moved to approve this application. Mr. Bowen seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.

II. Discussion of pending legislation.

Representatives from the five physician assistant schools in Ohio addressed the committee concerning the pharmacology education included in the curriculum at each school and what education their school could offer to meet the requirements of Section 4730.46, Ohio Revised Code [O.R.C.], of the proposed legislation. Each

school had previously submitted written information concerning the school curriculum.

Gloria Stewart, Ed.D., PA-C, spoke on behalf of Marietta College's Physician Assistant program. She reported that the college requires a six semester credit course in advanced pharmacology, utilizing a CD-Rom and teleconferencing from the University of South Dakota. This course is equivalent to 90 clock hours of pharmacology training that would satisfy the requirements under Section 4731.46(C)(3)(a), O.R.C., of the proposed legislation. Dr. Stewart believes that the requirement of 20 contact hours of clinical training in pharmacology is easily met during the clinical rotations in which each physician assistant student participates as part of their training. However, they will need to develop a tracking mechanism to facilitate the documentation of such training to the Medical Board. Dr. Stewart also noted that Marietta College recently received a grant to purchase a "simulated patient" mannequin that could be utilized for clinical training in pharmacology in the future.

Marietta College also requires students to take a health policy class (two semester credits, 30 contact hours), which covers the ethical implications and legal requirements of prescribing. Ms. Stewart indicated that this course would be revised to include education concerning state and federal laws that apply to the authority to prescribe in Ohio. In addition, Marietta College would allow practicing physician assistants who need current education to enroll in the specific classes at a cost of \$500 per semester hour.

Cynthia Pentz, MPAS, PA-C, Program Director, and Marc Sweeney, R.Ph., Pharm.D., University of Findlay [Findlay] presented their program. Findlay has a three semester (45 contact hours/semester) pharmacology course and a one credit hour (15 contact hours) required course in pharmacokinetics. Dr. Sweeney teaches a course (60 contact hours) that addresses disease prevention and promotion of good health; this course would include some content that fits within the statutory requirements. The 20 contact hours of clinical training in pharmacology in the Findlay program is also provided as part of the clinical rotations.

Ms. Pentz and Dr. Sweeney indicated that they were interested in offering a weekend CME program through the Office of Professional Development to provide the required education in ethics and the laws relating to prescriptive authority that would be available to currently practicing physician assistants. Additionally, they indicated that they thought they could have a program for practicing physician assistants by this summer that would fulfill the requirements for pharmacology and for ethics/laws as set forth in 4730.46(C)(3)(a) and (c), O.R.C., of the proposed statutes.

Sharon Luke, PA-C, Program Director for the Physician Assistant Program at the Cuyahoga Community College [Tri-C] spoke next. She reported that Tri-C teaches a three semester credit hour (45 clock hours) clinical pharmacology course which includes legal and ethical issues. Tri-C students complete at least 1600 clock hours

of clinical training, which includes patient logs and “patient encounters.” Ms. Luke indicated that she believes the students could log the training in clinical pharmacology in the electronic log system, which would, in turn, provide documentation of the required 20 hours.

Ms. Luke reported that the college is open to expanding the continuing education at the college, and if necessary, a program could be developed within a few months. Tri-C also has a human patient simulator that could be used in courses developed for practicing physician assistants.

Patricia Hogue, MS, PA-C, Medical University of Ohio [MUO], spoke next on behalf of the physician assistant program. MUO teaches three units of pharmacology to their PA students, following the same curriculum as the medical students. This equals 103 contact hours of pharmacology education. MUO has an integrated program so that all the classes address the same system at the same time. They also offer a three credit (45 contact hours) course in *Healthcare Teams and Systems* that addresses the ethics and laws. MUO, like the other programs, provides the clinical training in pharmacology to its physician assistant students through the 12 months of clinical rotations.

MUO already has in place an online program for Advanced Practice Nurses, with a 45 contact hour pharmacology unit. Ms. Hogue believes that the course facilitators would be willing to increase the current course content of the ethics/laws portion to meet the required 15 hours for physician assistants. The current cost for the 45 contact hour course is \$565.

Patricia Massey, B.S., R.Ph., spoke on behalf of Kettering College of Medical Arts. Ms. Massey indicated that the physician assistant program at Kettering College is moving to a Masters program. Their curriculum is being revised to provide an integrated program, taught in collaboration with Wright State College of Medicine. The pharmacology courses are being increased from a total of six semester hours to eight semester hours. The curriculum at Kettering College includes eight clinical rotations with the clinical training in pharmacology embedded within the rotations. The preceptors must sign off on the rotations. Kettering College has a separate “*Ethics in Medicine*” class that includes some training in prescribing laws, but this will have to be upgraded to meet the required 15 contact hours.

Ms. Massey reported that Kettering College currently has no courses available to their alumni that would meet the requirements of the proposed statutes. They are exploring the possibilities of developing some on-line training.

John Trim bath, PA-C, and Josanne Pagel, PA-C, spoke next on behalf of the Ohio Association of Physician Assistants [OAPA]. Mr. Trim bath explained that since 1999, in anticipation of the legislation passing, the OAPA has offered continuing education for physician assistants that was designed to fulfill the requirements of

contact hours for training in pharmacology, including pharmacokinetic principles and clinical applications pursuant to proposed Section 4731.46(C)(3)(a), O.R.C. Additionally, the OAPA is preparing continuing education courses, which should be available during the summer of 2006, for practicing physician assistants, which would meet the requirements for 30 contact hours of pharmacology and 15 contact hours in ethics and laws. Mr. Trimbath also submitted a letter from the American Academy of Physician Assistants that grants approval for 15 hours of AAPA Category 1 CME for the OAPA 2005 Pharmacology conference. The committee was advised that the projected cost for the 45 hours of continuing education should be under \$400 for members of the association; the cost for the 15 hour segment on ethics and law, if taken separately, is projected to be approximately \$155 for members.

Mr. Trimbath proposed that the requirement of 20 contact hours of clinical training in pharmacology could be met by having the physician assistant obtain the experience at the job site, with the supervising physician signing off when training was successfully completed. Ms. Thompson expressed concern that this proposal appeared to be no different than what would be taking place during the provisional period following the issuance of the provisional certificate to prescribe. She encouraged the OAPA to also explore opportunities to develop and offer a more objective form of clinical training that would meet the requirements of pending 4731.46(C)(3)(b), O.R.C.

Mr. Trimbath suggested that the OAPA be permitted to certify to the Board that an applicant has completed all the requirements for a provisional certificate. During discussion, it was suggested that perhaps the association and the schools could serve as the initial point of collection of the educational information, which could then be transferred to the Board in association with an application for the provisional certificate to prescribe.

The Physician Assistant Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2006.

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 January 12, 2006.

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.