

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 13, 2009

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:52 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2009.

Committee members present: Eugene Imbrogno, M.D.; John Jonesco, D.O.; David Ballinger, P.A.-C.; Lance Talmage, M.D.; Eric Luckage, Robert Zaayer, P.A.-C.; Deborah Parker, Pharm.D.; and Michael Bowen, P.A.-C.

Staff members present: Cathy Hacker and Kay Rieve

Guests: Beth Adamson, Executive Director, Ohio Association of Physician Assistants

I. Review of the December 9, 2008 minutes.

Mr. Ballinger moved to approve the September 9, 2008 minutes of the Physician Assistant Policy Committee. Dr. Jonesco seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.

II. Review of Special Services Plan applications

The committee began the meeting by discussing the application from **HMT Dermatology** that is requesting approval of: Excisions-benign nevi, cysts of the epidermis, and atypical nevi.

The committee noted that this application was tabled at the December 2008 meeting pending clarification from Dr. Torok that the excision of cysts would be of the epidermis only and remove the request for the excision of lipomas due to the difficulty of the procedure.

The committee recognized that Dr. Torok had sent in a revised application to reflect the requested changes and that the remaining procedures were within that abilities of a physician assistant with the training education and supervision outlined in this application.

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

The committee then discussed the application from **Spectrum Orthopaedics** that is requesting approval of: inject/aspirate joint/bursa hip.

The committee noted that this application had been tabled at the December 2008 PAPC meeting pending the amendment that this would be the injection and aspiration of that greater trochanter only.

The committee recognized that the group had sent in an amendment to say that this type of injection/aspiration would be of the greater trochanter only.

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

The committee then discussed the formulary as required by statute.

The committee had received a written inquiry from **Dermatology of Southeastern Ohio** that is requesting the clarification as to where certain biological drugs used to treat psoriasis were in the formulary. The letter also had a request to change the isotretinoin from the category of may not prescribe to may prescribe and requests approval for PA's to use excimer lasers.

The committee researched and found that all of the biologicals that the group was looking for fell into the immunomodulator and immunosuppressive category and that the PA's were already allowed to prescribe these medications under this formulary with physician initiation.

The committee discussed the need for close physician supervision and the need to be enroll in iPledge in order to prescribe isotretinoin. The committee feels that this is a medication that needs to be prescribed and monitored by the physician.

The use of any type of laser for any use by a non physician other than for the permanent removal of hair is prohibited by the light based medical device rules and this committee is not able to alter that rule.

The committee then reviewed an email question received from Amy Wilson, PA-C that is asking for clarification of the following:

1. Is methotrexate including in antirheumatic agent, and permissible after physician initiation/consultation? I was concerned regarding the clause on medications used to induce abortion. If prescribed for inflammatory arthritis, is the PA permitted to write for it?
2. Forteo, a synthetic form of parathyroid hormone, is this a physician initiated/consultation prescription, or may the PA write for it independently?
3. Anti-TNF alpha prescriptions were not listed under monoclonal antibodies. Are these considered immunosuppressives and therefore must be physician initiated?

After consulting facts and comparisons and various other sourced the committee determined that methotrexate is an antirheumatic agent and is permissible to prescribe after physician initiation and that the PA may prescribe it for inflammatory arthritis.

Forteo is in the physician initiated category and that the PA may not write for this independently.

Anti-TNF alpha prescriptions fall under the immunosuppressive and immunomodulator category and fall into the physician initiated category.

The committee requested that the staff email a partial copy of facts and comparisons to them so that they may review the cardiovascular agents categories to determine what category these drugs should be listed as they were not addressed in the previous version of the formulary.

The Physician Assistant Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:50 p.m. on Tuesday January 13, 2009.

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 13, 2009.

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.