

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES
August 8, 2006

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:43 p.m. on Tuesday, August 8, 2006.

Committee members present: John Jonesco, D.O.; Michael Bowen, P.A.-C.; Debra Parker, Pharm. D. David Ballinger, PA-C; Lance Talmage, M.D., Anquetette Sloan, Robert Zaayer, P.A.-C., and Kevin Mitchell R. Ph.

Staff members present: Kay Rieve, Michael Miller, Sallie Debolt, and Cathy Hacker.

I. Review of the June 13, 2006 Minutes.

Mr. Zaayer noted that on page two, paragraph two, line four there was a typo. The minutes read in part “shall hold a degree other than a master’s” and it should read “shall hold a degree other **than** a master’s”. Ms. Hacker also indicated that the header of the minutes was incorrect in that it read May 9, 2006 and should read June 13, 2006.

Mr. Bowen moved to approve the June 13, 2006 minutes of the Physician Assistant Policy Committee as amended. Mrs. Sloan seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The motion carried.

II. Discussion & Review of Correspondence

The committee began the meeting by discussing the correspondence received from David Dukich, Vice President, Verimed Services, requesting clarification of the supervision requirements for physician assistants that are administering chemotherapy while the physician is off-site.

The committee noted that the physician has seen and prescribed that treatment plan and that this function is being performed by RN’s. The committee agreed that this task could be performed by a physician assistant with offsite supervision providing that they were in compliance with the law.

The committee then discussed the several letters that were received regarding the new supervision agreement application process.

After much discussion it was noted that the law requires that every physician and physician assistant sign an application each time that there is a new addition to a supervision agreement. The committee recommended that the staff review the applications and see if there was a way to make the process simpler, but agreed that with the way the new law is written that it is the physician’s responsibility to know

who he is supervising and ultimately responsible for that he/she will need to sign every application. The same is true for the physician assistant.

It was also suggested that a meeting be set up with those persons who have raised this issue to see if they can aid in coming up with a solution to this problem.

The committee then discussed the letter that was received from the Ohio Association of Physician Assistants (OAPA) that is outlining a curriculum for continuing education and the pharmacology requirements needed to apply for provisional prescriptive authority. Dr. Talmage noted that this course did not offer any exams to prove competency. Mr. O'Donnell indicated that this OAPA is not in favor of competency exams. Mr. Zaayer indicated that most of the time the physician would give you an evaluation. Dr. Talmage stated that he wants to know if the course was successful and that should require some type of exam.

Ms. Parker indicated that she had some concern with the supervising physician being the observer of the 20 hours of clinical training and how does that differ from the provisional period. Mr. O'Donnell explained that the 20 hours are more intense with direct supervision as opposed to the onsite supervision requirement of the provisional period. The committee noted that you cannot legislate ethics and morality. It was also noted that most of the physician assistants are already practicing with a specific physician and that it would be very difficult for them to obtain the supervision of another physician for only 20 hours.

III. Discussion of draft rules

The committee discussed and recommended the following changes to the draft physician assistant rules.

Amend 4731-01-01(H) to remove the time feature.

Dr. Jonesco stated that 4731-01-01(J) is a poor example of diagnostic procedures and that he would be happy to submit a better list of examples. Dr. Talmage stated that these are tests not procedures.

It was noted that in 4731-01-01(K) that the word regime should be regimen.

It was suggested that the word "independently" be added to 4730-01-02(B)(1)(d).

It was suggested that 4730-02-01(G)(2) and (G)(3) be amended to read one credit is equivalent to a minimum of sixty minutes of education.

It was suggested that in 4730-02-02(A)(1) a masters in public health be added to this list.

It was recommended that 4730-02-02(B)(1) and (B)(2) be deleted as it would very hard to verify.

It was recommended that 4730-02-02(C) be expanded to include programs that are not ARC-PA approved as the Ohio State University and others have programs that would meet this requirement bur are not ARC-PA accredited.

The committee recognized the good work that Ms. Debolt has put into these rules. They recommended that she make the above changes and bring the draft to the committee at its next meeting.

The Physician Assistant Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:47 p.m. on Tuesday August 8, 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 August 8, 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.