

CHAPTER 147A

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, LICENSING

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147A.001 MS 2006 [Renumbered 15.001]

147A.01 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** For the purpose of this chapter the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. [Repealed by amendment, 2009 c 159 s 14]

Subd. 3. **Administer.** "Administer" means the delivery by a physician assistant of a legend drug to a patient by injection, inhalation, ingestion, or by any other immediate means.

Subd. 4. MS 2018 [Repealed, 2020 c 115 art 2 s 34]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 2016 c 125 s 16]

Subd. 6. **Board.** "Board" means the Board of Medical Practice or its designee.

Subd. 6a. **Collaborating physician.** "Collaborating physician" means a Minnesota licensed physician who oversees the performance, practice, and activities of a physician assistant under a collaborative agreement as described in section 147A.02, paragraph (c).

Subd. 7. **Controlled substances.** "Controlled substances" has the meaning given it in section 152.01, subdivision 4.

Subd. 8. [Repealed by amendment, 2009 c 159 s 14]

Subd. 9. **Diagnostic order.** "Diagnostic order" means a directive to perform a procedure or test, the purpose of which is to determine the cause and nature of a pathological condition or disease.

Subd. 10. **Drug.** "Drug" has the meaning given it in section 151.01, subdivision 5, including controlled substances as defined in section 152.01, subdivision 4.

Subd. 11. MS 2018 [Repealed, 2020 c 115 art 2 s 34]

Subd. 12. **Inactive.** "Inactive" means a licensed physician assistant whose license has been placed on inactive status under section 147A.05.

Subd. 13. [Repealed by amendment, 2009 c 159 s 14]

Subd. 14. **Legend drug.** "Legend drug" has the meaning given it in section 151.01, subdivision 17.

Subd. 14a. **Licensed.** "Licensed" means meeting the qualifications in section 147A.02 and being issued a license by the board.

Subd. 14b. **Licensure.** "Licensure" means the process by which the board determines that an applicant has met the standards and qualifications in this chapter.

Subd. 15. [Repealed by amendment, 2009 c 159 s 14]

Subd. 16. **Medical device.** "Medical device" means durable medical equipment and assistive or rehabilitative appliances, objects, or products that are required to implement the overall plan of care for the patient and that are restricted by federal law to use upon prescription by a licensed practitioner.

Subd. 16a. MS 2018 [Repealed, 2020 c 115 art 2 s 34]

Subd. 17. **Physician.** "Physician" means a person currently licensed in good standing as a physician or osteopathic physician under chapter 147.

Subd. 17a. MS 2018 [Repealed, 2020 c 115 art 2 s 34]

Subd. 18. **Physician assistant or licensed physician assistant.** "Physician assistant" or "licensed physician assistant" means a person licensed pursuant to this chapter who meets the qualifications in section 147A.02.

Subd. 19. [Repealed by amendment, 2009 c 159 s 14]

Subd. 20. **Prescribe.** "Prescribe" means to direct, order, or designate by means of a prescription the preparation, use of, or manner of using a drug or medical device.

Subd. 21. **Prescription.** "Prescription" means a signed written order, an oral order reduced to writing, or an electronic order meeting current and prevailing standards given by a physician assistant for patients in the course of the physician assistant's practice and issued for an individual patient.

Subd. 22. [Repealed by amendment, 2009 c 159 s 14]

Subd. 23. MS 2020 [Repealed, 2022 c 58 s 171]

Subd. 24. MS 2018 [Repealed, 2020 c 115 art 2 s 34]

Subd. 25. MS 2018 [Repealed, 2020 c 115 art 2 s 34]

Subd. 26. **Therapeutic order.** "Therapeutic order" means a written or verbal order given to another for the purpose of treating or curing a patient in the course of a physician assistant's practice.

Subd. 27. **Verbal order.** "Verbal order" means an oral order given to another for the purpose of treating or curing a patient in the course of a physician assistant's practice.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 1; 2003 c 2 art 1 s 18,19; 2009 c 159 s 14; 2016 c 119 s 7; 2016 c 125 s 1,2; 2020 c 115 art 2 s 3-7; 2022 c 55 art 1 s 38

147A.02 QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE.

(a) The board may grant a license as a physician assistant to an applicant who:

(1) submits an application on forms approved by the board;

(2) pays the appropriate fee as determined by the board;

(3) has current certification from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, or its successor agency as approved by the board;

(4) certifies that the applicant is mentally and physically able to engage safely in practice as a physician assistant;

(5) has no licensure, certification, or registration as a physician assistant under current discipline, revocation, suspension, or probation for cause resulting from the applicant's practice as a physician assistant, unless the board considers the condition and agrees to licensure;

(6) submits any other information the board deems necessary to evaluate the applicant's qualifications; and

(7) has been approved by the board.

(b) All persons registered as physician assistants as of June 30, 1995, are eligible for continuing license renewal. All persons applying for licensure after that date shall be licensed according to this chapter.

(c) A physician assistant who qualifies for licensure must practice for at least 2,080 hours, within the context of a collaborative agreement, within a hospital or integrated clinical setting where physician assistants and physicians work together to provide patient care. The physician assistant shall submit written evidence to the board with the application, or upon completion of the required collaborative practice experience. For purposes of this paragraph, a collaborative agreement is a mutually agreed upon plan for the overall working relationship and collaborative arrangement between a physician assistant, and one or more physicians licensed under chapter 147, that designates the scope of services that can be provided to manage the care of patients. The physician assistant and one of the collaborative physicians must have experience in providing care to patients with the same or similar medical conditions. The collaborating physician is not required to be physically present so long as the collaborating physician and physician assistant are or can be easily in contact with each other by radio, telephone, or other telecommunication device.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 2; 2004 c 279 art 2 s 1; 2009 c 159 s 15; 2020 c 115 art 2 s 8

147A.025 TEMPORARY PERMIT.

(a) An applicant for licensure under section 147A.02 may request the board to issue a temporary permit in accordance with this section. Upon receipt of the application for licensure, a request for a temporary permit, and a nonrefundable physician assistant application fee as specified under section 147A.28, the board may issue a temporary permit to practice as a physician assistant if the applicant is:

(1) currently licensed in good standing to practice as a physician assistant in another state, territory, or Canadian province; and

(2) not subject to a pending investigation or disciplinary action in any state, territory, or Canadian province.

(b) A temporary permit issued under this section is nonrenewable and shall be valid until a decision is made on the physician assistant's application for licensure or for 90 days, whichever occurs first.

(c) The board may revoke the temporary permit that has been issued under this section if the applicant is the subject of an investigation or disciplinary action or is disqualified for licensure for any other reason.

(d) Notwithstanding section 13.41, subdivision 2, the board may release information regarding any action taken by the board pursuant to this section.

History: 2022 c 99 art 2 s 5

147A.03 PROTECTED TITLES AND RESTRICTIONS ON USE.

Subdivision 1. **Protected titles.** No individual may use the titles "Minnesota Licensed Physician Assistant," "Licensed Physician Assistant," "Physician Assistant," or "PA" in connection with the individual's name, or any other words, letters, abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying that the individual is licensed by the state unless they have been licensed according to this chapter.

Subd. 1a. **Licensure required.** Except as provided under subdivision 2, it is unlawful for any person to practice as a physician assistant without being issued a valid license according to this chapter.

Subd. 2. **Health care practitioners.** Individuals practicing in a health care occupation are not restricted in the provision of services included in this chapter as long as they do not hold themselves out as physician assistants by or through the titles provided in subdivision 1 in association with provision of these services.

Subd. 3. [Repealed by amendment, 2009 c 159 s 16]

Subd. 4. **Sanctions.** Individuals who hold themselves out as physician assistants by or through any of the titles provided in subdivision 1 without prior licensure shall be subject to sanctions or actions against continuing the activity according to section 214.11, or other authority.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 3; 2009 c 159 s 16; 2020 c 115 art 2 s 9

147A.04 MS 2018 [Repealed, 2020 c 115 art 2 s 34]

147A.05 INACTIVE LICENSE.

(a) Physician assistants who notify the board in writing may elect to place their license on an inactive status. Physician assistants with an inactive license shall be excused from payment of renewal fees and shall not practice as physician assistants. Persons who engage in practice while their license is lapsed or on inactive status shall be considered to be practicing without a license, which shall be grounds for discipline under section 147A.13. Physician assistants who provide care under the provisions of section 147A.23 shall not be considered practicing without a license or subject to disciplinary action. Physician assistants who notify the board of their intent to resume active practice shall be required to pay the current renewal fees and all unpaid back fees and shall be required to meet the criteria for renewal specified in section 147A.07.

(b) Notwithstanding section 147A.03, subdivision 1, a person with an inactive license may continue to use the protected titles specified in section 147A.03, subdivision 1, so long as the person does not practice as a physician assistant.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 5; 2009 c 159 s 18; 2020 c 115 art 2 s 10

147A.06 CANCELLATION OF LICENSE FOR NONRENEWAL.

Subdivision 1. **Cancellation of license.** The board shall not renew, reissue, reinstate, or restore a license that has lapsed and has not been renewed within two annual renewal cycles. A licensee whose license is canceled for nonrenewal must obtain a new license by applying for licensure and fulfilling all requirements then in existence for an initial license to practice as a physician assistant.

Subd. 2. **Licensure following lapse of licensed status; transition.** (a) A licensee whose license has lapsed under subdivision 1 before January 1, 2020, and who seeks to regain licensed status after January 1, 2020, shall be treated as a first-time licensee only for purposes of establishing a license renewal schedule, and shall not be subject to the license cycle conversion provisions in section 147A.29.

(b) This subdivision expires July 1, 2022.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 6; 2009 c 159 s 19; 2019 c 8 art 1 s 1; 2020 c 115 art 2 s 11

147A.07 RENEWAL.

(a) A person who holds a license as a physician assistant shall annually, upon notification from the board, renew the license by:

- (1) submitting the appropriate fee as determined by the board;
- (2) completing the appropriate forms; and
- (3) meeting any other requirements of the board.

(b) A licensee must maintain a correct mailing address with the board for receiving board communications, notices, and license renewal documents. Placing the license renewal application in first-class United States mail, addressed to the licensee at the licensee's last known address with postage prepaid, constitutes valid service. Failure to receive the renewal documents does not relieve a licensee of the obligation to comply with this section.

(c) The name of a licensee who does not return a complete license renewal application, annual license fee, or late application fee, as applicable, within the time period required by this section shall be removed from the list of individuals authorized to practice during the current renewal period. If the licensee's license is reinstated, the licensee's name shall be placed on the list of individuals authorized to practice.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 7; 2009 c 159 s 20; 2019 c 8 art 1 s 2

147A.08 EXEMPTIONS.

(a) This chapter does not apply to, control, prevent, or restrict the practice, service, or activities of persons listed in section 147.09, clauses (1) to (6) and (8) to (13); persons regulated under section 214.01, subdivision 2; or midlevel practitioners, nurses, or nurse-midwives as defined in section 144.1501, subdivision 1.

(b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require licensure of:

(1) a physician assistant student enrolled in a physician assistant educational program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant or by its successor agency approved by the board;

(2) a physician assistant employed in the service of the federal government while performing duties incident to that employment; or

(3) technicians, other assistants, or employees of physicians who perform delegated tasks in the office of a physician but who do not identify themselves as a physician assistant.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 8; 1997 c 183 art 2 s 20; 1Sp2003 c 14 art 7 s 47; 1Sp2005 c 4 art 6 s 40; 2009 c 159 s 21; 2016 c 158 art 1 s 65; 2023 c 75 s 8

147A.09 SCOPE OF PRACTICE.

Subdivision 1. **Scope of practice.** Physician assistants shall practice medicine only under an established practice agreement.

A physician assistant's scope of practice includes:

- (1) services within the training and experience of the physician assistant;
- (2) patient services customary to the practice of the physician assistant and the practice agreement; and
- (3) services within the parameters of the laws, rules, and standards of the facilities in which the physician assistant practices.

Subd. 2. **Patient services.** Patient services may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) taking patient histories and developing medical status reports;
- (2) performing physical examinations;
- (3) interpreting and evaluating patient data;
- (4) ordering, performing, or reviewing diagnostic procedures, including the use of radiographic imaging systems in compliance with Minnesota Rules 2007, chapter 4732, but excluding interpreting computed tomography scans, magnetic resonance imaging scans, positron emission tomography scans, nuclear scans, and mammography;
- (5) ordering or performing therapeutic procedures including the use of ionizing radiation in compliance with Minnesota Rules 2007, chapter 4732;
- (6) providing instructions regarding patient care, disease prevention, and health promotion;
- (7) providing patient care in the home and in health care facilities;
- (8) creating and maintaining appropriate patient records;
- (9) transmitting or executing specific orders;
- (10) prescribing, administering, and dispensing drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices, including administering local anesthetics, but excluding anesthetics injected in connection with an operating room procedure, inhaled anesthesia, and spinal anesthesia;
- (11) functioning as an emergency medical technician with permission of the ambulance service and in compliance with section 144E.127, and ambulance service rules adopted by the commissioner of health;
- (12) initiating evaluation and treatment procedures essential to providing an appropriate response to emergency situations;
- (13) certifying a patient's eligibility for a disability parking certificate under section 169.345, subdivision 2;

(14) assisting at surgery; and

(15) providing medical authorization for admission for emergency care and treatment of a patient under section 253B.051, subdivision 1.

Subd. 3. Practice agreement review. A physician assistant shall have a practice agreement at the practice level that describes the practice of the physician assistant. The practice agreement must be reviewed on an annual basis by a licensed physician within the same clinic, hospital, health system, or other facility as the physician assistant and has knowledge of the physician assistant's practice to ensure that the physician assistant's medical practice is consistent with the practice agreement. A document stating that the review occurred must be maintained at the practice level and made available to the board, upon request.

Subd. 4. Scope of practice limitations; spinal injections for acute and chronic pain. Notwithstanding subdivision 1, a physician assistant may only perform spinal injections to address acute and chronic pain symptoms upon referral and in collaboration with a physician licensed under chapter 147. For purposes of performing spinal injections for acute or chronic pain symptoms, the physician assistant and one or more physicians licensed under chapter 147 must have a mutually agreed upon plan that designates the scope of collaboration necessary for treating patients with acute and chronic pain.

Subd. 5. Scope of practice limitations; psychiatric care for children with emotional disturbance or adults with serious mental illness. Notwithstanding subdivision 1, a physician assistant may only provide ongoing psychiatric treatment for children with emotional disturbance, as defined in section 245.4871, subdivision 15, or adults with serious mental illness in collaboration with a physician licensed under chapter 147. For purposes of providing ongoing psychiatric treatment for children with emotional disturbance or adults with serious mental illness, the practice agreement between the physician assistant and one or more physicians licensed under chapter 147 must define the collaboration between the physician assistant and the collaborating physician, including appropriate consultation or referral to psychiatry.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 9; 1997 c 199 s 14; 1999 c 245 art 9 s 65; 2003 c 108 s 1; 2004 c 279 art 2 s 2; 2009 c 159 s 22; 2020 c 115 art 2 s 12; 2023 c 25 s 49

147A.10 MS 2018 [Repealed, 2020 c 115 art 2 s 34]

147A.11 MS 2018 [Repealed, 2020 c 115 art 2 s 34]

147A.13 GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

Subdivision 1. **Grounds listed.** The board may refuse to grant licensure or may impose disciplinary action as described in this subdivision against any physician assistant. The following conduct is prohibited and is grounds for disciplinary action:

(1) failure to demonstrate the qualifications or satisfy the requirements for licensure contained in this chapter or rules of the board. The burden of proof shall be upon the applicant to demonstrate such qualifications or satisfaction of such requirements;

(2) obtaining a license by fraud or cheating, or attempting to subvert the examination process. Conduct which subverts or attempts to subvert the examination process includes, but is not limited to:

(i) conduct which violates the security of the examination materials, such as removing examination materials from the examination room or having unauthorized possession of any portion of a future, current, or previously administered licensing examination;

(ii) conduct which violates the standard of test administration, such as communicating with another examinee during administration of the examination, copying another examinee's answers, permitting another examinee to copy one's answers, or possessing unauthorized materials; and

(iii) impersonating an examinee or permitting an impersonator to take the examination on one's own behalf;

(3) conviction, during the previous five years, of a felony reasonably related to the practice of physician assistant. Conviction as used in this subdivision includes a conviction of an offense which if committed in this state would be deemed a felony without regard to its designation elsewhere, or a criminal proceeding where a finding or verdict of guilt is made or returned but the adjudication of guilt is either withheld or not entered;

(4) revocation, suspension, restriction, limitation, or other disciplinary action against the person's physician assistant credentials in another state or jurisdiction, failure to report to the board that charges regarding the person's credentials have been brought in another state or jurisdiction, or having been refused licensure by any other state or jurisdiction;

(5) advertising which is false or misleading, violates any rule of the board, or claims without substantiation the positive cure of any disease or professional superiority to or greater skill than that possessed by another physician assistant;

(6) violating a rule adopted by the board or an order of the board, a state, or federal law which relates to the practice of a physician assistant, or in part regulates the practice of a physician assistant, including without limitation sections 604.201, 609.344, and 609.345, or a state or federal narcotics or controlled substance law;

(7) engaging in any unethical conduct; conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public, or demonstrating a willful or careless disregard for the health, welfare, or safety of a patient; or practice which is professionally incompetent, in that it may create unnecessary danger to any patient's life, health, or safety, in any of which cases, proof of actual injury need not be established;

(8) engaging in the practice of medicine beyond what is allowed under this chapter, or aiding or abetting an unlicensed person in the practice of medicine;

(9) adjudication as mentally incompetent, mentally ill or developmentally disabled, or as a chemically dependent person, a person dangerous to the public, a sexually dangerous person, or a person who has a sexual psychopathic personality by a court of competent jurisdiction, within or without this state. Such adjudication shall automatically suspend a license for its duration unless the board orders otherwise;

(10) engaging in unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct includes any departure from or the failure to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing practice in which proceeding actual injury to a patient need not be established;

(11) inability to practice with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness, drunkenness, use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other type of material, or as a result of any mental or physical condition, including deterioration through the aging process or loss of motor skills;

(12) revealing a privileged communication from or relating to a patient except when otherwise required or permitted by law;

(13) any identification of a physician assistant by the title "Physician" in a patient care setting or in a communication directed to the general public;

(14) improper management of medical records, including failure to maintain adequate medical records, to comply with a patient's request made pursuant to sections 144.291 to 144.298, or to furnish a medical record or report required by law;

(15) engaging in abusive or fraudulent billing practices, including violations of the federal Medicare and Medicaid laws or state medical assistance laws;

(16) becoming addicted or habituated to a drug or intoxicant;

(17) prescribing a drug or device for other than medically accepted therapeutic, experimental, or investigative purposes authorized by a state or federal agency or referring a patient to any health care provider as defined in sections 144.291 to 144.298 for services or tests not medically indicated at the time of referral;

(18) engaging in conduct with a patient which is sexual or may reasonably be interpreted by the patient as sexual, or in any verbal behavior which is seductive or sexually demeaning to a patient;

(19) failure to make reports as required by section 147A.14 or to cooperate with an investigation of the board as required by section 147A.15, subdivision 3;

(20) knowingly providing false or misleading information that is directly related to the care of that patient unless done for an accepted therapeutic purpose such as the administration of a placebo;

(21) aiding suicide or aiding attempted suicide in violation of section 609.215 as established by any of the following:

(i) a copy of the record of criminal conviction or plea of guilty for a felony in violation of section 609.215, subdivision 1 or 2;

(ii) a copy of the record of a judgment of contempt of court for violating an injunction issued under section 609.215, subdivision 4;

(iii) a copy of the record of a judgment assessing damages under section 609.215, subdivision 5; or

(iv) a finding by the board that the person violated section 609.215, subdivision 1 or 2. The board shall investigate any complaint of a violation of section 609.215, subdivision 1 or 2; or

(22) failure to maintain the proof of review document as required under section 147A.09, subdivision 3, or to provide a copy of the document upon request of the board.

Subd. 1a. Reproductive health care services. (a) For purposes of this subdivision, "reproductive health care services" has the meaning given in section 147.091, subdivision 1c.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision 1, clause (3) or (4), the board shall not refuse to grant a license to an applicant for licensure or impose disciplinary action against a physician assistant solely on one or more of the following grounds:

(1) the applicant or physician assistant provided or assisted in the provision of reproductive health care services in a manner that is lawful in this state and that is within the applicable scope of practice;

(2) the applicant or physician assistant was convicted in another jurisdiction of a felony resulting from conduct specified in clause (1); or

(3) the applicant or physician assistant was subject to disciplinary action in another jurisdiction or was refused a physician assistant license in another jurisdiction resulting from conduct specified in clause (1).

Subd. 2. **Effective dates, automatic suspension.** A suspension, revocation, condition, limitation, qualification, or restriction of a license shall be in effect pending determination of an appeal unless the court, upon petition and for good cause shown, orders otherwise.

A physician assistant license is automatically suspended if:

(1) a guardian of a licensee is appointed by order of a court pursuant to sections 524.5-101 to 524.5-502, for reasons other than the minority of the licensee; or

(2) the licensee is committed by order of a court pursuant to chapter 253B. The license remains suspended until the licensee is restored to capacity by a court and, upon petition by the licensee, the suspension is terminated by the board after a hearing.

Subd. 3. **Conditions on reissued license.** In its discretion, the board may restore and reissue a physician assistant license, but may impose as a condition any disciplinary or corrective measure which it might originally have imposed.

Subd. 4. **Temporary suspension of license.** In addition to any other remedy provided by law, the board may, without a hearing, temporarily suspend the license of a physician assistant if the board finds that the physician assistant has violated a statute or rule which the board is empowered to enforce and continued practice by the physician assistant would create a serious risk of harm to the public. The suspension shall take effect upon written notice to the physician assistant, specifying the statute or rule violated. The suspension shall remain in effect until the board issues a final order in the matter after a hearing. At the time it issues the suspension notice, the board shall schedule a disciplinary hearing to be held pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.

The physician assistant shall be provided with at least 20 days' notice of any hearing held pursuant to this subdivision. The hearing shall be scheduled to begin no later than 30 days after the issuance of the suspension order.

Subd. 5. **Evidence.** In disciplinary actions alleging a violation of subdivision 1, clause (3) or (4), a copy of the judgment or proceeding under the seal of the court administrator or of the administrative agency which entered it shall be admissible into evidence without further authentication and shall constitute prima facie evidence of the contents thereof.

Subd. 6. **Mental examination; access to medical data.** (a) If the board has probable cause to believe that a physician assistant comes under subdivision 1, clause (1), it may direct the physician assistant to submit to a mental or physical examination. For the purpose of this subdivision, every physician assistant licensed under this chapter is deemed to have consented to submit to a mental or physical examination when directed in writing by the board and further to have waived all objections to the admissibility of the examining physicians' testimony or examination reports on the ground that the same constitute a privileged communication. Failure of a physician assistant to submit to an examination when directed constitutes an admission of the allegations against the physician assistant, unless the failure was due to circumstance beyond the physician assistant's control, in which case a default and final order may be entered without the taking of testimony or presentation of evidence. A physician assistant affected under this subdivision shall at reasonable intervals be given an opportunity to demonstrate that the physician assistant can resume competent practice with reasonable skill and safety to patients. In any proceeding under this subdivision, neither the

record of proceedings nor the orders entered by the board shall be used against a physician assistant in any other proceeding.

(b) In addition to ordering a physical or mental examination, the board may, notwithstanding sections 13.384, 144.651, or any other law limiting access to medical or other health data, obtain medical data and health records relating to a licensee or applicant without the licensee's or applicant's consent if the board has probable cause to believe that a physician assistant comes under subdivision 1, clause (1).

The medical data may be requested from a provider, as defined in section 144.291, subdivision 2, paragraph (i), an insurance company, or a government agency, including the Department of Human Services. A provider, insurance company, or government agency shall comply with any written request of the board under this subdivision and is not liable in any action for damages for releasing the data requested by the board if the data are released pursuant to a written request under this subdivision, unless the information is false and the provider giving the information knew, or had reason to believe, the information was false. Information obtained under this subdivision is classified as private under chapter 13.

Subd. 7. **Tax clearance certificate.** (a) In addition to the provisions of subdivision 1, the board may not issue or renew a license if the commissioner of revenue notifies the board and the licensee or applicant for licensure that the licensee or applicant owes the state delinquent taxes in the amount of \$500 or more. The board may issue or renew the license only if:

- (1) the commissioner of revenue issues a tax clearance certificate; and
- (2) the commissioner of revenue, the licensee, or the applicant forwards a copy of the clearance to the board.

The commissioner of revenue may issue a clearance certificate only if the licensee or applicant does not owe the state any uncontested delinquent taxes.

(b) For purposes of this subdivision, the following terms have the meanings given:

(1) "Taxes" are all taxes payable to the commissioner of revenue, including penalties and interest due on those taxes, and

(2) "Delinquent taxes" do not include a tax liability if:

(i) an administrative or court action that contests the amount or validity of the liability has been filed or served;

(ii) the appeal period to contest the tax liability has not expired; or

(iii) the licensee or applicant has entered into a payment agreement to pay the liability and is current with the payments.

(c) When a licensee or applicant is required to obtain a clearance certificate under this subdivision, a contested case hearing must be held if the licensee or applicant requests a hearing in writing to the commissioner of revenue within 30 days of the date of the notice provided in paragraph (a). The hearing must be held within 45 days of the date the commissioner of revenue refers the case to the Office of Administrative Hearings. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the licensee or applicant must be served with 20 days' notice in writing specifying the time and place of the hearing and the allegations against the registrant or applicant. The notice may be served personally or by mail.

(d) The board shall require all licensees or applicants to provide their Social Security number and Minnesota business identification number on all license applications. Upon request of the commissioner of revenue, the board must provide to the commissioner of revenue a list of all licensees and applicants, including their names and addresses, Social Security numbers, and business identification numbers. The commissioner of revenue may request a list of the licensees and applicants no more than once each calendar year.

Subd. 8. **Limitation.** No board proceeding against a licensee shall be instituted unless commenced within seven years from the date of commission of some portion of the offense except for alleged violations of subdivision 1, clause (19), or subdivision 7.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 12; 1997 c 7 art 1 s 76; 1999 c 227 s 22; 2004 c 146 art 3 s 7; 2005 c 56 s 1; 2007 c 147 art 10 s 15; 2009 c 159 s 24; 2020 c 83 art 2 s 7; 2020 c 115 art 2 s 13; 2023 c 31 s 3

147A.14 REPORTING OBLIGATIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Permission to report.** A person who has knowledge of any conduct constituting grounds for discipline under this chapter may report the violation to the board.

Subd. 2. **Institutions.** Any hospital, clinic, prepaid medical plan, or other health care institution or organization located in this state shall report to the board any action taken by the institution or organization, any of its administrators, or its medical or other committees to revoke, suspend, restrict, or condition a physician assistant's privilege to practice or treat patients in the institution or as part of the organization, any denial of privileges, or any other disciplinary action. The institution or organization shall also report the resignation of any physician assistants prior to the conclusion of any disciplinary proceeding, or prior to the commencement of formal charges but after the physician assistant had knowledge that formal charges were contemplated or in preparation. Each report made under this subdivision must state the nature of the action taken, state in detail the reasons for the action, and identify the specific patient medical records upon which the action was based. No report shall be required of a physician assistant voluntarily limiting the practice of the physician assistant at a hospital provided that the physician assistant notifies all hospitals at which the physician assistant has privileges of the voluntary limitation and the reasons for it.

Subd. 3. **Physician assistant organizations.** A state or local physician assistant organization shall report to the board any termination, revocation, or suspension of membership or any other disciplinary action taken against a physician assistant. If the society has received a complaint which might be grounds for discipline under this chapter against a member physician assistant on which it has not taken any disciplinary action, the society shall report the complaint and the reason why it has not taken action on it or shall direct the complainant to the Board of Medical Practice. This subdivision does not apply to a physician assistant organization when it performs peer review functions as an agent of an outside entity, organization, or system.

Subd. 4. **Licensed professionals.** Licensed health professionals and persons holding residency permits under section 147.0391, shall report to the board personal knowledge of any conduct which the person reasonably believes constitutes grounds for disciplinary action under this chapter by a physician assistant, including any conduct indicating that the person may be incompetent, or may have engaged in unprofessional conduct or may be medically or physically unable to engage safely in practice as a physician assistant. No report shall be required if the information was obtained in the course of a provider-patient relationship if the patient is a physician assistant, and the treating provider successfully counsels the person to limit or withdraw from practice to the extent required by the impairment.

Subd. 5. **Insurers.** Four times each year as prescribed by the board, each insurer authorized to sell insurance described in section 60A.06, subdivision 1, clause (13), and providing professional liability insurance to physician assistants, and any medical clinic, hospital, political subdivision, or other entity that

self-insures and provides professional liability coverage to physician assistants, shall submit to the board a report concerning the physician assistants against whom professional malpractice settlements or awards have been made to the plaintiff.

Any medical clinic, hospital, political subdivision, or other entity which provides liability coverage on behalf of a physician assistant shall submit to the board a report concerning settlements or awards paid on behalf of a physician assistant, and any settlements or awards paid by a clinic, hospital, political subdivision, or other entity on its own behalf because of care rendered by a physician assistant. The report shall be made to the board within 30 days of any settlement. The report must contain at least the following information:

- (1) the total number of medical malpractice settlements or awards made to the plaintiff;
- (2) the date the medical malpractice settlements or awards to the plaintiff were made;
- (3) the allegations contained in the claim or complaint leading to the settlements or awards made to the plaintiff;
- (4) the dollar amount of each medical malpractice settlement or award;
- (5) the regular address of the practice of the physician assistant against whom an award was made or with whom a settlement was made; and
- (6) the name of the physician assistant against whom an award was made or with whom a settlement was made.

The insurance company shall, in addition to the above information, report to the board any information it possesses which tends to substantiate a charge that a physician assistant may have engaged in conduct violating this chapter.

Subd. 6. **Courts.** The court administrator of district court or any other court of competent jurisdiction shall report to the board any judgment or other determination of the court which adjudges or includes a finding that a physician assistant is mentally ill, mentally incompetent, guilty of a felony, guilty of a violation of federal or state narcotics laws or controlled substances act, or guilty of an abuse or fraud under Medicare or Medicaid, appoints a guardian of the physician assistant pursuant to sections 524.5-101 to 524.5-502, or commits a physician assistant pursuant to chapter 253B.

Subd. 7. **Self-reporting.** A physician assistant shall report to the board any personal action which is a violation of this chapter.

Subd. 8. **Deadlines; forms.** Reports required by subdivisions 2 to 7 must be submitted not later than 30 days after the occurrence of the reportable event or transaction. The board may provide forms for the submission of reports required by this section, may require that reports be submitted on the forms provided, and may adopt rules necessary to assure prompt and accurate reporting.

Subd. 9. **Subpoenas.** The board may issue subpoenas for the production of any reports required by subdivisions 2 to 7 or any related documents.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 13; 2004 c 146 art 3 s 47; 2020 c 115 art 2 s 14

147A.15 IMMUNITY.

Subdivision 1. **Reporting.** Any person, health care facility, business, or organization is immune from civil liability or criminal prosecution for submitting a report to the board pursuant to this chapter or for

otherwise reporting to the board violations or alleged violations of this chapter. All such reports are confidential and absolutely privileged communications.

Subd. 2. Investigation; indemnification. (a) Members of the board, persons employed by the board, and consultants retained by the board for the purpose of investigation of violations or the preparation and management of charges of violations of this chapter on behalf of the board are immune from civil liability and criminal prosecution for any actions, transactions, or publications in the execution of, or relating to, their duties under this chapter.

(b) Members of the board and persons employed by the board or engaged in maintaining records and making reports regarding adverse health care events are immune from civil liability and criminal prosecution for any actions, transactions, or publications in the execution of or relating to their duties under section 147A.155.

(c) For purposes of this section, a member of the board or a consultant described in paragraph (a) is considered a state employee under section 3.736, subdivision 9.

Subd. 3. Physician assistant cooperation. A physician assistant who is the subject of an investigation by or on behalf of the board shall cooperate fully with the investigation. Cooperation includes responding fully and promptly to any question raised by or on behalf of the board relating to the subject of the investigation and providing copies of patient medical records, as reasonably requested by the board, to assist the board in its investigation. The board shall pay for copies requested. If the board does not have a written consent from a patient permitting access to the patient's records, the physician assistant shall delete any data in the record which identifies the patient before providing it to the board. The board shall maintain any records obtained pursuant to this section as investigative data pursuant to chapter 13.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 14; 2004 c 186 s 5

147A.155 REPORTS TO COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH.

(a) The board shall maintain a record of an event that comes to the board's attention that, in the judgment of the board or a committee of the board, qualifies as an adverse health care event under section 144.7065.

(b) Within 30 days of making a determination under paragraph (a) that an event qualifies as an adverse health care event, the board shall forward to the commissioner of health a report of the event, including the facility involved, the date of the event, and information known to the board regarding the event. The report shall not include any identifying information for any of the health care professionals, facility employees, or patients involved.

History: 2004 c 186 s 6

147A.16 FORMS OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

(a) When the board finds that a licensed physician assistant has violated a provision of this chapter, it may do one or more of the following:

(1) revoke the license;

(2) suspend the license;

(3) impose limitations or conditions on the physician assistant's practice, including limiting the scope of practice to designated field specialties; imposing retraining or rehabilitation requirements; or limiting

practice until demonstration of knowledge or skills by appropriate examination or other review of skill and competence;

(4) impose a civil penalty not exceeding \$10,000 for each separate violation, the amount of the civil penalty to be fixed to deprive the physician assistant of any economic advantage gained by reason of the violation charged or to reimburse the board for the cost of the investigation and proceeding; or

(5) censure or reprimand the licensed physician assistant.

(b) Upon judicial review of any board disciplinary action taken under this chapter, the reviewing court shall seal the administrative record, except for the board's final decision, and shall not make the administrative record available to the public.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 15; 2009 c 159 s 25; 2020 c 115 art 2 s 15; 2023 c 70 art 6 s 13

147A.17 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ACCOUNTABILITY.

Subdivision 1. **Investigation.** The board shall maintain and keep current a file containing the reports and complaints filed against physician assistants in the state. Each complaint filed with the board pursuant to section 214.10, subdivision 1, shall be investigated according to section 214.10, subdivision 2.

Whenever the files maintained by the board show that a medical malpractice settlement or award to the plaintiff has been made against a physician assistant as reported by insurers pursuant to this chapter, the executive director of the board shall notify the board and the board may authorize a review of the physician assistant's practice.

Subd. 2. **Attorney general investigation.** When the board initiates a review of a physician assistant's practice, it shall notify the attorney general who shall investigate the matter in the same manner as provided in section 214.10. If an investigation is to be made, the attorney general shall notify the physician assistant, and, if the incident being investigated occurred there, the administrator and chief of staff at the medical care facilities in which the physician assistant serves.

Subd. 3. **Access to hospital records.** The board shall have access to hospital and medical records of a patient treated by the physician assistant under review if the patient signs a written consent form permitting such access. If no consent form has been signed, the hospital or physician assistant shall first delete data in the record which identifies the patient before providing it to the board.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 16

147A.18 Subdivision 1. MS 2018 [Repealed, 2020 c 115 art 2 s 34]

Subd. 2. MS 2018 [Repealed, 2020 c 115 art 2 s 34]

Subd. 3. MS 2018 [Repealed, 2020 c 115 art 2 s 34]

Subd. 4. [Repealed by amendment, 2009 c 159 s 26]

Subd. 5. [Repealed by amendment, 2009 c 159 s 26]

147A.185 PRESCRIBING DRUGS AND THERAPEUTIC DEVICES.

Subdivision 1. **Diagnosis, prescribing, and ordering.** A physician assistant is authorized to:

(1) diagnose, prescribe, and institute therapy or referrals of patients to health care agencies and providers;

(2) prescribe, procure, sign for, record, administer, and dispense over-the-counter drugs, legend drugs, and controlled substances, including sample drugs; and

(3) plan and initiate a therapeutic regimen that includes ordering and prescribing durable medical devices and equipment, nutrition, diagnostic services, and supportive services including but not limited to home health care, hospice, physical therapy, and occupational therapy.

Subd. 2. Drug Enforcement Administration requirements. (a) A physician assistant must:

(1) comply with federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) requirements related to controlled substances; and

(2) file any and all of the physician assistant's DEA registrations and numbers with the board.

(b) The board shall maintain current records of all physician assistants with DEA registration and numbers.

Subd. 3. Other requirements and restrictions. (a) Each prescription initiated by a physician assistant shall indicate the following:

(1) the date of issue;

(2) the name and address of the patient;

(3) the name and quantity of the drug prescribed;

(4) directions for use; and

(5) the name and address of the prescribing physician assistant.

(b) In prescribing, dispensing, and administering legend drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices, a physician assistant must comply with this chapter and chapters 151 and 152.

History: 2020 c 115 art 2 s 16

147A.19 IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

Physician assistants licensed under this chapter shall keep their license available for inspection at their primary place of business and shall, when engaged in their professional activities, wear a name tag identifying themselves as a "physician assistant."

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 18; 2009 c 159 s 27

147A.20 MS 2018 [Repealed, 2020 c 115 art 2 s 34]

147A.21 [Repealed, 1Sp2017 c 6 art 11 s 56]

147A.22 [Repealed, 2009 c 159 s 112]

147A.23 RESPONDING TO DISASTER SITUATIONS.

A physician assistant duly licensed or credentialed in a United States jurisdiction or by a federal employer who is responding to a need for medical care created by an emergency according to section 604A.01, or a

state or local disaster may render such care as the physician assistant is trained to provide, under the physician assistant's license or credential.

History: 1999 c 226 s 1; 2000 c 298 s 1; 2009 c 159 s 30; 2020 c 115 art 2 s 17

147A.24 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Amount of education required.** Applicants for license renewal must either meet standards for continuing education through current certification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, or its successor agency as approved by the board, or provide evidence of successful completion of at least 50 contact hours of continuing education within the two years immediately preceding license renewal.

Subd. 2. **Type of education required.** Continuing education is approved if it is equivalent to category 1 credit hours as defined by the American Osteopathic Association Bureau of Professional Education, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the American Academy of Physician Assistants, or by organizations that have reciprocal arrangements with the physician recognition award program of the American Medical Association.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 22; 2003 c 2 art 1 s 20; 2009 c 159 s 31

147A.25 [Repealed, 2001 c 3 s 1]

147A.26 PROCEDURES.

The board shall establish, in writing, internal operating procedures for receiving and investigating complaints, accepting and processing applications, granting licenses, and imposing enforcement actions. The written internal operating procedures may include procedures for sharing complaint information with government agencies in this and other states. Procedures for sharing complaint information must be consistent with the requirements for handling government data under chapter 13.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 24; 1997 c 187 art 2 s 4; 2009 c 159 s 32

147A.27 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Subdivision 1. **Membership.** The Physician Assistant Advisory Council is created and is composed of seven persons appointed by the board. The seven persons must include:

- (1) two public members, as defined in section 214.02;
- (2) three physician assistants licensed under this chapter who meet the criteria for a new applicant under section 147A.02; and
- (3) two licensed physicians with experience practicing with physician assistants.

Subd. 2. **Organization.** The council shall be organized and administered under section 15.059.

Subd. 3. **Duties.** The council shall advise the board regarding:

- (1) physician assistant licensure standards;
- (2) enforcement of grounds for discipline;
- (3) distribution of information regarding physician assistant licensure standards;

(4) applications and recommendations of applicants for licensure or license renewal;

(5) complaints and recommendations to the board regarding disciplinary matters and proceedings concerning applicants and licensees according to sections 214.10; 214.103; and 214.13, subdivisions 6 and 7; and

(6) issues related to physician assistant practice and regulation.

The council shall perform other duties authorized for the council by chapter 214 as directed by the board.

History: 1997 c 120 s 1; 2000 c 298 s 2; 2007 c 123 s 7; 2009 c 159 s 33; 2018 c 130 s 1; 2022 c 58 s 85

147A.28 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT APPLICATION AND LICENSE FEES.

(a) The board may charge the following nonrefundable fees:

- (1) physician assistant application fee, \$120;
- (2) physician assistant annual license renewal fee, \$115;
- (3) physician assistant locum tenens permit, \$25;
- (4) physician assistant late fee, \$50;
- (5) duplicate license fee, \$20;
- (6) certification letter fee, \$25;
- (7) education or training program approval fee, \$100;
- (8) report creation and generation fee, \$60 per hour; and
- (9) verification fee, \$25.

(b) The board may prorate the initial annual license fee. All licensees are required to pay the full fee upon license renewal. The revenue generated from the fees must be deposited in an account in the state government special revenue fund.

History: 1Sp2017 c 6 art 11 s 4; 2019 c 8 art 7 s 4; 2020 c 79 art 1 s 5; 2022 c 99 art 2 s 6

147A.29 LICENSE RENEWAL CYCLE CONVERSION.

Subdivision 1. **Generally.** The license renewal cycle for physician assistant licensees is converted to an annual cycle where renewal is due on the last day of the licensee's month of birth. Conversion pursuant to this section begins January 1, 2020. This section governs license renewal procedures for licensees who were licensed before December 31, 2019. The conversion renewal cycle is the renewal cycle following the first license renewal after January 1, 2020. The conversion license period is the license period for the conversion renewal cycle. The conversion license period is between six and 17 months and ends the last day of the licensee's month of birth in either 2020 or 2021, as described in subdivision 2.

Subd. 2. **Conversion of license renewal cycle for current licensees.** For a licensee whose license is current as of December 31, 2019, the licensee's conversion license period begins on January 1, 2020, and ends on the last day of the licensee's month of birth in 2020, except that for licensees whose month of birth

is January, February, March, April, May, or June, the licensee's renewal cycle ends on the last day of the licensee's month of birth in 2021.

Subd. 3. Conversion of license renewal cycle for noncurrent licensees. This subdivision applies to an individual who was licensed before December 31, 2019, but whose license is not current as of December 31, 2019. When the individual first renews the license after January 1, 2020, the conversion renewal cycle begins on the date the individual applies for renewal and ends on the last day of the licensee's month of birth in the same year, except that if the last day of the individual's month of birth is less than six months after the date the individual applies for renewal, then the renewal period ends on the last day of the individual's month of birth in the following year.

Subd. 4. Subsequent renewal cycles. After the licensee's conversion renewal cycle under subdivision 2 or 3, subsequent renewal cycles are annual and begin on the last day of the month of the licensee's birth.

Subd. 5. Conversion period and fees. (a) A licensee who holds a license issued before January 1, 2020, and who renews that license pursuant to subdivision 2 or 3, shall pay a renewal fee as required in this subdivision.

(b) A licensee shall be charged the annual license fee listed in section 147A.28 for the conversion license period.

(c) For a licensee whose conversion license period is six to 11 months, the first annual license fee charged after the conversion license period shall be adjusted to credit the excess fee payment made during the conversion license period. The credit is calculated by: (1) subtracting the number of months of the licensee's conversion license period from 12; and (2) multiplying the result of clause (1) by 1/12 of the annual fee rounded up to the next dollar.

(d) For a licensee whose conversion license period is 12 months, the first annual license fee charged after the conversion license period shall not be adjusted.

(e) For a licensee whose conversion license period is 13 to 17 months, the first annual license fee charged after the conversion license period shall be adjusted to add the annual license fee payment for the months that were not included in the annual license fee paid for the conversion license period. The added payment is calculated by: (1) subtracting 12 from the number of months of the licensee's conversion license period; and (2) multiplying the result of clause (1) by 1/12 of the annual fee rounded up to the next dollar.

(f) For the second and all subsequent license renewals made after the conversion license period, the licensee's annual license fee is as listed in section 147A.28.

Subd. 6. Expiration. This section expires July 1, 2022.

History: 2019 c 8 art 1 s 3