
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1351 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY SONNEY, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, HARKINS, LUCAS,
MILLARD, PICKETT, READSHAW, COHEN, BIZZARRO, WATSON, MILNE,
MURT, KORTZ, PAINTER AND CALTAGIRONE, MAY 8, 2013

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, IN SENATE, NOVEMBER 18, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of October 5, 1978 (P.L.1109, No.261), entitled
2 "An act requiring the licensing of practitioners of
3 osteopathic medicine and surgery; regulating their practice;
4 providing for certain funds and penalties for violations and
5 repeals," further providing for physician assistants.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Section 10(g) of the act of October 5, 1978
9 (P.L.1109, No.261), known as the Osteopathic Medical Practice
10 Act, amended July 20, 2007 (P.L.316, No.47), is amended and the
11 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

12 Section 10. Licenses; exemptions; nonresident practitioners;
13 graduate students; biennial registration and
14 continuing medical education.

15 * * *

16 (g) The supervising physician shall file with the board an
17 application to utilize a physician assistant containing a
18 description of the manner in which the physician assistant will

1 assist the supervising physician in his practice, the method and
2 frequency of supervision, including, but not limited to, the
3 number and frequency of the patient record reviews required by
4 subsection (j.1) and the criteria for selecting patient records
5 for review when 100% review is not required, and the geographic
6 location of the physician assistant. UPON SUBMISSION OF THE <--
7 APPLICATION, BOARD STAFF SHALL REVIEW THE APPLICATION ONLY FOR
8 COMPLETENESS AND SHALL ISSUE A LETTER TO THE SUPERVISING
9 PHYSICIAN PROVIDING THE TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION FOR THE
10 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT TO BEGIN PRACTICE. IF THE APPLICATION IS NOT
11 COMPLETE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, REQUIRED INFORMATION OR
12 SIGNATURES NOT BEING PROVIDED OR THE FEE NOT BEING SUBMITTED, A
13 TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT TO BEGIN
14 PRACTICING SHALL NOT BE ISSUED. THE TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION,
15 WHEN ISSUED, SHALL PROVIDE A PERIOD OF 120 DAYS DURING WHICH THE
16 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT MAY PRACTICE UNDER THE TERMS SET FORTH IN
17 THE WRITTEN AGREEMENT AS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD. WITHIN 120 DAYS
18 THE BOARD SHALL NOTIFY THE SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN OF THE FINAL
19 APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION. IF APPROVED, A FINAL
20 APPROVAL OF THE WRITTEN AGREEMENT SHALL BE ISSUED TO THE
21 SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN. IF THERE ARE DISCREPANCIES THAT HAVE NOT
22 BEEN CORRECTED WITHIN THE 120- DAY PERIOD, THE TEMPORARY
23 AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE SHALL EXPIRE. There shall be no more
24 than four physician assistants for whom a physician has
25 responsibility or supervises pursuant to a written agreement at
26 any time. In health care facilities licensed under the act of
27 July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the "Health Care
28 Facilities Act," a physician assistant shall be under the
29 supervision and direction of a physician or physician group
30 pursuant to a written agreement, provided that a physician

1 supervises no more than four physician assistants at any time. A
2 physician may apply for a waiver to employ or supervise more
3 than four physician assistants at any time under this section
4 for good cause, as determined by the board. In cases where a
5 group of physicians will supervise a physician assistant, the
6 names of all supervisory physicians shall be included on the
7 application.

8 * * *

9 (j.1) Patient record review.--

10 (1) The approved physician shall countersign 100% of the
11 patient records completed by the physician assistant within a
12 reasonable time, which shall not exceed ten days, during each
13 of the following time periods:

14 (i) The first 12 months of the physician assistant's
15 practice post graduation and after the physician
16 assistant has fulfilled the criteria for licensure set
17 forth in subsection (f).

18 (ii) The first 12 months of the physician
19 assistant's practice in a new specialty in which the
20 physician assistant is practicing.

21 (iii) The first six months of the physician
22 assistant's practice in the same specialty under the
23 supervision of the approved physician, unless the
24 physician assistant has multiple approved physicians and
25 practiced under the supervision of at least one of those
26 approved physicians for six months.

27 (2) In the case of a physician assistant who is not
28 subject to 100% review of the physician assistant's patient
29 records pursuant to paragraph (1), the approved physician
30 shall personally review on a regular basis a selected number

1 of the patient records completed by the physician assistant.
2 The approved physician shall select patient records for
3 review on the basis of written criteria established by the
4 approved physician and the physician assistant. The number of
5 patient records reviewed shall be sufficient to assure
6 adequate review of the physician assistant's scope of
7 practice.

8 * * *

9 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.