
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2976 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, KULIK, GREEN, HARKINS AND KORTZ,
NOVEMBER 30, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
NOVEMBER 30, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112),
2 entitled "An act relating to the right to practice medicine
3 and surgery and the right to practice medically related acts;
4 reestablishing the State Board of Medical Education and
5 Licensure as the State Board of Medicine and providing for
6 its composition, powers and duties; providing for the
7 issuance of licenses and certificates and the suspension and
8 revocation of licenses and certificates; provided penalties;
9 and making repeals," further providing for definitions; and
10 providing for anesthesiologist assistants.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. Section 2 of the act of December 20, 1985
14 (P.L.457, No.112), known as the Medical Practice Act of 1985, is
15 amended by adding definitions to read:

16 Section 2. Definitions.

17 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
18 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
19 context clearly indicates otherwise:

20 * * *

21 "Anesthesiologist." A physician who has been granted an

1 unrestricted license to practice medicine by the board or an
2 unrestricted license to practice osteopathic medicine by the
3 State Board of Osteopathic Medicine and either:

4 (1) has successfully completed residency training in
5 anesthesiology accredited by either the Accreditation Council
6 for Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic
7 Association;

8 (2) is certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology
9 or the American Osteopathic Board of Anesthesiology; or

10 (3) is credentialed by a licensed health care facility
11 in this Commonwealth to practice the medical specialty of
12 anesthesiology.

13 "Anesthesiologist assistant." An individual who:

14 (1) Graduated from an anesthesiologist assistant
15 education program approved by CAAHEP, its predecessor or a
16 successor agency.

17 (2) Satisfactorily completed a certification examination
18 administered by NCCAA or another national anesthesiologist
19 assistant certifying agency established for such purposes
20 which has been reviewed and approved by the board and is
21 currently certified.

22 (3) Is approved by the board to assist in the practice
23 of medicine under the supervision of a supervising
24 anesthesiologist.

25 * * *

26 "Assist." The action of an anesthesiologist assistant
27 personally performing duties and responsibilities delegated to
28 him by a supervising anesthesiologist under the supervision of
29 an anesthesiologist.

30 * * *

1 "CAAHEP." The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health
2 Education Programs.

3 "Certification examination." The initial certifying
4 examination for an anesthesiologist assistant established for
5 the purpose of certification and reviewed and approved by the
6 board.

7 * * *

8 "NCCAA." The National Commission on the Certification of
9 Anesthesiologist Assistants.

10 * * *

11 "Supervising anesthesiologist." An anesthesiologist who
12 provides supervision to and agrees to be responsible for the
13 medical acts of an anesthesiologist assistant.

14 "Supervision." The delegated duties performed under a
15 supervising anesthesiologist's direction and control:

16 (1) where the supervising anesthesiologist is
17 immediately physically available in the same facility,
18 including, but not limited to, the operating room suite,
19 intensive care unit, emergency room, obstetric suite,
20 endoscopy suite, radiology suite, cardiac services suite or
21 recovery room; and

22 (2) that may provide assistance and direction throughout
23 the performance of the anesthesia procedure or service,
24 regardless of whether or not the supervising anesthesiologist
25 is present in the room for the entirety of the anesthesia
26 procedure or service.

27 * * *

28 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:
29 Section 13.7. Anesthesiologist assistants.

30 (a) General rule.--An anesthesiologist assistant may assist

1 a supervising anesthesiologist in the practice of medicine.

2 Duties which an anesthesiologist may delegate to an

3 anesthesiologist assistant include, but are not limited to:

4 (1) Performing preoperative anesthetic evaluations,
5 except for emergencies which must be approved by the
6 supervising anesthesiologist prior to the administration of
7 care.

8 (2) Performing postoperative anesthetic evaluations
9 and writing patient progress notes, which must be cosigned by
10 the supervising anesthesiologist within 24 hours.

11 (3) Ordering and performing preoperative consultations.

12 (4) Ordering preoperative medications, including, but
13 not limited to, controlled substances.

14 (5) Changing or discontinuing a medical treatment plan
15 after consultation with the supervising anesthesiologist.

16 (6) Obtaining informed consent for anesthesia or related
17 procedures if permissible under section 504 of the act of
18 March 20, 2002 (P.L.154, No.13), known as the Medical Care
19 Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Act.

20 (7) Ordering the perioperative continuation of current
21 medications which may be administered prior to the
22 cosignature by the supervising anesthesiologist.

23 (8) Calibrating anesthesia delivery systems and
24 obtaining and interpreting information from the systems and
25 monitors.

26 (9) Assisting the supervising anesthesiologist with the
27 implementation of medically accepted monitoring techniques.

28 (10) Performing basic and advanced airway interventions,
29 including, but not limited to,
30 endotracheal intubation, laryngeal mask insertion and other

1 advanced airway techniques.

2 (11) Establishing peripheral intravenous lines.

3 (12) Establishing arterial lines and central lines.

4 (13) Performing general anesthesia including induction,
5 maintenance and emergence.

6 (14) Performing procedures associated with general
7 anesthesia, including, but not limited to, gastric
8 intubation.

9 (15) Administering vasoactive medications and vasoactive
10 infusions for the treatment of patient responses to
11 anesthesia.

12 (16) Performing epidural, spinal and intravenous
13 regional anesthesia.

14 (17) Maintaining and managing established neuraxial and
15 regional anesthesia.

16 (18) Performing monitored anesthesia care.

17 (19) Evaluating and managing patient-controlled
18 analgesia, epidural catheters and peripheral nerve catheters.

19 (20) Obtaining venous and arterial blood samples.

20 (21) Performing, ordering and interpreting appropriate
21 preoperative, point of care, intraoperative or postoperative
22 diagnostic tests or procedures.

23 (22) Obtaining and administering perioperative
24 anesthesia and related pharmaceutical agents, including
25 intravenous fluids and blood products.

26 (23) Participating in management of a patient while in
27 the preoperative suite and recovery area.

28 (24) Ordering postoperative sedation, anxiolysis,
29 analgesia, which may be administered prior to the cosignature
30 by the supervising anesthesiologist.

1 (25) Ordering postoperative oxygen therapy, including
2 initial ventilator therapy, which may be administered prior
3 to the cosignature by the supervising anesthesiologist.

4 (26) Ordering postoperative respiratory therapy and
5 medicines for the treatment of patient responses to
6 anesthesia, which may be administered prior to the
7 cosignature by the supervising anesthesiologist.

8 (27) Providing assistance to a cardiopulmonary
9 resuscitation team in response to a life-threatening
10 situation.

11 (28) Participating in administrative, research and
12 clinical teaching activities.

13 (29) Performing other tasks not prohibited by law under
14 the supervision of the anesthesiologist that the
15 anesthesiologist assistant has been trained and is proficient
16 to perform.

17 (b) Exception.--This section does not apply to an individual
18 enrolled in an anesthesiologist assistant program approved by
19 the board.

20 (c) Construction.--Nothing in this section shall be
21 construed to prevent an anesthesiologist assistant from having
22 access to and being able to obtain drugs as directed by a
23 supervising anesthesiologist.

24 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.