

CALIFORNIA PRISON HEALTH CARE SERVICES



VOLUME 4: MEDICAL SERVICES	Date Created: May 5, 2009
CHAPTER 27A	Next Revision: January 1, 2010
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT POLICY	Attachments: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), California Prison Health Care Services (CPHCS), to integrate Physician Assistants into the health care delivery system as Primary Care Providers (PCPs). Physician Assistants shall work within their scope of practice as defined in Business and Professions Code, Chapter 7.7, Article 1, Section 3500-3503.5, and further clarified in Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 1399.540-1399.546.

Physician Assistants are independent practitioners who act as agents on behalf of a supervising physician. Business and Professions Code, Section 3502 authorizes Physician Assistants to perform medical services set forth in Section 1399.541 of the Physician Assistant Regulations when those services are rendered under direct supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon. In providing primary care services to inmates, Physician Assistants shall provide only those health care services which are delegated in writing by a supervising physician and for which they are deemed competent.

Under the direction of the Receiver, CPHCS has embarked upon an ambitious program to recruit, orient, train, and retain competent PCPs, including complementing the current staffing by incorporating a strong contingent of mid-level practitioners including Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners. Physicians and mid-level practitioners are integral and inseparable components of a successful, health care delivery system. This policy shall define the Physician Assistant's role, responsibility, and scope of practice to ensure that Physician Assistants are integrated into the health care team.

II. PURPOSE

To provide CPHCS staff with standardized guidelines for hiring and supervising Physician Assistants, to establish the functions that Physician Assistants in CPHCS may perform, and to assist health care providers in understanding the role and scope of practice of Physician Assistants.

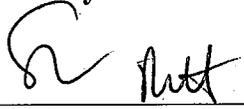
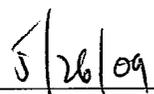
III. REFERENCES

- Business and Professions Code, Chapter 7.7, Article 1, Section 3500-3503.5
- Title 16, Division 13.8, California Code of Regulation Article 4, Section 1399.540-1399.546.

Reviewed and Approved By:

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Name Date