

CHAPTER 147A

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, LICENSING

147A.01	DEFINITIONS.	147A.15	IMMUNITY.
147A.02	QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE.	147A.155	REPORTS TO COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH.
147A.03	PROTECTED TITLES AND RESTRICTIONS ON USE.	147A.16	FORMS OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION.
147A.04	TEMPORARY LICENSE.	147A.17	PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ACCOUNTABILITY.
147A.05	INACTIVE LICENSE.	147A.18	DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE, DISPENSE, AND ADMINISTER DRUGS AND MEDICAL DEVICES.
147A.06	CANCELLATION OF LICENSE FOR NONRENEWAL.	147A.19	IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.
147A.07	RENEWAL.	147A.20	PHYSICIAN-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AGREEMENT DOCUMENTS.
147A.08	EXEMPTIONS.	147A.21	RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.
147A.09	SCOPE OF PRACTICE, DELEGATION.	147A.23	RESPONDING TO DISASTER SITUATIONS.
147A.10	SATELLITE SETTINGS.	147A.24	CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.
147A.11	EXCLUSIONS OF LIMITATIONS ON EMPLOYMENT.	147A.26	PROCEDURES.
147A.13	GROUND FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION.	147A.27	PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ADVISORY COUNCIL.
147A.14	REPORTING OBLIGATIONS.		

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 [Repealed by amendment, 2009 c 159 s 14]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 authorized to prescribe legend drugs, a single dose of a legend drug, including controlled substances, to a patient by injection, inhalation, ingestion, or by any other immediate means, and the delivery by a physician assistant ordered by a physician a single dose of a legend drug by injection, inhalation, ingestion, or by any other immediate means.

Subd. 4. **Agreement.** "Agreement" means the document described in section 147A.20.

Subd. 5. **Alternate supervising physician.** "Alternate supervising physician" means a Minnesota licensed physician listed in the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement, or supplemental listing, who is responsible for supervising the physician assistant when the primary supervising physician is unavailable. The alternate supervising physician shall accept full medical responsibility for the performance, practice, and activities of the physician assistant while under the supervision of the alternate supervising physician.

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

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. **Drug category.** "Drug category" means one of the categories listed on the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement.

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. **Notice of intent to practice.** "Notice of intent to practice" means a document sent to the board by a licensed physician assistant that documents the adoption of a physician-physician assistant delegation agreement and provides the names, addresses, and information required by section 147A.20.

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

Subd. 17a. **Physician-physician assistant delegation agreement.** "Physician-physician assistant delegation agreement" means the document prepared and signed by the physician and physician assistant affirming the supervisory relationship and defining the physician assistant scope of practice. Alternate supervising physicians must be identified on the delegation agreement or a supplemental listing with signed attestation that each shall accept full medical responsibility for the performance, practice, and activities of the physician assistant while under the supervision of the alternate supervising physician. The physician-physician assistant delegation agreement outlines the role of the physician assistant in the practice, describes the means of supervision, and specifies the categories of drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices that the supervising physician delegates to the physician assistant to prescribe. The physician-physician assistant delegation agreement must comply with the requirements of section 147A.20, be kept on file at the address of record, and be made available to the board or its representative upon request.

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 authorized to prescribe drugs for patients in the course of the physician assistant's practice, issued for an individual patient and containing the information required in the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement.

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

Subd. 23. **Supervising physician.** "Supervising physician" means a Minnesota licensed physician who accepts full medical responsibility for the performance, practice, and activities of a physician assistant under an agreement as described in section 147A.20. The supervising physician who completes and signs the delegation agreement may be referred to as the primary supervising physician. A supervising physician shall not supervise more than five full-time equivalent physician assistants simultaneously. With the approval of the board, or in a disaster or emergency situation pursuant to section 147A.23, a supervising physician may supervise more than five full-time equivalent physician assistants simultaneously.

Subd. 24. **Supervision.** "Supervision" means overseeing the activities of, and accepting responsibility for, the medical services rendered by a physician assistant. The constant physical presence of the supervising physician is not required so long as the supervising physician and physician assistant are or can be easily in contact with one another by radio, telephone, or other telecommunication device. The scope and nature of the supervision shall be defined by the individual physician-physician assistant delegation agreement.

Subd. 25. **Temporary license.** "Temporary license" means a license granted to a physician assistant who meets all of the qualifications for licensure but has not yet been approved for licensure at a meeting of the board.

Subd. 26. **Therapeutic order.** "Therapeutic order" means an order given to another for the purpose of treating or curing a patient in the course of a physician assistant's practice. Therapeutic orders may be written or verbal, but do not include the prescribing of legend drugs or medical devices unless prescribing authority has been delegated within the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement.

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. Verbal orders do not include the prescribing of legend drugs unless prescribing authority has been delegated within the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 1; 2003 c 2 art 1 s 18,19; 2009 c 159 s 14

147A.02 QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE.

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, an individual shall be licensed by the board before the individual may practice as a physician assistant.

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.

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.

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

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. 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

147A.04 TEMPORARY LICENSE.

The board may issue a temporary license to practice to a physician assistant eligible for licensure under this chapter only if the application for licensure is complete, all requirements have been met, and a nonrefundable fee set by the board has been paid. The temporary license remains valid only until the next meeting of the board at which a decision is made on the application for licensure.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 4; 2009 c 159 s 17

147A.05 INACTIVE LICENSE.

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.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 5; 2009 c 159 s 18

147A.06 CANCELLATION OF LICENSE FOR NONRENEWAL.

The board shall not renew, reissue, reinstate, or restore a license that has lapsed on or after July 1, 1996, and has not been renewed within two annual renewal cycles starting July 1, 1997. 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.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 6; 2009 c 159 s 19

147A.07 RENEWAL.

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.

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

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 persons defined in section 144.1501, subdivision 1, paragraphs (f), (h), and (i).

(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

147A.09 SCOPE OF PRACTICE, DELEGATION.

Subdivision 1. **Scope of practice.** Physician assistants shall practice medicine only with physician supervision. Physician assistants may perform those duties and responsibilities as delegated in the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement and delegation forms maintained at the address of record by the supervising physician and physician assistant, including the prescribing, administering, and dispensing of drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices, excluding anesthetics, other than local anesthetics, injected in connection with an operating room procedure, inhaled anesthesia and spinal anesthesia.

Patient service must be limited to:

- (1) services within the training and experience of the physician assistant;
- (2) services customary to the practice of the supervising physician or alternate supervising physician;
- (3) services delegated by the supervising physician or alternate supervising physician under the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement; and
- (4) services within the parameters of the laws, rules, and standards of the facilities in which the physician assistant practices.

Nothing in this chapter authorizes physician assistants to perform duties regulated by the boards listed in section 214.01, subdivision 2, other than the Board of Medical Practice, and except as provided in this section.

Subd. 2. **Delegation.** Patient services may include, but are not limited to, the following, as delegated by the supervising physician and authorized in the delegation agreement:

- (1) taking patient histories and developing medical status reports;
- (2) performing physical examinations;
- (3) interpreting and evaluating patient data;
- (4) ordering or performing diagnostic procedures, including the use of radiographic imaging systems in compliance with Minnesota Rules 2007, chapter 4732;
- (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) assisting the supervising physician in patient care in the home and in health care facilities;
- (8) creating and maintaining appropriate patient records;
- (9) transmitting or executing specific orders at the direction of the supervising physician;
- (10) prescribing, administering, and dispensing drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices if this function has been delegated by the supervising physician pursuant to and subject to the limitations of section 147A.18 and chapter 151. For physician assistants who have been delegated the authority to prescribe controlled substances, such delegation shall be included in the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement, and all schedules of controlled substances the physician assistant has the authority to prescribe shall be specified;

(11) for physician assistants not delegated prescribing authority, administering legend drugs and medical devices following prospective review for each patient by and upon direction of the supervising physician;

(12) 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;

(13) initiating evaluation and treatment procedures essential to providing an appropriate response to emergency situations;

(14) certifying a patient's eligibility for a disability parking certificate under section 169.345, subdivision 2;

(15) assisting at surgery; and

(16) providing medical authorization for admission for emergency care and treatment of a patient under section 253B.05, subdivision 2.

Orders of physician assistants shall be considered the orders of their supervising physicians in all practice-related activities, including, but not limited to, the ordering of diagnostic, therapeutic, and other medical services.

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

147A.10 SATELLITE SETTINGS.

Physician assistants may render services in a setting geographically remote from the supervising physician.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 10

147A.11 EXCLUSIONS OF LIMITATIONS ON EMPLOYMENT.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit the employment arrangement of a physician assistant licensed under this chapter.

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 11; 2009 c 159 s 23

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) failure to adhere to the provisions of the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement;

(9) engaging in the practice of medicine beyond that allowed by the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement, or aiding or abetting an unlicensed person in the practice of medicine;

(10) 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;

(11) 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;

(12) 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;

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

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

(15) 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;

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

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

(18) 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;

(19) 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;

(20) 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;

(21) 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;

(22) 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

(23) failure to maintain annually reviewed and updated physician-physician assistant delegation agreements for each physician-physician assistant practice relationship, or failure to provide copies of such documents upon request by the board.

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 (h), 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

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 physician-patient relationship if the patient is a physician assistant, and the treating physician 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

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.

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; impose retraining or rehabilitation requirements; require practice under additional supervision; or condition continued practice on 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 so as 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;

(5) order the physician assistant to provide unremunerated professional service under supervision at a designated public hospital, clinic, or other health care institution; or

(6) censure or reprimand the licensed physician assistant.

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

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 DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE, DISPENSE, AND ADMINISTER DRUGS AND MEDICAL DEVICES.

Subdivision 1. **Delegation.** (a) A supervising physician may delegate to a physician assistant who is licensed by the board, certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or successor agency approved by the board, and who is under the supervising physician's supervision, the authority to prescribe, dispense, and administer legend drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices subject to the requirements in this section. The authority to dispense includes, but is not limited to, the authority to request, receive, and dispense sample drugs. This authority to dispense extends only to those drugs described in the written agreement developed under paragraph (b).

(b) The delegation agreement between the physician assistant and supervising physician must include a statement by the supervising physician regarding delegation or nondelegation of the functions of prescribing, dispensing, and administering legend drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices to the physician assistant. The statement must include categories of drugs for which the supervising physician delegates prescriptive and dispensing authority, including controlled substances when applicable. The delegation must be appropriate to the physician assistant's practice and within the scope of the physician assistant's training. Physician assistants who have been delegated the authority to prescribe, dispense, and administer legend drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices shall provide evidence of current certification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or its successor agency when applying

for licensure or license renewal as physician assistants. Physician assistants who have been delegated the authority to prescribe controlled substances must also hold a valid DEA registration. Supervising physicians shall retrospectively review the prescribing, dispensing, and administering of legend drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices by physician assistants, when this authority has been delegated to the physician assistant as part of the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement. The process and schedule for the review must be outlined in the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement.

(c) The board may establish by rule:

(1) a system of identifying physician assistants eligible to prescribe, administer, and dispense legend drugs and medical devices;

(2) a system of identifying physician assistants eligible to prescribe, administer, and dispense controlled substances;

(3) a method of determining the categories of legend drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices that each physician assistant is allowed to prescribe, administer, and dispense; and

(4) a system of transmitting to pharmacies a listing of physician assistants eligible to prescribe legend drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices.

Subd. 2. Termination and reinstatement of prescribing authority. The authority of a physician assistant to prescribe, dispense, and administer legend drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices shall end immediately when:

(1) the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement is terminated;

(2) the authority to prescribe, dispense, and administer is terminated or withdrawn by the supervising physician;

(3) the physician assistant's license is placed on inactive status;

(4) the physician assistant loses National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or successor agency certification; or

(5) the physician assistant loses or terminates licensure status.

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 conform with the agreement, chapter 151, and this chapter.

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

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

History: 1995 c 205 art 1 s 17; 2001 c 49 s 1; 2005 c 147 art 6 s 1,2; 2009 c 159 s 26

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 PHYSICIAN-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AGREEMENT DOCUMENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Physician-physician assistant delegation agreement.** (a) A physician assistant and supervising physician must sign a physician-physician assistant delegation agreement which specifies scope of practice and manner of supervision as required by the board. The agreement must contain:

- (1) a description of the practice setting;
- (2) a listing of categories of delegated duties;
- (3) a description of supervision type; and

(4) a description of the process and schedule for review of prescribing, dispensing, and administering legend and controlled drugs and medical devices by the physician assistant authorized to prescribe.

(b) The agreement must be maintained by the supervising physician and physician assistant and made available to the board upon request. If there is a delegation of prescribing, administering, and dispensing of legend drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices, the agreement shall include a description of the prescriptive authority delegated to the physician assistant. Physician assistants shall have a separate agreement for each place of employment. Agreements must be reviewed and updated on an annual basis. The supervising physician and physician assistant must maintain the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement at the address of record.

(c) Physician assistants must provide written notification to the board within 30 days of the following:

- (1) name change;
- (2) address of record change; and
- (3) telephone number of record change.

(d) Any alternate supervising physicians must be identified in the physician-physician assistant delegation agreement, or a supplemental listing, and must sign the agreement attesting that they shall provide the physician assistant with supervision in compliance with this chapter, the delegation agreement, and board rules.

Subd. 2. **Notification of intent to practice.** A licensed physician assistant shall submit a notification of intent to practice to the board prior to beginning practice. The notification shall include the name, business

address, and telephone number of the supervising physician and the physician assistant. Individuals who practice without submitting a notification of intent to practice shall be subject to disciplinary action under section 147A.13 for practicing without a license, unless the care is provided in response to a disaster or emergency situation pursuant to section 147A.23.

History: *1995 c 205 art 1 s 19; 2001 c 49 s 2; 2004 c 279 art 2 s 3; 2009 c 159 s 28*

147A.21 RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.

The board shall adopt rules:

- (1) setting license fees;
- (2) setting renewal fees;
- (3) setting fees for temporary licenses; and
- (4) establishing renewal dates.

History: *1995 c 205 art 1 s 20; 2009 c 159 s 29*

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

147A.23 RESPONDING TO DISASTER SITUATIONS.

(a) 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, without the need of a physician-physician assistant delegation agreement or a notice of intent to practice as required under section 147A.20. A physician assistant may provide emergency care without physician supervision or under the supervision that is available.

(b) The physician who provides supervision to a physician assistant while the physician assistant is rendering care in accordance with this section may do so without meeting the requirements of section 147A.20.

(c) The supervising physician who otherwise provides supervision to a physician assistant under a physician-physician assistant delegation agreement described in section 147A.20 shall not be held medically responsible for the care rendered by a physician assistant pursuant to paragraph (a). Services provided by a physician assistant under paragraph (a) shall be considered outside the scope of the relationship between the supervising physician and the physician assistant.

History: *1999 c 226 s 1; 2000 c 298 s 1; 2009 c 159 s 30*

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.** (a) 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 supervising physician assistants.
- (b) No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms. If a member is appointed for a partial term and serves more than half of that term it shall be considered a full term.

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*