

## **Title of Regulations: 18 VAC 85-50-10 et seq. Regulations Governing the Practice of Physician Assistants**

### **18 VAC 85-50-10. Definitions**

The following words and terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in § 54.1-2900 of the Code of Virginia:

*"Board"*

“Physician assistant”

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

*"Committee"* means the Advisory Committee on Physician Assistants as specified in § 54.1-2950.1 of the Code of Virginia.

~~*"Formulary"* means the listing of categories of drugs which may be prescribed by the physician assistant according to this chapter.~~

*"Group practice"* means the practice of a group of two or more doctors of medicine, osteopathy, or podiatry licensed by the board who practice as a partnership or professional corporation.

*"Institution"* means a hospital, nursing home or other health care facility, community health center, public health center, industrial medicine or corporation clinic, a medical service facility, student health center, or other setting approved by the board.

*"NCCPA"* means the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

*"Protocol"* means a set of directions developed by the supervising physician that defines the supervisory relationship between the physician assistant and the physician and the circumstances under which the physician will see and evaluate the patient.

*"Supervision"* means:

1. *"Alternate supervising physician"* means a member of the same group or professional corporation or partnership of any licensee, any hospital or any commercial enterprise with the supervising physician. Such alternating supervising physician shall be a physician licensed in the Commonwealth who has registered with the board and who has accepted responsibility for the supervision of the service that a physician assistant renders.

2. "*Direct supervision*" means the physician is in the room in which a procedure is being performed.
3. "*General supervision*" means the supervising physician is easily available and can be physically present within one hour.
4. "*Personal supervision*" means the supervising physician is within the facility in which the physician assistant is functioning.
5. "*Supervising physician*" means the doctor of medicine, osteopathy, or podiatry licensed in the Commonwealth who has accepted responsibility for the supervision of the service that a physician assistant renders.

**18 VAC 85-50-130. Qualifications for approval of prescriptive authority.**

An applicant for prescriptive authority shall meet the following requirements:

1. Hold a current, unrestricted license as a physician assistant in the Commonwealth;
2. Submit a protocol acceptable to the board as ~~defined in 18 VAC 85-50-50 B-2~~ prescribed in 18 VAC 85-50-101. This protocol must be approved by the board prior to issuance of prescriptive authority;
3. Submit evidence of successful passing of the NCCPA exam; and
4. Submit evidence of successful completion of a minimum of 35 hours of acceptable training to the board in pharmacology.

**18 VAC 85-50-140. Approved ~~Formulary~~ drugs and devices.**

A. The approved ~~formulary~~ of drugs and devices which the physician assistant with prescriptive authority may prescribe, administer, or dispense manufacturers' professional samples shall ~~include:~~ be in accordance with provisions of § 54.1-2952.1 of the Code of Virginia.

~~1. Schedule VI drugs and devices with exception of the following:~~

- ~~Radioactive drugs~~
- ~~Ophthalmic aminoglycosides~~
- ~~Ophthalmic steroids~~
- ~~Any compound containing barbiturates~~

~~2. No controlled substances defined by the state and federal Controlled Substances Acts as Schedule I through V.~~

B. The physician assistant may prescribe only those categories of drugs and devices included ~~in the approved formulary and~~ in the practice agreement as submitted for authorization. The supervising physician retains the authority to restrict certain drugs within these approved categories.

C. The physician assistant, pursuant to §54.1-2952.1 of the Code of Virginia, shall only dispense manufacturers' professional samples or administer controlled substances in good faith for medical or therapeutic purposes within the course of his professional practice.

**18 VAC 85-50-150. Protocol regarding prescriptive authority.**

A. A physician assistant with prescriptive authority may prescribe only within the scope of the written protocol as ~~specified in 18 VAC 85-50-50 B-2~~ prescribed in 18 VAC 85-50-101.

B. A new protocol must be submitted with initial application for prescriptive authority and with the application for each biennial renewal, if there have been any changes in supervision, authorization or scope of practice.