

SENATE, No. 2234

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 17, 1997

By Senator SINAGRA

1 AN ACT concerning physician assistants and amending P.L.1991,
2 c.378.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 7 of P.L.1991, c.378 (C.45:9-27.16) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 7. a. A physician assistant may perform the following procedures:

10 (1) Approaching a patient to elicit a detailed and accurate history,
11 perform an appropriate physical examination, identify problems, record
12 information and interpret and present information to the supervising
13 physician;

14 (2) Suturing and caring for wounds including removing sutures and
15 clips and changing dressings, except for facial wounds, traumatic
16 wounds requiring suturing in layers and infected wounds;

17 (3) Providing patient counseling services and patient education
18 consistent with directions of the supervising physician;

19 (4) Assisting a physician in an inpatient setting by conducting
20 patient rounds, recording patient progress notes, determining and
21 implementing therapeutic plans jointly with the supervising physician
22 and compiling and recording pertinent narrative case summaries;

23 (5) Assisting a physician in the delivery of services to patients
24 requiring continuing care in a private home, nursing home, extended
25 care facility or other setting, including the review and monitoring of
26 treatment and therapy plans;

27 (6) Facilitating the referral of patients to, and promoting their
28 awareness of, health care facilities and other appropriate agencies and
29 resources in the community; and

30 (7) Such other procedures suitable for discretionary and routine
31 performance by physician assistants as designated by the board
32 pursuant to subsection a. of section 15 of this act.

33 b. A physician assistant may perform the following procedures
34 only when directed, ordered or prescribed by the supervising physician

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 or specified in accordance with protocols promulgated pursuant to
2 subsection c. of section 15 of this act:

3 (1) Performing non-invasive laboratory procedures and related
4 studies or assisting duly licensed personnel in the performance of
5 invasive laboratory procedures and related studies;

6 (2) Giving injections, administering medications and requesting
7 diagnostic studies;

8 (3) Suturing and caring for facial wounds, traumatic wounds
9 requiring suturing in layers and infected wounds;

10 (4) Writing prescriptions or ordering medications in an inpatient or
11 outpatient setting in accordance with section 10 of this act; and

12 (5) Such other procedures as may be specified in accordance with
13 protocols promulgated in accordance with subsection b. of section 15
14 of this act.

15 c. A physician assistant may assist a supervising surgeon in the
16 operating room when a qualified assistant physician is not required by
17 the board and a second assistant is deemed necessary by the
18 supervising surgeon.

19 (cf: P.L.1992,c.102,s.5)

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21 2. Section 10 of P.L.1991, c.378 (C.45:9-27.19) is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 10. A physician assistant treating a patient in an inpatient or
24 outpatient setting may order or prescribe medications, subject to the
25 following conditions:

26 a. no Schedule II controlled dangerous substances may be ordered
27 or prescribed, but a supervising physician may authorized a physician
28 assistant to order or prescribe Schedule III, IV or V controlled
29 dangerous substances if the physician assistant has registered with and
30 obtained authorization from the appropriate State and federal agencies;

31 b. the order or prescription is administered in accordance with
32 protocols or specific physician direction pursuant to subsection b. of
33 section 7 of this act;

34 c. the prescription states whether it is written pursuant to protocol
35 or specific physician direction; and

36 d. the physician assistant signs his own name, prints his name and
37 license number and prints the supervising physician's name, and in the
38 case of an order or prescription for a controlled dangerous substance,
39 prints the physician assistant's Drug Enforcement Administration
40 registration number.

41 (cf:P.L.1991,c.378,s.10)

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43 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill permits physician assistants to order or prescribe drugs in both outpatient and inpatient settings and permits a supervising physician to authorize a physician assistant to order or prescribe Schedule III, IV and V controlled dangerous substances if the physician assistant has registered with and obtained authorization from the appropriate State and federal agencies.

Currently, physician assistants are only permitted to order or prescribe drugs in inpatient settings and are prohibited from prescribing any controlled dangerous substances.



Permits physician assistants to prescribe in outpatient settings and to prescribe Schedule III, IV and V controlled dangerous substances.