



GUIDANCE DOCUMENT: Permissible Physician Assistant Services

Effective October 15, 2015

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SERVICES

Pursuant to a supervision agreement between the supervising physician and physician assistant, a physician assistant may perform the following services. The following listing of services is not meant to be all inclusive, but is offered for information purposes.

Section 2133.211, Ohio Revised Code (hereinafter “ORC”)

A physician assistant may take any action that an attending physician may take in regards to a Do Not Resuscitate order, if the action is taken pursuant to a supervision agreement entered into under Section 4730.19, ORC, including, if applicable, the policies of a health care facility in which the physician assistant is practicing.

Section 2151.3516, ORC

A physician assistant is a “hospital employee,” as defined in Section 2151.3515(E), ORC, while acting in an official capacity, for the purposes of taking possession of a child who is thirty days old or younger if that child’s parent has voluntarily delivered the child to that person without the parent expressing intent to return for the child.

Section 3727.06, ORC

A physician assistant may admit patients to a hospital under the conditions specified in Section 3727.06, ORC.

- The physician assistant must be listed on a supervision agreement with a physician or podiatrist who is a member of the hospital medical staff;
- The patient will be under the medical supervision of the supervising physician;
- The hospital has granted the physician assistant admitting privileges and appropriate credentials;
- Prior to admitting the patient, the physician assistant must notify the supervising physician of the planned admission.

Section 4503.44, ORC

A physician assistant is recognized as a “health care provider” for purposes of submitting a statement concerning a person’s disability for purposes of the person’s application for registration of a vehicle by a person limited or impaired in the ability to walk and/or for a windshield placard.

Section 4730.03, ORC

- When authorized to do so by the supervising physician and, if applicable, by the policies of the health care facility in which the physician assistant practices, the physician assistant may order or direct the execution of a procedure or technique by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse in the care and treatment of a person.
- When authorized to do so by the supervising physician, the physician assistant may perform routine visual screening, provide medical care prior to or following eye surgery, or assist in the care of diseases of the eye.

Section 4730.04, ORC

In a disaster or emergency, as defined in the section, a physician assistant licensed in Ohio or another state or authorized to practice by the federal government may provide services under the supervision of the physician designated as the medical director of the disaster or emergency.

Section 4730.20, O.R.C.

(A) A physician assistant may perform any of the following services authorized by the supervising physician that are part of the supervising physician's normal course of practice and expertise:

- (1) Ordering diagnostic, therapeutic, and other medical services;
- (2) Prescribing physical therapy or referring a patient to a physical therapist for physical therapy;
- (3) Ordering occupational therapy or referring a patient to an occupational therapist for occupational therapy;
- (4) Taking any action that may be taken by an attending physician under sections 2133.21 to 2133.26 of the Revised Code, as specified in section 2133.211 of the Revised Code;
- (5) Determining and pronouncing death in accordance with section 4730.202 of the Revised Code;
- (6) Assisting in surgery;
- (7) If the physician assistant holds a valid prescriber number issued by the state medical board and has been granted physician-delegated prescriptive authority, ordering, prescribing, personally furnishing, and administering drugs and medical devices according to the Physician Assistant Formulary approved by the Medical Board. (See *GUIDANCE DOCUMENT: Physician Assistant Prescriptive Authority, effective October 15, 2015, for more detailed information*);
- (8) Any other services that are part of the supervising physician's normal course of practice and expertise. (But see discussion of Rules 4731-18-03 and 4731-18-04, Ohio Administrative Code (hereinafter "OAC") and Section 4773.02, ORC, in this document.)

Section 4730.20, O.R.C. continued

(B) The services a physician assistant may provide under the policies of a health care facility are limited to the services the facility authorizes the physician assistant to provide for the facility.

- A facility shall not authorize a physician assistant to perform a service that is prohibited under Chapter 4730, ORC.
- A physician who is supervising a physician assistant within a health care facility may impose limitations on the physician assistant's practice that are in addition to any limitations applicable under the policies of the facility.

Section 4730.201, ORC (Formerly Section 4730.091)

A physician assistant may administer, monitor, or maintain local anesthesia as a component of a procedure the physician assistant is performing or as a separate service when the procedure is performed by the supervising physician or another person.

- A physician assistant may not administer, monitor, or maintain any other form of anesthesia, including regional anesthesia or any systemic sedation.

Section 4730.202, ORC (Formerly Section 4730.092)

A physician assistant may determine and pronounce death under specific situations in specific locations.

- The physician assistant may not sign the death certificate;
- The physician assistant must notify the individual's attending physician within a reasonable period of time not to exceed 24 hours following the determination and pronouncement of death.

Section 4730.203, ORC

In accordance with a supervision agreement, a physician assistant may delegate to any person the performance of a task to implement a patient's plan of care, or, if the conditions in 4730.203(C) are met, may delegate administration of a drug.

- The physician assistant must be physically present at the location where the task is performed or drug is administered;
- Delegation of administration of drug:
 - The physician assistant must have physician-delegated prescriptive authority.
 - The drug must be on the physician assistant formulary.
 - The drug may not be a controlled substance.
 - The drug may not be administered via IV.
 - The delegation of a drug may not occur in a hospital inpatient care unit, hospital emergency department, freestanding emergency department, or ambulatory surgical facility.
 - The delegation must be in compliance with the rules promulgated by the Medical Board.

Section 4761.17, ORC

A person who holds a license or permit issued by the Respiratory Care Board may practice pursuant to an order or prescription issued by a physician assistant who holds a valid prescriber number and has been granted physician-delegated prescriptive authority, and under the supervision agreement is allowed to prescribe or order respiratory care services. The medication prescription or order must be authorized by the Physician Assistant Formulary.

Section 4761.11, ORC

A person who is employed as a certified hyperbaric technologist and meets other requirements including holding current certification as a hyperbaric technologist may administer hyperbaric oxygen therapy under the direct supervision of a physician assistant.

Section 5123.47, ORC

A prescription from a physician assistant is acceptable to implement home care by an unlicensed home-care worker.

Rules 4731-18-03 and 4731-18-04, OAC

A physician may not authorize a physician assistant to use light based medical devices other than in compliance with Rules 4731-18-03 and 4731-18-04, OAC. Accordingly, the only light based services a physician assistant may perform are the following:

- Laser hair removal in compliance with Rule 4731-18-03, OAC;
- The application of light based medical devices approved by the FDA for phototherapy in treatment of hyperbilirubinemia in neonates; and
- The application of a light based medical device that is an FDA approved fluorescent lamp phototherapy device for treatment of psoriasis and similar skin diseases.

Section 4773.02, ORC

A physician assistant is **not** authorized to provide radiologic services unless the physician assistant also holds an appropriate license issued by the Ohio Department of Health.

Various other sources of authority

The medical examination for such purposes as a child attending a licensed day care center, attending a family child care home, or absence from school or the medical examination required to become an employee or volunteer of such a business or to become a foster parent may have been conducted by a physician assistant.

Some ordinances requiring an examination prior to a person being employed as a peace officer by a municipality specify that the examination may be conducted by a physician assistant.