A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING AN EXPANSION OF A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT'S ABILITY TO
PRACTICE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CHANGING THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AND A
PHYSICIAN OR PODIATRIST FROM SUPERVISION TO
COLLABORATION FOR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS WITH LESS
EXPERIENCE OR WHO ARE WORKING IN A NEW SPECIALTY,
ESTABLISHING THE COLLABORATION REQUIREMENTS, AND
REQUIRING PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS WITH MORE EXPERIENCE TO
CONSULT WITH THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT'S HEALTH-CARE
TEAM.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment  Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.
The bill modifies the relationship between a physician assistant and a physician or podiatrist by removing the requirement that a physician assistant be supervised by a physician or podiatrist. Instead:

- A physician assistant who has completed fewer than 3,000 hours of post-graduate clinical practice experience or who is beginning practice in a new specialty must enter into a collaborative plan with a physician; and
- A physician assistant who has completed fewer than 3,000 hours of post-graduate clinical practice must enter into a collaborative plan with a podiatrist before practicing podiatry.

A physician assistant who has completed 3,000 or more practice hours or, for a physician assistant practicing a new specialty, has completed 2,000 practice hours in the new specialty and at least 3,000 total practice hours, is no longer required to maintain a collaborative plan and is instead required to consult with and refer to appropriate members of the physician assistant's health-care team based on a patient's condition; the physician assistant's education, experience, and competencies; and the standard of care. The bill specifies the requirements of the collaborative plan.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-240-107, amend (6) as follows:

12-240-107. Practice of medicine defined - exemptions from licensing requirements - unauthorized practice by physician assistants and anesthesiologist assistants - penalties - definitions - rules - repeal. (6) (a) A person licensed under the laws of this state to practice medicine may delegate to a physician assistant licensed by the board pursuant to section 12-240-113 the authority to may perform acts that constitute the practice of medicine and acts that physicians are authorized by law to perform to the extent and in the manner authorized
by rules promulgated by the board, including the authority to prescribe
prescribing and dispensing medication, including controlled
substances. and dispense only the drugs designated by the board. The acts
must be consistent with sound medical practice. Each prescription for a
controlled substance, as defined in section 18-18-102 (5), issued by a
physician assistant licensed by the board shall be imprinted with the name
of the physician assistant's supervising physician. For all other all
prescriptions issued by a physician assistant MUST INCLUDE THE
physician assistant's name, the name and address of the health facility,
and, if the health facility is a multispeciality organization, the name and
address of the speciality clinic within the health facility where the
physician assistant is practicing. must be imprinted on the prescription.
Nothing in this subsection (6) limits the ability of otherwise licensed
health personnel to perform delegated acts. The dispensing of prescription
medication by a physician assistant is subject to section 12-280-120 (6).

(b) (I) If the authority to perform an act is delegated pursuant to
subsection (6)(a) of this section, the physician assistant to whom the act
is delegated shall not perform the act except under the personal and
responsible direction and supervision of a person licensed under the laws
of this state to practice medicine a physician assistant who has
completed fewer than three thousand hours of post-graduate
clinical practice experience or who is beginning to practice in a
new specialty must enter into a collaborative plan with a
licensed physician as specified in section 12-240-114.5.

(II) A licensed physician may be responsible for the direction and
supervision of enter into a collaborative plan with up to eight
physician assistants at any one time. An employer shall not require
a licensed physician shall not be made responsible for the direction and
supervision of more than four physician assistants unless the licensed
physician agrees to assume the responsibility to enter into more than
four collaborative plans at any one time as a condition of the
physician's employment. A licensed physician has sole discretion to
assume or refuse such responsibility, and an employer shall not require a
licensed physician to assume such responsibility as a condition of
employment. The board, by rule, may define what constitutes appropriate
direction and supervision of a physician assistant; except that the board
shall not promulgate a rule that is inconsistent with section 12-240-114.5
determine whether to enter into a collaborative plan with more
than four physician assistants.

(II) For purposes of this subsection (6), "personal and responsible
direction and supervision" means that the direction and supervision of a
physician assistant is personally rendered by a licensed physician
practicing in the state of Colorado and is not rendered through
intermediaries. The extent of direction and supervision shall be
determined by rules promulgated by the board and as otherwise provided
in this subsection (6)(b); except that, when a physician assistant is
performing a delegated medical function in an acute care hospital, the
board shall allow supervision and direction to be performed without the
physical presence of the physician during the time the delegated medical
functions are being implemented if:

(A) The medical functions are performed where the supervising
physician regularly practices or in a designated health manpower shortage
area;

(B) The licensed supervising physician reviews the quality of
medical services rendered by the physician assistant by reviewing the
medical records to assure compliance with the physicians' directions; and

(C) The performance of the delegated medical function otherwise
complies with the board's rules and any restrictions and protocols of the
licensed supervising physician and hospital.

(c) Pursuant to section 12-240-135 (7), the board may apply for
an injunction to enjoin any person from performing delegated medical
acts that are in violation of this section or of any rules promulgated by the
board.

(d) This subsection (6) shall DOES not apply to any person who
performs delegated medical tasks within the scope of the exemption
contained in subsection (3)(l) of this section.

(e) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (6), "COLLABORATIVE PLAN" AND
"NEW SPECIALTY" HAVE THE SAME MEANINGS AS SET FORTH IN SECTION
12-240-114.5 (1).

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 12-240-114.5
as follows:

12-240-114.5. Physician assistants - supervisory requirements
- liability - definitions. (1) As used in this section, unless the context
otherwise requires:

(a) "Performance evaluation" means a document that includes
domains of competency relevant to the practice of a physician assistant,
uses more than one modality of assessment to evaluate the domains, and
includes consideration of the physician assistant's education, training,
experience, competency, and knowledge of the specialty in which the
physician assistant is engaged "COLLABORATING PHYSICIAN" MEANS A
PHYSICIAN LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 240 WHO ENTERS INTO
A COLLABORATIVE PLAN WITH A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT.

(b) “Practice agreement” means a written agreement between a physician assistant and a supervising physician that defines the communication and decision-making process by which the physician assistant and the supervising physician provide care to patients.

"COLLABORATION" MEANS THE INTERACTION AND RELATIONSHIP THAT A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT HAS WITH AT LEAST ONE COLLABORATING PHYSICIAN IN WHICH:

(I) THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AND THE COLLABORATING PHYSICIAN ARE COGNIZANT OF THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT’S QUALIFICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS IN CARING FOR PATIENTS;

(II) THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT CONSULTS WITH THE COLLABORATING PHYSICIAN REGARDING PATIENT CARE AS APPROPRIATE;

AND

(III) THE COLLABORATING PHYSICIAN GIVES DIRECTION AND GUIDANCE TO THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AS APPROPRIATE.

(c) “Supervisory "COLLABORATIVE plan" means a WRITTEN document that allows a supervising physician to follow the ongoing professional development of a physician assistant's clinical practice; promotes a collaborative relationship between a physician assistant and his or her supervising physicians, and allows a supervising physician to address any deficiencies that have been identified in the physician assistant's clinical competencies. during the initial performance period is SIGNED BY A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AND A COLLABORATING PHYSICIAN AND THAT IS A PLAN FOR HOW THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AND THE COLLABORATING PHYSICIAN WILL SATISFY THE COLLABORATION REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.
(d) "NEW SPECIALTY" MEANS A NEW PRACTICE AREA THAT IS A
SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE FROM A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT'S PREVIOUS SCOPE
OF PRACTICE OR PRACTICE AREA.

(e) "PERFORMANCE EVALUATION" MEANS A DOCUMENT USED AND
COMPLETED BY A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AND A COLLABORATING
PHYSICIAN TO EVALUATE THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT'S PRACTICE, WHICH
DOCUMENT IS KEPT ON FILE AT THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT'S PRACTICE
LOCATION AND PROVIDED TO THE BOARD UPON REQUEST.

(2) A physician assistant licensed pursuant to this article 240 who
has practiced for less than three years is subject to the following
supervisory requirements FEWER THAN THREE THOUSAND HOURS SHALL
ENTER INTO A COLLABORATIVE PLAN WITH A COLLABORATING PHYSICIAN.

THE COLLABORATIVE PLAN MUST:

(a) The physician assistant's first one hundred sixty working hours
shall be supervised by a supervising physician who works at the same
location as the physician assistant. The physician assistant's primary
supervising physician shall provide at least forty hours of supervision, and
the remaining hours may be provided by a secondary supervising
physician who is designated by the primary supervising physician. BE
DEVELOPED AT THE PRACTICE LEVEL;

(b) After the physician assistant completes one hundred sixty
working hours, a supervising physician must remain available to the
physician assistant via a telecommunication device at all times when the
physician assistant is working. DESCRIBE HOW COLLABORATION WILL
OCUR BETWEEN THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AND THE COLLABORATING
PHYSICIAN;

(c) Not more than thirty days after the physician assistant
completes one hundred sixty working hours, the primary supervising physician shall complete an initial performance assessment and a supervisory plan for the physician assistant. Describe methods for evaluating the physician assistant’s competency, knowledge, and skills, including the method and frequency of performance evaluations; and

(d) Be made available at the physician assistant's practice site.

(3) (a) The supervision of a physician assistant licensed pursuant to this article 240 who has practiced in this state for three years or more is determined by a practice agreement that shall be created by the physician assistant and his or her primary supervising physician not later than thirty days after the physician assistant begins practicing under the supervision of the primary supervising physician. A practice agreement must include:

(I) A process by which a physician assistant and a supervising physician communicate and make decisions concerning patients' medical treatment, which process utilizes the knowledge and skills of the physician assistant and the supervising physician based on their respective education, training, and experience;

(II) A protocol for designating an alternative physician for consultation when the supervising physician is unavailable for consultation;
(III) The signatures of the physician assistant and supervising physician; and

(IV) A termination provision that allows the physician assistant or the supervising physician to terminate the practice agreement after providing written notice of his or her intent to do so at least thirty days before the date of termination. If a practice agreement is terminated, the physician assistant and the physician assistant’s primary supervising physician shall create a new practice agreement within forty-five days after the date the previous practice agreement was terminated.

(b) In addition to the components described in subsection (3)(a) of this section, a practice agreement may impose conditions concerning specific duties, procedures, or drugs. The requirements for consultation and referral under subsection (3)(a) of this section shall be determined at the practice level and may include decisions made by the employer, group, hospital, or facility and relevant credentialing and privileging requirements. A collaborative plan is not required under this subsection (3); however, an employer may require further collaboration.

(c) If the terms or conditions of a practice agreement change, both the physician assistant and the supervising physician shall sign and date the updated practice agreement.

(4) (a) A physician assistant licensed pursuant to this article 240 who has practiced for at least twelve months and who is making a substantive change in his or her scope of practice or practice area is subject to the following supervisory requirements:

- STARTING TO PRACTICE IN A NEW SPECIALTY SHALL ENTER INTO A COLLABORATIVE PLAN:
(I) WITH A COLLABORATING PHYSICIAN WHO PRACTICES IN THE
NEW SPECIALTY; AND

(II) THAT IS DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AND MEETS THE
REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

(a) The physician assistant's first eighty working hours shall be
supervised by a supervising physician who works at the same location as
the physician assistant. The physician assistant's primary supervising
physician shall provide at least twenty hours of supervision, and the
remaining hours may be provided by a secondary supervising physician
who is designated by the primary supervising physician.

(b) After the physician assistant completes eighty working hours,
a supervising physician shall remain available to the physician assistant
via a telecommunication device at all times when the physician assistant
is working. AFTER THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT HAS COMPLETED TWO
THOUSAND HOURS OF PRACTICE IN A NEW SPECIALTY AND A TOTAL OF
THREE THOUSAND PRACTICE HOURS, THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT IS NO
LONGER REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION (4) TO MAINTAIN A
COLLABORATIVE PLAN WITH A COLLABORATING PHYSICIAN AND SHALL
PRACTICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

(c) After the physician assistant has worked for six months, and
again after the physician assistant has worked for twelve months, the
primary supervising physician shall complete a performance assessment
and discuss the performance assessment with the physician assistant
AFTER THE COMPLETION OF TWO THOUSAND HOURS IN A NEW SPECIALTY,
IF THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT HAS NOT COMPLETED A TOTAL OF THREE
THOUSAND PRACTICE HOURS, THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SHALL CONTINUE
TO PRACTICE PURSUANT TO A COLLABORATIVE PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH
SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION UNTIL THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT HAS
PRACTICED FOR THREE THOUSAND HOURS.

(5) (a) A physician assistant licensed pursuant to this article 240
who has practiced for at least three years THREE THOUSAND HOURS may
be liable RESPONSIBLE for damages resulting from negligence in
providing care to a patient. except that a physician assistant is not liable
for any damages that occur as a result of the physician assistant following
a direct order from a supervising physician.

(b) A physician assistant who, has been practicing for at least
three years AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (5)(b), AS
AMENDED, HAS PRACTICED AS A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT FOR THREE
THOUSAND HOURS OR MORE OR WHO, ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE
OF THIS SUBSECTION (5)(b), AS AMENDED, REACHES THREE THOUSAND
HOURS OF PRACTICE AS A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT shall comply with the
financial responsibility requirements specified in section 13-64-301 (1)
and rules adopted by the board pursuant to that section.

(c) A physician assistant's supervising COLLABORATING physician
may be liable RESPONSIBLE for damages resulting from the physician
assistant's negligence in providing care to a patient if the physician
assistant has not practiced for at least three years THREE THOUSAND
HOURS as described in subsection (5)(a) of this section.

(6) A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT MAY PROVIDE THE BOARD WITH A
SIGNED AFFIDAVIT OUTLINING PRACTICE EXPERIENCE FOR THE PURPOSES
OF MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTIONS (2), (3), AND
(4) OF THIS SECTION, AS APPLICABLE, IF THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT:

(a) HELD AN UNENCUMBERED LICENSE IN ANOTHER STATE OR
TERRITORY OF THE UNITED STATES' JURISDICTION BEFORE BECOMING
LICENSED IN THIS STATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-240-113; OR
(b) WAS INITIALLY LICENSED IN THIS STATE PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (6).

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-240-119, amend (2)(c) as follows:

12-240-119. Reentry license. (2) (c) If, based on the assessment and, IF PRESCRIBED, after completion of an educational program, IF PRESCRIBED, the board determines that the applicant is competent and qualified to practice medicine without supervision, or practice as a physician assistant, or PRACTICE as an anesthesiologist assistant with supervision, as specified in this article 240, the board may convert the reentry license to a full license to practice medicine, practice as a physician assistant, or practice as an anesthesiologist assistant, as applicable, under this article 240.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-240-122, amend (1) as follows:

12-240-122. Prescriptions - requirement to advise patients. (1) A physician OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT licensed under this article 240 or a physician assistant licensed by the board who has been delegated the authority to prescribe medication, may advise the physician's or the physician assistant's patients of their option to have the symptom or purpose for which a prescription is being issued included on the prescription order.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-240-128, amend (7)(c) as follows:

12-240-128. Physician training licenses. (7) A physician training licensee may practice medicine as defined by this article 240 with
the following restrictions:

   (c) A physician training licensee shall not: have the authority to:

   (I) Delegate the rendering of medical services to a person who is not licensed to practice medicine pursuant to section 12-240-107 (3)(I); OR

   (II) and shall not have the authority to supervise a collaborative plan with physician assistants as provided by sections 12-240-107 (6) described in sections 12-240-107 (6) and 12-240-114.5.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-280-103, amend (39)(c)(II)(B) as follows:

12-280-103. Definitions - rules. As used in this article 280, unless the context otherwise requires or the term is otherwise defined in another part of this article 280:

(39) "Practice of pharmacy" means:

(c) The provision of a therapeutic interchange selection or a therapeutically equivalent selection to a patient if, during the patient's stay at a nursing care facility or a long-term acute care hospital licensed under part 1 of article 3 of title 25, the selection has been approved for the patient:

   (II) By one of the following health-care providers:

   (B) A physician assistant licensed under section 12-240-113; if the physician assistant is under the supervision of a licensed physician; or

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-280-502, amend (1)(b)(II) as follows:

12-280-502. Therapeutic interchange and therapeutically equivalent selections for nursing care facility or long-term acute care
hospital patients - rules. (1) A pharmacy used by a nursing care facility or a long-term acute care hospital licensed under part 1 of article 3 of title 25 may make a therapeutic interchange or a therapeutically equivalent selection for a patient if, during the patient's stay at the facility, the selection has been approved for the patient:

(b) By one of the following health-care providers:

(II) A physician assistant licensed under section 12-240-113; if the physician assistant is under the supervision of a licensed physician; or

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 12-290-117 as follows:


(1) A person licensed under the laws of this state to practice podiatry may delegate to a physician assistant licensed by the Colorado medical board pursuant to section 12-240-113 the authority to physician assistant may perform acts that constitute the practice of podiatry to the extent and in the manner authorized by rules promulgated by the Colorado podiatry board. The acts shall be consistent with sound practices of podiatry. Each prescription for a controlled substance, as defined in section 18-18-102(5), issued by a physician assistant must have the name of the physician assistant's supervising podiatrist printed on the prescription. For all other prescriptions issued by a physician assistant MUST INCLUDE THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT'S NAME, the name and address of the health facility and, if the health facility is a multispeciality organization, the name and address of the speciality clinic within the health facility where the physician assistant is practicing. Nothing in this section limits the ability of otherwise licensed health
personnel to perform delegated acts. The dispensing of prescription
medication by a physician assistant is subject to section 12-280-120 (6).

(2) If the authority to perform an act is delegated pursuant to
subsection (1) of this section, the act shall not be performed except under
the personal and responsible direction and supervision of a person
licensed under the laws of this state to practice podiatry, and the person
shall not be responsible for the direction and supervision of more than
four physician assistants at any one time without specific approval of the
Colorado podiatry board. The board may define appropriate direction and
supervision pursuant to rules PRIOR TO PRACTICING PODIATRY, A
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT WHO HAS COMPLETED FEWER THAN THREE
THOUSAND HOURS OF POST-GRADUATE CLINICAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE
MUST ENTER INTO A COLLABORATIVE PLAN WITH A LICENSED PODIATRIST.

(3) The provisions of sections 12-240-107 (6) and 12-240-113
governing physician assistants under the "Colorado Medical Practice Act"
shall apply to physician assistants under this section A PERSON LICENSED
to practice podiatry under this article 290 may enter into a
collaborative plan with up to eight physician assistants at any
one time. An employer shall not require a person licensed under
the laws of this state to practice podiatry to enter into more
than four collaborative plans at any one time as a condition of
the person's employment.

(4) PRIOR TO PRACTICING PODIATRY, A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT WHO
has practiced for fewer than three thousand hours shall enter
into a collaborative plan with a collaborating podiatrist. The
collaborative plan must:

(a) Be developed at the practice level;
(b) Describe how collaboration will occur between the physician assistant and the collaborating podiatrist;

(c) Describe methods for evaluating the physician assistant’s competency, knowledge, and skills, including the method and frequency of performance evaluations; and

(d) Be made available at the physician assistant’s practice site.

(5)(a) A physician assistant who has practiced in this state for at least three thousand hours shall consult with and refer to appropriate members of the physician assistant’s health-care team based on a patient’s condition; the physician assistant’s education, experience, and competencies; and the standard of care.

(b) The requirements for consultation and referral under subsection (5)(a) of this section shall be determined at the practice level and may include decisions made by the employer, group, hospital, or facility and relevant credentialing and privileging requirements. A collaborative plan is not required under this subsection (5); however, an employer may require further collaboration.

(6) A physician assistant may provide the board with a signed affidavit outlining practice experience for the purposes of meeting the requirements described in subsections (4) and (5) of this section, as applicable, if the physician assistant:

(a) held an unencumbered license in another state or territory of the United States’ jurisdiction before becoming licensed in this state pursuant to section 12-240-113; or
(b) Was initially licensed in this state prior to the effective date of this subsection (6).

(7) As used in this section:

(a) "Collaborating podiatrist" means a podiatrist licensed pursuant to this article 290 who enters into a collaborative plan with a physician assistant.

(b) "Collaboration" means the interaction and relationship that a physician assistant has with at least one collaborating podiatrist in which:

(I) The physician assistant and the collaborating podiatrist are cognizant of the physician assistant's qualifications and limitations in caring for patients;

(II) The physician assistant consults with the collaborating podiatrist regarding patient care as appropriate; and

(III) The collaborating podiatrist gives direction and guidance to the physician assistant as appropriate.

(c) "Collaborative plan" means a written document that is signed by a physician assistant and a collaborating podiatrist and that specifies how the physician assistant and the collaborating podiatrist will satisfy the collaboration requirements of subsection (4) of this section.

(d) "Performance evaluation" means a document used and completed by a physician assistant and a collaborating podiatrist to evaluate the physician assistant's practice, which document is kept on file at the physician assistant's practice location and provided to the board upon request.
(c) "PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT" MEANS A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSED BY THE COLORADO MEDICAL BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-240-113.

SECTION 9. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-290-110, amend (5) as follows:

12-290-110. Podiatry training license. (5) A person with a podiatric training license shall only practice podiatry under the supervision of a licensed podiatrist or a physician licensed to practice medicine within the residency program. A person with a podiatry training license shall not delegate podiatric or medical services to a person who is not licensed to practice podiatry or medicine and shall not have the authority to supervise COLLABORATE WITH physician assistants.

SECTION 10. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-64-301, amend (1) introductory portion as follows:

13-64-301. Financial responsibility. (1) As a condition of active licensure or authority to practice in this state, every physician, dentist, or dental hygienist; every physician assistant who, has been practicing for at least three years AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE INTRODUCTORY PORTION OF THIS SUBSECTION (1), AS AMENDED, HAS PRACTICED AS A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT FOR THREE THOUSAND HOURS OR MORE OR WHO, ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE INTRODUCTORY PORTION OF THIS SUBSECTION (1), AS AMENDED, REACHES THREE THOUSAND HOURS OF PRACTICE AS A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT; and every health-care institution as defined in section 13-64-202, except as provided in section 13-64-303.5, that provides health-care services shall establish financial responsibility as follows:

SECTION 11. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 15-18.7-103,
amend (1) introductory portion and (1)(i) as follows:

15-18.7-103. Medical orders for scope of treatment forms - form contents. (1) A medical orders for scope of treatment form shall MUST include the following information concerning the adult whose medical treatment is the subject of the medical orders for scope of treatment form:

(i) The signature of the adult's physician, advanced practice REGISTERED nurse, or if under the supervision or authority of the physician, physician assistant.

SECTION 12. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 15-18.7-104, amend (5) as follows:

15-18.7-104. Duty to comply with medical orders for scope of treatment form - immunity - effect on criminal charges against another person - transferability. (5) An adult's physician, advanced practice REGISTERED nurse, or if under the supervision of the physician, physician assistant may provide an oral confirmation to a health-care provider who shall annotate on the medical orders for scope of treatment form the time and date of the oral confirmation and the name and license number of the physician, advanced practice REGISTERED nurse, or physician assistant. The physician, advanced practice REGISTERED nurse, or physician assistant shall countersign the annotation of the oral confirmation on the medical orders for scope of treatment form within a time period that satisfies any applicable state law or within thirty days, whichever period is less, after providing the oral confirmation. The signature of the physician, advanced practice REGISTERED nurse, or physician assistant may be provided by photocopy, fax, or electronic means. A medical orders for scope of treatment form with annotated oral
confirmation, and a photocopy, fax, or other electronic reproduction thereof of the form, shall be given the same force and effect as the original form signed by the physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant.

SECTION 13. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-21-803, amend (6) as follows:

23-21-803. Definitions. As used in this part 8, unless the context otherwise requires:

(6) "Physician assistant" means a person licensed as a physician assistant by the Colorado medical board in accordance with section 12-240-113 who is authorized, in accordance with section 12-240-107 (6), to perform acts constituting the practice of medicine, including prescribing controlled substances and who is under the supervision of a physician trained in MAT.

SECTION 14. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.