

MTAPA RESPONSE TO BOME PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

By now most of you have received an e-mail from the Board of Medical Examiners (BOME) regarding proposed rule changes to PA practice. I want to take a moment to clarify a few things. First, this was a standard rules review undertaken by the BOME. This review was entirely independent of our Optimal Team Practice legislative efforts. Second, the primary goal of the review was to streamline the authorization process for new supervising physicians and convert to a more efficient on-line process. Third, the update to direct supervision does NOT mean all PAs must be directly supervised. Most PAs practice under the definition of "General Supervision."

MTAPA Actions:

- Rule Amendments shared with legal counsel at AAPA
- MTAPA urgent board meeting scheduled for 9/9/20 to determine comments to be submitted at the public hearing on 9/22/20
- Synopsis of proposed rule changes submitted by MTAPA liaison to the BOME (provided below)

Helpful Links:

- [Montana State Board of Medical Examiners Rules, Physician Assistant - Scope of Practice](#)
- [Montana State Statutes- Physician Assistant](#)
- [MT Application for Physician Assistant License](#)

MTAPA will submit comment during the public hearing. Please send all comments, questions or concerns via the website www.mtapa.com by **9/8/20**.

Synopsis of BOME Proposed Rule Changes by PA Lena Phelps

My name is Lena Phelps, PA-C and I am the MT Board of Medical Examiners Physician Assistant liaison. Montana Physician Assistants received an email regarding proposed changes to the Physician Assistant rules. The rule changes and some wording changes for the PA rules were proposed several months ago by the board. The proposed changes took several months to occur due to Covid and in July the proposed changes were brought to the BOME from the BOME rule committee. The PA rules were up for a review process by the rules committee and the board also wanted to change to an online supervision training instead of an in person phone call training with board members. The proposal is for an online training for the new PA and the new supervising physician. This will hopefully reduce the time commitment of the board members, the PA, and the supervising physician to schedule time for a phone call for all involved.

Also, the PA rules were up for review regarding wording and updates. I know that there has been concern regarding the new definitions of direct supervision general supervision. In the current rules there are direct, on-site and general forms of supervision. The proposal changes the direct supervision definition to include in person supervision by the supervising physician and general supervision stays the same but now includes texting as a way of communication and on site definition was removed. Also, the proposal is to remove meeting in-person with the supervising physician monthly to "communicating" with the supervising physician.

Let me know if you have any questions. Feel free to email me at lphelps@sphealth.org.