

Policy Updates, Procedures, and Proficiencies for Collaborative Practice and Supervisory Agreements



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MISSION

The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners is charged with protecting the health and safety of the citizens of the state of Alabama.

William M. Perkins,
Executive Director

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A PA may hold an active Alabama license without an active registration to a supervising physician.

TRUE OR FALSE

A collaborating or supervising physician may supervise a PA, CRNP, or CNM practicing in a hospital where the physician does not have privileges.

TRUE OR FALSE

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What's new?

Electronic Commencement Application	Qualifications of Collaborating/Supervising Physicians	Continuing Medical Education Requirements
Expedited Temporary Assistants to Physicians License for Active Military Members and Spouses	Covering Physicians Must "Agree in Writing"	Termination of Covering Physicians Online

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Objectives

Summarize Application Process	Summarize the application process for collaborative and supervisory practice including eligibility requirements.
Responsibilities of physicians, NPs, and PAs	State the responsibilities of physicians, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and physician assistants who are in a collaborative or supervisory practice agreement.
Identify Common Problems	Identify common problems seen in a collaborative or supervisory practice and methodologies to correct them.
Describe Regulations for Prescribing and QA Review	Describe regulations for prescribing drugs, participating in a quality assurance review and practicing in various practice settings, including remote sites.

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In the Collaborative and Supervisory Practice Rules, you will find.....

- IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS
- EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- COLLABORATION AND SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS
- FTE LIMITATIONS
- QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

What is a Collaborative or Supervisory Practice?

- A formal relationship between a physician and a CRNP/CNM or PA.
- A collaborative (CRNP/CNM)/registration agreement (PA) is subject to the approved rules as well as written protocols approved by Board of Medical Examiners and Board of Nursing (CRNP/CNM).
- A collaborative/registration agreement provides for medical oversight and direction by the collaborating/supervising physician.
- It includes a detailed job description for the PA and an approved standard protocol for the CRNP/CNM as well as any approved additional skills.
- It requires a quality assurance review plan.

What is a requirement to qualify as a collaborating/supervising physician?

- A. Collaborating/supervising physician has a current Alabama Controlled Substance Certificate
- B. Collaborating/supervising physician has practiced medicine for at least 4 years
- C. Collaborating/supervising physician is board certified
- D. Collaborating/supervising physician has a current, unrestricted medical license in Alabama

Requirements to Qualify: Collaborating/Supervising Physician

- Current, unrestricted medical license in Alabama
- Practiced medicine for at least three (3) years
- Practiced medicine for one (1) year and is certified by one or more boards recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American Osteopathic Association
- Practiced medicine for one (1) year and the collaboration/registration practice site is limited solely to a general acute care hospital, critical access hospital, or a specialized hospital licensed as such by the Department of Public Health

A collaborative/registration agreement may consist of:

- Core Duties and Scope of Practice/ Standard Protocol
- Practice Sites of the PA/CRNP/CNM
- Supplemental Certificate of Employment (PA)
- Approved Formulary for Legend Drug Prescribing
- Covering Physician Agreements
- Disclosure of existing supervisory and collaborative agreements
- Any additional skill requests

REFERENCE TO CURRENT LICENSE:

Physician Assistant License No. _____, Al. Med. Lic. # _____

State of Alabama _____, Board Certified _____, No. Board Expires _____

State of Georgia Physician License _____, Registration Expires _____

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT INFORMATION:

Physician Assistant Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) _____

Al. P.A. License # _____, Expires _____

Board of Certification _____, Expires _____

PHYSICIAN INFORMATION:

Physician Name _____

Address _____

City _____, State _____, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Specialty _____

Signature _____

Date _____

At this practice site, including the practice location, facilities, and programs to be supervised, coordinated, or directed by the physician assistant.

PAs: If you need to add an additional site to your registration agreement, contact the BME for the appropriate form.

CRNP/CNMs: Complete a modification application through the Board of Nursing.

Standard Protocol

[Adult Care Nurse Practitioner Standard Protocol](#)

[Adult Gerontology Adult Care Nurse Practitioner Standard Protocol](#)

[Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Standard Protocol](#)

[Family Practice Nurse Practitioner Standard Protocol](#)

[Nurse-Midwife Standard Protocol](#)

[Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Standard Protocol](#)

[The ABME Administrative Code provides for use of the full protocol of additional staff to cover for maternity leave, vacations, etc. If this is not applicable, APHs employed by the Alabama Department of Public Health.](#)

[Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Standard Protocol](#)

[Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Standard Protocol](#)

[Pediatric Adult Care Nurse Practitioner Standard Protocol](#)

[Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Standard Protocol](#)

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Specific to the NP's:

- certification
- educational training program
- patient population

Approved Formulary for Non-Controlled Prescribing Specialty Legend Drugs

Antineoplastic Agents
 Methotrexate
 Oxytocics
 Radioactive Agents
Collaborating physician must have current license from the Alabama Department of Public Health for prescribing and dispensing radioactive pharmaceuticals.
Non-biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs)
Biologic or Biosimilar DMARDs and Anti-tumor necrosis factor drugs (anti-TNF)
Other Biologics or Biosimilars (excluding anti-TNF)
All Specialty Legend Drugs listed above must be given within the scope of the supervising physician's specialty. The initial dose must be prescribed by a physician, with authorization to prescribe continuing maintenance doses according to written protocol (available for review on site) or direct order of the physician.

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Protocols: Standard and Specialty

Physician and CRNP/CNM/PA determine skills that will be performed from the Standard Protocol.

Check only skills that are appropriate to the individual practice of the physician.

PA/CRNP/CNM should not perform skills outside of the supervising/collaborating physician's scope of practice.

Physician should routinely perform the skill the PA, CRNP, or CNM will perform.

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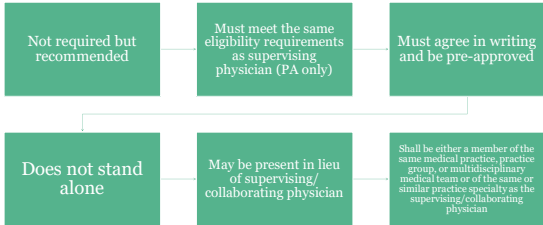
What type of location is a remote practice site?

- A. Physician's principal practice site
- B. Acute Care Hospital
- C. Licensed assisted living facility
- D. Practice site without a supervising or covering physician on-site

Practice Sites Not Considered as Remote:

Physician's Principal Practice Site	Acute Care Hospitals	Skilled Nursing Facilities
Assisted Living Facilities, Special Care ALF	End Stage Renal Disease Treatment Facilities (Licensed by ADPH)	Certified Mental Health Group Homes

Covering Physicians



How to verify current covering physicians:

PA or Supervising Physician:

1. Go to www.albme.gov
2. Select "license search"
3. Select "Search for Licensees"
4. Select license type "RA"
5. Type in PA's first and last name only
6. Select "I'm not a robot"
7. Find RA with applicable supervising physician's name
8. Select printer icon in the "details" column

Covering physicians and other details regarding registration agreement will be listed!

How to verify current covering physicians:

CRNP/CNM or Collaborating Physician:

1. Go to www.albme.gov
2. Select "license search"
3. Select "Search for Licensees"
4. Select license type "CP"
5. Type in collaborating physician's first and last name only
6. Select "I'm not a robot"
7. Find CP with applicable NP's name
8. Select printer icon in the "details" column

Covering physicians and other details regarding collaborative agreement will be listed!

60 Day Temporary Supervising/ Collaborating Physician

In the event of an unanticipated, permanent absence of a collaborating/supervising physician, a previously approved covering physician may be designated as a temporary supervising/collaborating physician for a period of up to sixty (60) days.

During the sixty (60) days, a new commencement or registration application designating a new supervising/collaborating should be submitted for approval.

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Scenario 1

Office administrator calls the Board of Medical Examiners. The physician just notified them that he plans to retire in a month. They would like to utilize the 60-day temporary agreement.

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Scenario 2

Physician Assistant calls the Board of Medical Examiners with news that their supervising physician is deceased.

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Which scenario would allow the 60-day temporary agreement to be utilized?

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Disclosure of Existing Supervisory and Collaborative Agreements

Out of state collaborations and registrations count towards the allowed 360 hours!

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Interim Approval of Registration Agreement

RESTRICTIONS
May continue until application is approved or denied by the Board
Additional requested duties not included
A PA granted <u>temporary</u> approval of their license may not obtain interim approval

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Temporary Approval of Collaborative Practice (CRNP/CNM)

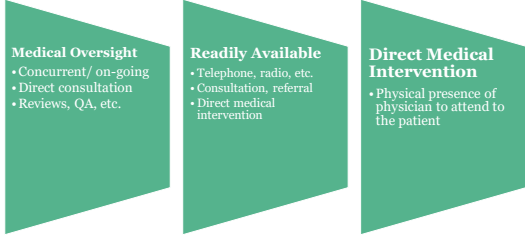
- Issued by the Alabama Board of Nursing
- Limited to the standard protocol and formulary approved by the Joint Committee of the Alabama Board of Nursing and the Board of Medical Examiners and does not include the authority to:
 1. Perform additional skills as provided in Rule 540-x-8-.10.
 2. Prescribe drugs that are listed in the standard formulary with "Restrictions."

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**Collaborating & Supervising Physician:
Responsibilities and Medical Oversight**

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Collaborating/Supervising Physicians



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Minimum Presence Requirements of Collaborating/Supervising Physicians:

Less than 2 years/4,000 hours of experience in a registration/collaborative agreement, or entering into a new registration/collaborative agreement with a physician who has a dissimilar primary specialty than the previous physician: **Physician must be present 10 % of NP/PAs scheduled hours**

Greater than 2 years/4,000 hours of experience in a registration/collaborative agreement: **Physician must visit remote site no less than twice a year and meet with NP/PA no less than quarterly**

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What is “QA”?

- a. Quarterly Assurance
- b. Quick Analysis
- c. Qualified Assurance
- d. Quality Assurance

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How frequently must Quality Assurance be performed?

- a. Daily
- b. Yearly
- c. Quarterly
- d. Weekly

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Scenario

Quality Assurance documentation not readily available at the time of site visit

However, PA and supervising physician see each other two days a week during clinic and discuss specific cases or problems face to face

In addition, all charts are signed off on

Quality assurance documentation is submitted which appears to be patient charts

Staff of BME is unable to identify the quality indicator being reviewed or proof of any discussion

However, the documentation submitted does have the physician's signature on the patient chart

Is this appropriate QA?

Overview of Medical Oversight Components

CHART REVIEW	COLLABORATION/SUPERVISION	QUALITY ASSURANCE
Review of charts is a clinical decision between practitioners	Time spent together in discussion or consultation	Review a meaningful sample of charts against selected outcome indicators with documentation using patient identifier
Signature of physician on the notes is not required	Time spent in review of Quality Assurance data required quarterly	Data can be pulled by anyone with understanding of the criteria
Chart review does not constitute Quality Assurance Review	Years of experience determine how much direct collaboration or supervision is required	Quarterly meeting to review the QA data (QA data should be readily retrievable)

Quality Assurance





Quality Assurance

- A physician supervising/collaborating with more than four FTEs per week shall engage in documented quality assurance reviews with each PA/CRNP/CNM every month for six (6) months following the collaboration/registration with a new PA/CRNP/CNM.
- Documentation of any quality assurance review shall be maintained by the collaborating/supervising physician for the duration of the collaborative/supervisory practice and for three years following the termination of the collaborative /supervisory practice agreement.

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Additional Skills and Specialty Protocols (CRNP, CNM, PA)

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Will a PA's, CRNP's, or CNM's specialty skills automatically transfer to a new registration/collaborative agreement?



YES



NO

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Scenario

PA was approved to perform Orthopedic Specialty Protocol skills within registration agreement with Dr. Pepper

Dr. Pepper retired

PA entered into a new registration agreement with a new physician, Dr. Lucy, for the same practice locations

PA continued to perform the skills he/she was previously approved to perform under the registration agreement with Dr. Pepper as PA thought the skills would automatically transfer as the PA's practice sites didn't change

PA and new supervising physician, Dr. Lucy, received a Letter of Concern for their failure to request a transfer of skills

Horizontal lines for notes

Additional Skills & Specialty Protocols

Additional skills and specialty protocols must be pertinent to the current collaborative or supervisory practice

Physician must request and receive approval to train CRNP/CNM or PA from the Board of Medical Examiners before training begins

Physician must routinely perform the skill

Skills do not automatically transfer

All training must be completed and submitted within 1 year from the date of approval. If transferring a request to train, training period is not extended.

Horizontal lines for notes

Specialty Protocols

Critical Care Specialty Protocol

Critical Care: Advanced Level (Level I or II Trauma Centers Only)

Orthopedic Specialty Protocol

Otolaryngology Specialty Protocol

Botulinum Toxin Protocol for Hyperhidrosis

Botox Protocol for Chronic Migraines

Insertion of Non-Tunneled CVL Less than 14 French

Horizontal lines for notes

Termination of a Collaborative/Registration Agreement

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Termination of Collaborative Practice or Registration Agreement

- No third- party submission
- Effective Date/ Reason
- PA/Supervising Physician: Form on ALBME Website/ Email ALBME
- CRNP/CNM-ABN Website
 Collaborating Physician: Licensee Portal on ALBME Website

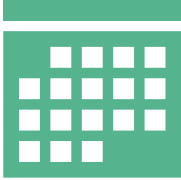
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How many AMA PRA Category 1 credits are PAs required to have to annually renew their Alabama license?

- a. 20
- b. 25
- c. 50
- d. 10

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Effective January 1, 2025



Every **two** calendar years, each PA licensed by the Board must earn not less than **fifty (50) hours** of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ or the equivalent as defined in this rule of continuing medical education as a condition precedent to receiving his or her annual renewal of license, unless he or she is exempt from the minimum continuing medical education requirement.

You are required to annually renew your collaborative practice agreements/registration agreements.

True

False

Physician Assistant License Renewal:
October 1st- December 31st

License: \$100

Registration Agreements

- Not Renewed
- Should be **reviewed** each year during renewals to determine if modifications should be made

January 1- 31

- Between January 1 and January 31, submit a completed renewal application, pay the renewal fee of \$100, and certify completion of the continuing medical education hours required for renewal.

February 1 and thereafter

- February 1 and thereafter, submit a completed renewal application, pay the renewal fee of \$100, and submit proof of completion of the continuing medical education hours required for renewal.

Helpful Hints!



If the collaborating or supervising physician does not renew their medical license, their collaborations and registration agreements will expire when their medical license expires.



If the collaborating or supervising physician does not renew their ACSC, the PA or NP's QACSC/LPSP will expire.



If the physician's medical license is restricted, suspended, or revoked, they may no longer be eligible to collaborate or supervise.



Agenda deadlines are important!



Ask for help!

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