

Supervision Statement

The supervising physician bears the ultimate professional and legal responsibility for the practice and conduct of the physician assistant, (the PA).

Upon licensure and board scope of practice approval, supervising physicians, alternate supervising physicians and physician assistants acknowledge their understanding of all aspects of the statutes, regulations and policies pertaining to practice with or as a physician assistant.

The supervising physician and the physician assistant must practice above all in accordance with the South Carolina Medical Practice Act and Regulations of the South Carolina Medical Board as well as other federal and state laws.

The South Carolina medical practice act and the approved scope of practice are the foundation for safe practice using physician assistants. All medical tasks, procedures and prescribing must be within the approved scope of practice as individually approved by the board.

Changes to the medical practice act affecting the practice of physician assistants and their supervising physicians were enacted in May 2013. Regardless of the employment arrangement, management style or employer policies, it is the fundamental responsibility of the individual licensees involved to become thoroughly familiar with these changes as well as the practice act in its entirety to ensure public protection and avoid individual disciplinary action.

What constitutes legally compliant physician supervision depends upon several factors: The content of the physician assistant’s approved scope of practice; the physician assistant’s level of prescriptive authority if any, the training, experience and education of the physician assistant, the number of physician assistants supervised, the amount of time the supervising physician and the physician assistant have worked together, the distance between the supervising physician and the physician assistant if authorized by the board for off-site practice, the practice setting and the medical specialty.

A physician assistant must clearly identify himself or herself as a physician assistant to ensure that the physician assistant is not mistaken or misrepresented as a physician. A physician assistant shall wear a clearly legible identification badge or other adornment at least one inch by three inches in size bearing the physician assistant’s name and the words “Physician Assistant”.

Any questions concerning the requirements of the Physician Assistants practice act should be addressed prior to undertaking any action.



Dr. Stephen R. Gardner
President, S.C. Board of Medical Examiners

Physician Assistant initial_____