

Processing of Scope of Practice Guidelines and Information on Modified Scopes Including Aesthetics

The Board has two ways to process Scope of Practice Guidelines (Scope(s)) for Physician Assistants (PA). All PA documentation is submitted through the PA portal.

Standard Scope – There are 19 standard scopes of practice that have been approved by the PA Committee and the Board of Medical Examiners. When submitted, these can be approved at a staff level. The scope must match the specialty of the physician and have the paperwork completed as outlined in the instructions. The materials submitted must include the physician's name and license number, PA's name and license number, details regarding the site of practice, signatures of the PA and Physician and date.

Modified Scope – A modified scope of practice outlines specific tasks that a PA can complete as agreed upon by their supervising physician. These scopes are varied in length. Modified scopes have to be reviewed and approved by a Committee member. The scope must match the specialty of the physician or the physician and PA must show competency in the medical acts listed in the modified scope.

- Modified Scopes Must Contain:
 - A list of specific procedures or tasks that the PA will be completing.
 - Competency Information for the PA showing their training in a particular skill if it's not typically taught within the scope a PA's education.
 - Competency Information for the physician showing their training in a particular skill if it was not part of the physician's post-graduate training program.
 - Scopes containing procedures may require additional information including but not limited to a standard scope that matches the specialty of the supervising physician.
 - Signature and Date.
 - The physician name and license number and PA name and license number.
 - Documentation of an appropriate site(s) with contact information (Submitted via the PA Portal).
- Modified Scopes May Be Rejected If:
 - Failure to meet statutory language of the Medical Practice Act
 - There is general/nonspecific language regarding delegated procedures or tasks and failure to specifically identify the supervising physician and physician assistant.

Once you have submitted your scope, you must wait for either approval, approval with amendments, or rejection. You may practice within the requested scope if your scope has been approved or if after 10 business days, your scope had not been approved or rejected. However, your scope may still be rejected after 10 business days; this would require the PA to stop practicing until a new scope is submitted and approved.

If a Standard Scope or Modified Scope is rejected, you will need to resubmit your Scope of Practice; you will need to **cease practicing** until the Board has made a determination on your resubmitted scope or until after 10 business days following resubmittal.

The board provides reasoning for rejecting incomplete or inappropriate scopes. If a scope is rejected after the 10 business day period, a new scope, revised to meet the statutory requirements of the Medical Practice Act, will need to be submitted for approval to begin practice. PAs can add additional procedures or tasks through submission of an Additional Skills Request.

All scopes, modified scopes, and requests for additional skills must be submitted through the PA Portal and time must allow for review by a Committee member for approval.

Standard Scope and Additional Skills Process for Aesthetics

The quickest and most streamlined process for getting a scope approved is by submitting a standard scope that matches the specialty and training of the supervising physician. Staff may administratively approve standard scopes of practice, allowing the PA to practice under that standard scope while the PA submits separately a request for approval of Additional Skills, which typically will require documentation of competency to perform these additional skills.

Physician Assistants may practice after a submitted scope has been approved or after 10 business days following submittal, and until the Board has made a determination on your scope.

You can add additional aesthetic procedures through an additional skills request and perform those tasks as soon as those items have been approved or after 10 business days following submittal and until the Board has made a determination on your additional skills request.

When you submit additional skills you need to provide the following with an Additional Skills Request form:

- Include the specific procedures the PA is requesting to perform, whether it is an aesthetic or otherwise.
- Proof of competency for the Supervising Physician (i.e. CME or Training Certificates)
- Proof of competency for the PA (i.e. Training Certificates or Certification of Onsite Training by Supervising Physician) for each of the aesthetic tasks/procedures.

If a Scope or Additional Skills Request is rejected after 10 business day period, a new Scope or Additional Skills Request must be submitted.

Modified Scopes Aesthetics

Modified scopes can be submitted. A modified scope for aesthetic procedures must have the following components:

- Proof of competency for the Supervising Physician (i.e. CME or Training Certificates)
- Proof of competency for the PA (i.e. Training Certificates or Certification of Onsite Training by Supervising Physician) for each of the aesthetic tasks/procedures.
- Include one of the “standard scopes” that match the specialty of the supervising physician. (Example: Physician specialty is emergency medicine – attach an emergency standard scope) [Standard Scopes can be found on the llr.sc.gov/med website]
- Include the specific “aesthetic” procedures the PA is requesting to perform.
- Signature and Date.
- The physician name and license number and PA name and license number.
- Documentation of an appropriate site(s) with contact information (Submitted via the PA Portal).

Modified scopes require approval by a committee member which can require additional time and correspondence. You can work after your scope has been approved or after 10 business days following submittal until the Board has made a determination on your requested scope. If a Scope is rejected after 10 business day period, a new scope would need to be submitted. Modified Scopes are considered incomplete until all of the required documentation provided to the Committee Member or rejected as additional information was not received in a timely manner. Thus, modified scopes typically take longer to be approved when the appropriate documentation is not attached.

The Board has a list of aesthetic procedures that you may consider in creating and requesting as part of

your Modified Scope application. Select only the procedures you and your supervising physician are competent to perform and for which you can provide documented proof of competency with the application.

Please remember:

All scopes, modified scopes, and requests for additional skills must be submitted through the PA Portal. All scopes of practice applications must include the physician(s) and physician assistant license number, signatures and date. A lack of appropriate signatures will result in a rejection.