



## Policy and Procedure

Policy Name:	Standardized Procedures Agreement, Delegation of Services Agreement and Supervisory Guidelines Protocol for non-physician medical practitioners (NPMP) with supervision according to established standards.		
Effective Date:		Revision Date:	
Department(s)/Site(s):			
Document Owners:			
Approved By:			
Relevant Law/Standard:	Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) All Plan Letter 20-006, Site Reviews: Facility Site Review and Medical Record Review		

**Purpose:**

Scope of practice for non-physician medical practitioners (NPMP) is clearly defined.

**Definitions:**

Non-physician medical practitioners (NPMP) - A Nurse Practitioner (NP), Physician Assistant (PA), or nurse midwife authorized to provide primary care under physician supervision.

Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM) - A certified nurse-midwife (CNM) is a registered nurse who is a graduate of a Board-approved nurse midwifery program and who possesses evidence of certification issued by the California Board of Registered Nursing. A certified nurse-midwife may be known as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse in accordance with Business and Professions Code Section 2725.5. Nurse-midwifery practice as conducted by CNMs is the independent, comprehensive management of women's health care in a variety of settings focusing particularly on pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period. It also includes care of the newborn, and the family planning and gynecological needs of women throughout the life cycle<sup>i</sup>.

Nurse Practitioners (NP) - "Nurse practitioner" means a registered nurse who possesses additional preparation and skills in physical diagnosis, psycho-social assessment, and management of health-illness needs in primary health care, and who has been prepared in a program conforms to board standards as specified in 16 CCR Section 1484<sup>ii</sup>.

Physician Assistants (PA) - The scope of a given PA's practice is limited by his/her supervising physician. Whatever medical specialty a physician practices (e.g., general practice, family medicine, internal medicine, etc.) limits the PA's scope of practice. The Delegation of Services Agreement between the PA and the supervising physician then further defines exactly

what tasks and procedures a physician is delegating to the PA. These tasks and procedures must be consistent with the supervising physician's specialty or usual and customary practice and with the patient's health and condition<sup>iii</sup>.

Supervising physician – Identifies a physician and/or surgeon licensed by the Medical Board or by the Osteopathic Medical Board of California who supervises one or more physician assistants, possesses a current valid license to practice medicine, and is not currently on disciplinary probation for improper use of a physician assistant.

**Policy:**

Physician offices will have standardized procedures that clearly define the scope of services and supervision of all non-physician medical providers (NPMP).

**Procedure:**

I. Supervision of Non-Physician Medical Practitioners

- A. The supervising physician holds ultimate responsibility for the practice of each supervised non-physician medical practitioner.
- B. The number of non-physician medical practitioners who may be supervised by a single primary care physician is limited to the full-time equivalent of one of the following:
  - 1. 4 nurse practitioners with furnishing license,
  - 2. 4 certified nurse midwives, 4 physician's assistants, or
  - 3. 4 of the above individuals in any combination which does not exceed the limit stated.
- C. A primary care physician, an organized outpatient clinic or a hospital outpatient department cannot utilize more non-physician medical practitioners than can be supervised within these stated limits.
- D. Each NP, CNM, and PA that prescribes controlled substances is required to have a valid DEA Registration Number.

II. Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)

- A. The certificate to practice nurse-midwifery authorizes the holder, under supervision of a licensed physician or surgeon, to attend cases of normal child-birth and to provide prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care, including family planning care for the mother, and immediate care for the newborn. The supervising and back-up physician or surgeon for the CNM must be credentialed to perform obstetrical care in the same delivering facility in which the CNM has delivery privileges.

III. Nurse Practitioner (NP)

- A. Nurse practitioners are prepared through education and experience to provide primary care and to perform advanced procedures. The extent of required supervision must be specified in the Standardized Procedures.

- B. Standardized Procedures should identify the furnishing of drugs or devices, extent of physician or surgeon supervision, method of periodic review of competence, including peer review, and review of provisions in the Standardized Procedures.
- C. Standardized procedures legally define the expanded scope of nursing practice that overlaps the practice of medicine. CNMs and NPs operate under written Standardized Procedures that are collaboratively developed and approved by the supervising physician.
- D. Standardized Procedures shall undergo periodic review, with signed, dated revisions completed at each change in scope of work and are signed by the managing physician.

Physician Assistant (PA)

- A. Every PA is required to have the following documents:
  - i. Practice Agreement: Defines specific procedures identified in practice protocols or specifically authorized by the supervising physician, and must be dated and signed by physician and PA. An original or copy must be readily accessible at all practice sites in which the PA works.
  - ii. There is no established time period for renewing the Practice Agreement, but it is expected that the Practice Agreement will be revised, dated and signed whenever any changes occur. Failure to maintain a Practice Agreement is a violation of the Physician Assistant Regulations and is grounds for disciplinary action by the Medical Board of California against a physician assistant’s licensure.
  - iii. Approved Supervising Physician’s Responsibility for Supervision of Physician Assistants’ Practice Agreement: Defines supervision responsibilities and methods required by Title 16, section 1399.545 of the Physician Assistant Regulations, and is signed by the physician. The following procedures must be identified:
    - 1. Transport and back-up procedures for when the supervising physician is not on the premises.
    - 2. One or more methods for performing medical record review by the supervising physician.
    - 3. Responsibility for physician review and countersigning of medical records.
    - 4. Responsibility of the PA to enter the name of approved supervising physician responsible for the patient on the medical record.

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First Name Last Name – Title

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Date

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First Name Last Name – Title

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Date

See [An Explanation Of Standardized Procedure Requirements For Nurse Practitioner Practice](#)

See [Delegation of Services Agreement Between Physician and Physician Assistant](#)

<sup>i</sup> <https://www.rn.ca.gov/pdfs/regulations/npr-b-31.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.rn.ca.gov/pdfs/regulations/bp2834-r.pdf> ; CA Bus & Prof Code § 2836 (ARTICLE 8. Nurse Practitioners [2834 - 2837]); Section 1484. (16 Code Cal. Rules 1480 (a))

<sup>iii</sup> [https://www.mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Physicians\\_and\\_Surgeons/Physician\\_Assistants\\_FAQ.aspx](https://www.mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Physicians_and_Surgeons/Physician_Assistants_FAQ.aspx) ; Business & Professions Code 3516(b); W & I Code 14132.966

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