



**Substitute House Bill No. 5515**

**Public Act No. 12-37**

**AN ACT CONCERNING PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subdivision (7) of section 20-12a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

(7) (A) "Supervision" in hospital settings means the exercise by the supervising physician of oversight, control and direction of the services of a physician assistant. Supervision includes but is not limited to: (i) Continuous availability of direct communication either in person or by radio, telephone or telecommunications between the physician assistant and the supervising physician; (ii) active and continuing overview of the physician assistant's activities to ensure that the supervising physician's directions are being implemented and to support the physician assistant in the performance of his or her services; (iii) personal review by the supervising physician of the physician assistant's practice [at least weekly or more frequently] on a regular basis as necessary to ensure quality patient care in accordance with a written delegation agreement, as described in subsection (a) of section 20-12d, as amended by this act; (iv) review of the charts and records of the physician assistant on a regular basis as necessary to ensure quality patient care; (v) delineation of a predetermined plan for

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emergency situations; and (vi) designation of an alternate licensed physician in the absence of the supervising physician.

(B) "Supervision" in settings other than hospital settings means the exercise by the supervising physician of oversight, control and direction of the services of a physician assistant. Supervision includes, but is not limited to: (i) Continuous availability of direct communication either in person or by radio, telephone or telecommunications between the physician assistant and the supervising physician; (ii) active and continuing overview of the physician assistant's activities to ensure that the supervising physician's directions are being implemented and to support the physician assistant in the performance of his or her services; (iii) personal review by the supervising physician of the physician assistant's services [~~through a face-to-face meeting with the physician assistant, at least weekly or more frequently as necessary~~] at a facility or practice location where the physician assistant or supervising physician performs services, in accordance with a written delegation agreement, as described in subsection (a) of section 20-12d, as amended by this act, to ensure quality patient care; [~~at a facility or practice location where the physician assistant or supervising physician performs services;~~] (iv) review of the charts and records of the physician assistant on a regular basis as necessary to ensure quality patient care and written documentation by the supervising physician of such review at the facility or practice location where the physician assistant or supervising physician performs services; (v) delineation of a predetermined plan for emergency situations; and (vi) designation of an alternate licensed physician in the absence of the supervising physician.

Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 20-12d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

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(a) A physician assistant who has complied with the provisions of sections 20-12b and 20-12c may perform medical functions delegated by a supervising physician when: (1) The supervising physician is satisfied as to the ability and demonstrated competency of the physician assistant; (2) such delegation is consistent with the health and welfare of the patient and in keeping with sound medical practice; and (3) such functions are performed under the oversight, control and direction of the supervising physician. The functions that may be performed under such delegation are those that are within the scope of the supervising physician's license, within the scope of such physician's competence as evidenced by such physician's postgraduate education, training and experience and within the normal scope of such physician's actual practice. Delegated functions shall be implemented in accordance with a written [protocols established by] delegation agreement between the supervising physician and the physician assistant. A supervising physician shall establish the terms of a written delegation agreement that shall include, but not be limited to: (A) A description of the professional relationship between the supervising physician and the physician assistant; (B) identification of the medical services that the physician assistant may perform; (C) a description of the manner in which the physician assistant's prescribing of controlled substances shall be documented in the patient's medical record; and (D) a description of the process for the supervising physician to evaluate the physician assistant's performance, including, but not limited to (i) the frequency with which the supervising physician intends to personally review the physician assistant's practice and performance of delegated medical services, and (ii) a description of the manner in which, and the frequency with which, the supervising physician intends to review the physician assistant's prescription and administration of controlled substances in schedule II or III. A supervising physician in a hospital setting shall reference or include applicable hospital policies, protocols and procedures in the written delegation agreement. The supervising

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physician shall review the written delegation agreement not less than annually and shall revise such written delegation agreement as the supervising physician deems necessary to reflect any change in the professional relationship between the supervising physician and the physician assistant, the medical services that the physician assistant is authorized to perform or the process for the supervising physician to evaluate the physician assistant's performance. All orders written by a physician [assistants] assistant shall be followed by the signature of the physician assistant and the printed name of the supervising physician. A physician assistant may, as delegated by the supervising physician within the scope of such physician's license, [(A)] (I) prescribe and administer drugs, including controlled substances in schedule IV or V in all settings, [(B)] (II) renew prescriptions for controlled substances in schedule II, III, IV or V in all settings, [(C)] (III) prescribe and administer controlled substances in schedule II or III in all settings, provided in all cases where the physician assistant prescribes a controlled substance in schedule II or III, the physician under whose supervision the physician assistant is prescribing shall document such physician's approval of the order in the patient's medical record [not later than one calendar day thereafter] in the manner prescribed in the written delegation agreement, and [(D)] (IV) prescribe and approve the use of durable medical equipment. The physician assistant may, as delegated by the supervising physician within the scope of such physician's license, request, sign for, receive and dispense drugs to patients, in the form of professional samples, as defined in section 20-14c, or when dispensing in an outpatient clinic as defined in the regulations of Connecticut state agencies and licensed pursuant to subsection (a) of section 19a-491 that operates on a not-for-profit basis, or when dispensing in a clinic operated by a state agency or municipality. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to allow the physician assistant to request, sign for, receive or dispense any drug the physician assistant is not authorized under this subsection to prescribe.

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