PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Controlled Substance Education

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California Business and Professional Code (BP) Section 3500, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations:

- The Physician Assistant Practice Act
  - Outlines Scope of Practice
- Physician Assistant Committee (PAC) of the Medical Board of California
  - Regulates PA practice
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- Kaiser Permanente
  - Regulates Physician Assistant practice
    - Privileges
    - Scope
      - Including Rx

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DSA (Delegation of Services Agreement)

- “A supervising physician (SP) shall delegate to a PA only those tasks and procedures which are consistent with the supervising physician’s specialty or usual and customary practice”
  (This allows the PA to perform task/procedures according to the SP’s privileges)

Title 16, Section 1399.545 (a)
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Medical services performable:

- “Because PA practice is directed by a supervising physician and a PA acts as an agent for that physician, the orders given and task performed by a PA shall be considered the same as if they had been given and performed by the SP. Unless otherwise specified by these regulations or in the DSA or protocols, these orders may be initiated without the prior patient specific order of the SP”

Title 16, Section 1399.541

WHY A “CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE” COURSE?

- Passage of AB 3 in January 2008
  - Changed Title 16 section 1399.541 section h “patient specific” authorization for schedule II-V drugs orders

- Why did this course take so long to get here?
  - AB 3 required an education component
  - Took the Physician Assistant Committee 10 months to agree upon the course curriculum
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Before AB 3

Supervision required:

- SP must be available in person or by electronic communication
- SP only delegates those task/procedures consistent with SP’s specialty
- SP reviews evidence of PA’s competency
- 100% of all medical records of Medi-Cal patients must be reviewed, countersigned and dated by the SP

Title 16, Section 1399.545

Supervision required (cont.):

- A PA and the SP shall establish, in writing, guidelines for the adequate supervision of the PA and shall include one of the following options:
  - Review, countersignature and dating within 30 days of a 10% sample of all medical records of patients seen under protocols, OR
  - Examination of the patient by the SP the same day the care is given by the PA, OR
  - Review, countersignature and dating of all medical records within 30 days, OR
  - Other mechanisms approved in advance by the PAC

Title 16, Section 1399.545
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Before AB 3

- Formulary & Protocols
  - SP must prepare and adopt a written “practice specific” formulary & protocols that specify all criteria for each drug/device and any contraindications for the selection (KP Formulary)

B&P code 3502.1 Title 16 section 1399.545

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Before AB 3

- Drugs not covered in formulary and controlled substances
  - Need to obtain “patient specific” authorization from the SP PRIOR to writing the drug order
  - Patient Specific can be verbal or written authorization
  - Patient Specific authorization is required PRIOR to writing any schedule II-V drug order
  - Countersignature required for all schedule II drug orders (chart)

B&P code 3502.1 Title 16 section 1399.545
DEA NUMBERS

- PA’s who are delegated authority to write drug orders for controlled substances must obtain a controlled substance number from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- Must request schedule II-V
- PA’s without a DEA number may not write a drug order for a controlled substance

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PRACTICE AFTER AB 3

- Eliminates “Patient Specific” (PSA) requirements for schedules II-V drugs
  - PA must complete a controlled substance education course

B&P code 3502.1 sections 1399.610 and 1399.612
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PRACTICE AFTER AB 3

- Changes the supervision ratio from 2:1 to 4:1 in all settings
- Chart countersignature from 10% to 5% of all medical records seen by a PA
- Medi-Cal covered services
  - Allows PA’s to be reimbursed for all procedures/visits normally covered under Medi-Cal
  - Removes the more stringent chart countersignature requirement to 5%

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Drug orders:

- Prescription Transmittal Authority
  - “Each SP who delegates the authority to issue a drug order to a PA shall first prepare and adopt, or adopt a written practice specific formulary...the drugs listed shall include only drugs that are appropriate for use in the type of practice engaged in by the SP.”
  (See KP DSA – Orders for Drugs and Devices)

B&P Code 3502.1
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Drug orders (cont.):
- When issued by the PA is to be treated in the same manner as a prescription from the SP
- Must be consistent with the customary practice of the SP
- Is to be based on the protocols established by the practice or needs a patient specific order from the SP

B&P Code 3502.1

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Drug orders (cont.):
- PAs cannot administer, provide or issue a drug order:
  - For a drug not listed in the sub-formulary without a patient specific order from the SP

B&P Code 3502.1/Title 16, Section 1399.545
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE EDUCATION COURSE

- 1399.610 Requirements for approved controlled substance course to administer, provide or issue a drug order for schedule II – V controlled substance without advance approval from a supervising physician.

A controlled substance education course must meet this criteria.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE EDUCATION COURSE

- Federal/State laws & regulations pertaining to the provision, administration and furnishing of controlled substances and the legal professional relationship between a Physician Assistant and his/her SP
  - Include a description of the applicable patient charting requirements and the use of a secure drug order form
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE DRUG EDUCATION COURSE

- Assessment strategies for recognition, prevention and management of acute and chronic pain
- Comparison of efficacy data and safety profiles which influence the selection, usage and conversion of pharmacological agents
- The evaluation and comparison of the safety and efficacy profiles of controlled substances and the clinical rational for their use

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE DRUG EDUCATION COURSE

- Describes disorders routinely requiring a therapeutic regimen of controlled substances for clinical management
- Assessment of a controlled substance’s potential for abuse & addiction, it’s psychosocial aspects, the recognition of the symptoms (including drug seeking behaviors) and medically appropriate alternatives.
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
DRUG EDUCATION COURSE

- Evaluation of the response & compliance of the patient to the controlled substances.
- Provision of appropriate patient education regarding controlled substances
- Include a written examination
- Course at least 6 hours duration, minimum of 3 hours exclusively dedicated to schedule II controlled substances

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
DRUG EDUCATION COURSE

- Certificate of completion
  - Keep copy of file for inspection if asked
  - File with KP Medical Staff Office
  - Needed for prospective employer, Physician Assistant Committee, credentialing/privileging
  - Not required to return their certificate of completion to the Physician Assistant Committee
COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

- PA’s who complete a controlled substance education course and are authorized by a supervising physician to write drug orders for controlled substances must ensure that their Delegation of Services Agreement is updated to reflect this change to their practices.

THIS COURSE IS OPTIONAL

- PA’s who elect not to enroll in a controlled substance education course
  - Requirements for the “patient specific” authority remain unchanged
  - No need to change the DSA
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Countersignature requirements by a SP:
- All drug orders for a **Schedule II** CS - within 7 days
- All Medi-Cal patients - within 30 days
- All verbal orders from MD to PA – within 48 hrs. (if in hospital)
- Admitting or Pre-Surgical H & Ps – within 7 days of admission or prior to surgery
- 5% of all patient medical records – within 30 days