

Policy and Procedure

Subject: Role of Physician Assistants (PA) and Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner's (CRNP) in Skilled Nursing

Criteria: When PA's or CRNP's see Skilled Nursing residents, appropriate procedures will be followed to ensure quality care is delivered and regulatory requirements are met.

Procedure:

1. If a physician practice desires to have a PA or CRNP see residents, the practice must notify the Director of Nursing. A copy of the written/collaborative agreement between the supervising physician and the PA or CRNP must be obtained prior to the PA or CRNP functioning in any role at (Facility name).

A copy of the licenses of both the supervising physician and the PA or CRNP must be obtained prior to the PA or CRNP functioning in any role at (Facility name). A copy of a certificate of liability insurance coverage and their DEA certificate are also required. Medical Records will maintain a file noting PA's and CRNP's that are authorized to provide services at (Facility name).

2. A list is in the Important Information notebook in each household and at the (Facility name) Bulletin Board regarding the name of the supervising physician and the persons and title of whom they supervise.
3. A notice explaining the terms "physician assistant" and "certified registered nurse practitioner" are in the Important Information notebook in each household and at the (Facility name) Bulletin Board.

4. PA's documentation on the resident's record shall be countersigned by the supervising physician within 7 days with an original signature and date by the licensed physician. This includes progress notes, physical examination reports, treatments, medications and any other notation made by the physician assistant.

5. CRNP's are not subject to any of the requirements noted in point 4 above. Regulations released 10/2010 have removed the previous requirement that CRNP's notes be countersigned. (Pa.B. Doc. No. 10-1877. October 1, 2010)

6. Physicians shall countersign and date their verbal orders to physician assistants or certified registered nurse practitioners within 7 days.

7. Approved PA's and CRNP's are authorized to perform the following functions at (Facility name):
 - Write orders, give verbal orders directly or by phone and verify orders for residents of supervising physician, including after regular business hours. Perform other required visits. The required monthly visits may be alternated between physician and non-physician practitioner after the initial comprehensive visit is completed.
 - Prescribe medications, including schedule II - V meds, based on current PA and CRNP regulations and their Prescriptive Authority Agreement.

8. Approved PA's and CRNP's are NOT authorized to perform the following functions at (Facility name):
 - Perform the Initial Comprehensive Visit/Orders for residents admitted under Medicare Part A coverage.

9. Attached are copies of the Federal Regulation, a memo from CMS dated November 13, 2003 and State Regulation that pertain to PA's and CRNP's.

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