| STATUTE | Massachusetts General Laws Annotated Chapter 13, §11C Chapter 112, §9C-K; Chapter 94C, §7(g); Chapter 46, Section 9 (pronouncement of death) |
| DATE | Enacted 1973 |
| REGULATORY BODY | Massachusetts Board of Registration of Physician Assistants |
| PA DEFINED | A person who is duly registered by the board. §9C |
| SCOPE OF PRACTICE | PAs may perform medical services when such services are rendered under supervision of registered physician. PAs, depending upon their level of professional training and experience as determined by supervising physician, may perform medical services of a general nature and may order tests and therapeutics in assisting physicians in private practice, in group practices, and in health care facilities. PAs employed by health care facilities may not be sole medical personnel in charge of emergency or outpatient services or any other clinical service where physician is not regularly available. §9E Prohibited activities include dentistry, manipulative therapy or chiropractic, podiatry, optometry (routine visual screening not precluded). §9D Registered PA may pronounce death in patient under their care provided that PA first makes a reasonable effort to contact attending physician or medical examiner. Pronouncement to be made on forms approved by commissioner of public health. 46§9 |
| PRESCRIBING/DISPENSING | PA may order therapeutics and tests and issue written prescriptions for patients subject to provisions of paragraph (g) of section 7 of chapter 94C. Prescription must contain name of supervising physician. §9E Commissioner shall promulgate regulations which provide for the registration of PAs to issue written prescriptions for patients pursuant to guidelines mutually developed and agreed upon by supervising physician and PA. Prior to promulgating regulations, commissioner shall consult with PA board, medical board and pharmacy board with regard to those schedules of controlled substances which PAs may prescribe. 94C §7(g) |
| SUPERVISION DEFINED | Supervision shall be continuous but shall not require personal presence of physician(s). §9E |
| PAs PER PHYSICIAN | Registered physician shall supervise no more than 2 PAs at any one time. §9E |
| APPLICATION | PA applies for registration. §9I |
| QUALIFICATIONS | • Good moral character • Graduation from approved PA program • Baccalaureate degree from accredited college or university or an equivalent approved by the board • Passage of NCCPA exam §9I |
| TEMPORARY PERMIT | Subject to such rules and regulations as board may prescribe, an applicant who otherwise meets registration requirements may, while awaiting exam results, practice as a PA. An applicant failing the exam shall be entitled to re-examination within 2 years of graduation and to practice until notified of results. Thereafter, applicant may not practice as PA without having passed the exam. §9I PA who has not yet passed the NCCPA exam may not write prescriptions. 94C§7(g) |
| TERMINATION | Registered PA shall promptly inform the board of any change in employment, change of supervising physician or departure from the state. §9I |
| CONTINUING EDUCATION | To be established by board regulations. §9I |
| TITLE/PRACTICE PROTECTION | Anyone not lawfully registered who holds himself out as a PA or uses the title of physician assistant shall be punished by a fine of not less than $200. §9J |
| IDENTIFICATION | No provision |

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### Physician Liability
Legal responsibility for PA is that of employing physician(s) at all times including occasions when PA, under direction and supervision, aids in the care and treatment of patients in health care facilities. If PA is employed by health care facility, legal responsibility for his actions and omissions shall be that of the employing facility. §9E

### Fee/Renewal Schedule
Licensure fees set by the Commissioner of Administration. Biennial registration. §9I

### Program Approval
Board issues certificates of approval to programs for education and training of PAs which meet standards established by board. In developing approval criteria and in approving programs, the board may accept as approved those certified by a national accrediting agency or organization. §9K

### Board Representation/Advisory Committee
Board of PA Registration established within the division of registration, office of consumer affairs and business regulation. Nine members appointed by governor: 4 PAs who may be selected from list submitted by Massachusetts Association of PAs; 2 public members; 1 PA educator; 2 physicians, at least one of whom shall be member of state medical society. Board elects its chairperson; meets four times annually. 13§11C

### Board Powers
- Register and issue certificates of registration to PAs
- Take appropriate disciplinary action
- Approve and issue certificates of approval of PA programs
- Maintain rosters of registered PAs and approved programs
- Adopt, amend and rescind regulations necessary to implement the law
- In consultation with board of registration in medicine and consistent with that board’s authority over supervising physicians and the practice of medicine, adopt regulations governing the practice and employment of PAs. §9F

### Disciplinary Powers
Board may revoke, suspend, cancel the certificate of registration; reprimand, censure or otherwise discipline a PA. §9H

### Violations/Penalty
- Fraud in procurement of registration certificate
- Violation of law or regulations
- Gross misconduct, incompetence or negligence
- Impairment due to alcohol, drugs, physical disability or mental instability
- Addiction to drugs or alcohol
- Conviction of a criminal offense
- Aiding the unlicensed practice of medicine
- Practicing beyond the authorized scope of PA practice §9H

### Payment for Services
No provision

### Grandfather Clause
Persons practicing as PAs on 1/1/90 shall be exempt from bachelor’s degree requirement. §9I

### Students
PA trainee may perform medical services when such services are rendered within the scope of an approved program. §9E

### Locum Tenens
No provision

### Other
MASSACHUSETTS ~ REGULATIONS

REGULATIONS
263 CMR 2.01 through 6.02; 243 CMR 2.08 (provisions governing supervising physicians)

DATE
Revised 3/06

REGULATORY BODY
Board of Registration of Physician Assistants
Department of Public Health/Division of Health Professions Licensure

PA DEFINED
A person who meets the registration requirements and who may provide medical services
appropriate to his training, experience and skills under the supervision of a registered
physician. §2.03

SCOPE OF PRACTICE
A physician may permit PAs to perform those services which are within the competence of the
PA as determined by the physician’s assessment of the PA’s training or experience and within
the scope of services for which the supervising physician can provide adequate supervision to
ensure accepted standards of medical practice are followed. PA may approach patients of all
ages and with all types of conditions, elicit histories, perform examinations, order, perform and
interpret diagnostic studies, order and perform therapeutic procedures, instruct and counsel
patients, respond to life-threatening situations, and facilitate referral consistent with delegation
by supervising physician. PA may not give general anesthesia, perform procedure involving
ionizing radiation except in emergency or render formal opinion on procedure involving
ionizing radiation. PA involved in performance of major invasive procedures must do so under
written protocols available to board. Protocols shall be developed between supervising
physician and PA and specify level of supervision service requires. §5.04
PA may serve patients of supervising physician in all types of clinical care settings including
patient home, physician office, hospital, nursing home, etc. §5.03
PAs employed by health care facility shall not be utilized as sole medical personnel in charge
of emergency services, outpatient services, or any other clinical service where licensed
physician not regularly available. §5.08

PRESCRIBING/DISPENSING
PAs may prescribe or order medications in accordance with written guidelines developed by
PA and supervising physician. Guidelines to address frequency of reviews, identification of
supervising physician(s), types and classes of medications to be prescribed by PA, plans for
prescribing medications not ordinarily in scope of practice, quantities of medications to be
prescribed by PA, ordering of medications from manufacturer, review of prescribing,
procedures for initiating IV solutions. Guidelines to be signed by supervising physician and PA
and renewed annually. Guidelines to be available to board. All prescribing to be in compliance
with state and federal laws. Prescriptions or orders for Schedule II medications shall be
reviewed by supervising physician within 96 hours. PA not to prescribe Schedules II-IV for
self-use. PA not to prescribe Schedule II for immediate family member except in emergency.
§5.07
(identical language in 243 CMR 2.08)

SUPERVISION DEFINED
Physician must afford supervision adequate to assure that the PA practices medicine in
accordance with accepted medical standards. This does not require the physical presence of the
physician. Physician reviews diagnostic and treatment information, as agreed upon by
physician and PA, in a timely manner and must designate another licensed physician to assume
temporary supervisory responsibilities when he is unable or unavailable to be the principal
medical decision maker. §5.05
(identical language in 243 CMR 2.08)

PAs PER PHYSICIAN
Supervising physician shall not supervise more than 2 PAs at one time. §5.05

APPLICATION
PA application for registration, includes documentation of qualifications. §3.03

QUALIFICATIONS
• Good moral character
• Graduation from approved PA program
• Baccalaureate degree from accredited college
• Passage of NCCPA exam §3.02

TEMPORARY PERMIT
Temporary registration certificate available to applicant who meets other requirements but has
not yet passed NCCPA exam. Must apply within 2 years of graduation. If exam failed, PA must
certify that he or she has registered to retake exam on a date not more than 2 years from
graduation date. Temporary registration shall remain valid until results of re-examination are
published. If PA fails second exam must cease practice immediately upon receipt of results.
§3.04
### Massachusetts Regulations

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Any prescription or medication order written by PA with temporary registration must be signed by the supervising physician prior to issuance of prescription or medication.</strong></td>
<td>§5.07</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TERMINATION</strong></td>
<td>PA must notify board of change in employment, supervising physician or departure from the state within 30 days.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CONTINUING EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td>100 hours of CME biennially, 40 must be Category I</td>
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<td></td>
<td>At least 4 hours of required CME must be in pharmacology or pharmacokinetics.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TITLE/PRACTICE PROTECTION</strong></td>
<td>[See statute]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IDENTIFICATION</strong></td>
<td>PA must inform patient that he or she is a physician assistant except in life-threatening emergencies. PA must wear name tag identifying him as a “physician assistant.”</td>
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<td><strong>PHYSICIAN LIABILITY</strong></td>
<td>Legal responsibility for PA is that of employing physician(s) at all times including occasions when PA, under direction and supervision, aids in the care and treatment of patients in health care facilities. If PA is employed by health care facility, legal responsibility for his actions and omissions shall be that of the employing facility.</td>
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<td><strong>FEE/RENEWAL SCHEDULE</strong></td>
<td>Biennial renewal. Fees set by Commissioner of Administration and Finance.</td>
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<td><strong>PROGRAM APPROVAL</strong></td>
<td>Board approves training programs accredited by CAHEA. Program directors apply for board approval by sending verification of CAHEA accreditation.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOARD REPRESENTATION/ADVISORY COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td>[See statute]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOARD POWERS</strong></td>
<td>Board may, pending a hearing, suspend or refuse to renew a license if it determines that a licensee is an immediate or serious threat to the public.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DISCIPLINARY POWERS</strong></td>
<td>Denial, revocation or suspension of certificate of registration or temporary certificate, refusal to renew, issuance of a letter of censure, written reprimand, probation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **VIOLATIONS/PENALTY** | • Fraud in procurement of registration certificate  
• Violation of law or regulations  
• Gross misconduct, incompetence or negligence  
• Impairment due to alcohol, drugs, physical disability or mental instability  
• Addiction to drugs or alcohol  
• Conviction of a criminal offense  
• Aiding the unlicensed practice of medicine  
• Practicing beyond the authorized scope of PA practice | §6.02 |
| **PAYMENT FOR SERVICES** | A PA may not bill separately for services rendered. Services of PA are services of the supervising physician and shall be billed as such. | §5.06 |
| **GRANDFATHER CLAUSE** | PAs practicing in Massachusetts prior to January 1, 1990 exempted from baccalaureate requirement. | §3.02 |
| **STUDENTS** | [See statute] |
| **LOCUM TENENS** | No provision |
| **OTHER** | |