

Intermountain Healthcare
Model Physician Assistant Delegation of Services Agreement
Trauma Services
June 2014
draft 3 waiting for PA Board Review
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List the method of immediate consultation whenever the physician assistant is not under the direct supervision of the supervising physician:

Physicians will be available either in person or via telephone or email at all times.

List the process and degree of onsite supervision:

Physician assistant is employed by Intermountain Healthcare at Intermountain Medical Center (IMC) to assess and manage, in collaboration with trauma surgeons and other surgical specialists, the care of trauma patients in the Emergency Department, Shock Trauma Intensive Care Unit, in-patient Trauma Medical Unit, and out-patient trauma follow up clinic. Care is provided in a hospital (IMC) and a hospital based clinic. Physicians are continuously available in the hospital setting and available via electronic means for patients seen in the out-patient clinic.

List the method of supervision when the supervising physician is on vacation:

While one Trauma Surgeon has agreed to be the PA Supervising Physician, all physicians who work as members of the Trauma Service are expected to work in close collaboration with all other physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners to provide continuous care to patients around the clock.

FREQUENCY AND MECHANISM OF CHART REVIEW:

List the method for chart review and co-signatures of the supervising practitioner for supervision. Include the process for chart review and co-signatures required:

Daily rounds, which include a chart review and agreement on a plan of care, are made on all hospitalized patients by the Trauma Service team, including a physician, physician assistant, pharmacist, and care manager. The physician assistant is subject to Ongoing and Focused Professional Practice Evaluation for Advanced Practice Clinicians as implemented by Intermountain Medical Center, and to all employee evaluations required by Intermountain Healthcare.

PRESCRIBING OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES:

A physician assistant may prescribe or administer an appropriate controlled substance if the physician assistant holds a current Utah controlled substance license covering the appropriate schedules of controlled substances and a current DEA registration covering the appropriate schedules of controlled substances; the prescription or administration of the controlled substance is within the prescriptive practice of the supervising practitioner and also within the delegated prescribing stated in the delegation of services agreement; and the supervising practitioner co-signs any medical chart record of a prescription of a Schedule 2 or Schedule 3 controlled substance made by the physician assistant.

In order to prescribe controlled substances, the physician assistant must have obtained his or her own controlled substance license and DEA registration. The physician assistant may not use his or her supervising physician's controlled substance licenses or DEA registrations.

Please define the process for the physician assistant prescribing controlled substances and expectations:

The physician assistant regularly orders controlled substances for hospitalized patients and at the time of discharge. PAs are in continuous conversation with physician team members about the patient's status and plan of care. A daily note is entered in each chart that summarizes the patient condition and plan of care. This note reflects the physician and PA assessment of the patient status. The signature of an attending physician appears multiple times in the patients chart including the history and physical exam, daily notes and discharge summary that documents the patient's hospital course and discharge orders.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE:

Please define procedures addressing situations outside the physician assistant's scope of practice:

There are no procedures performed outside scope of practice.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS:

List procedures for providing backup support for the physician assistant in emergency situations:

A Trauma Service physician is on site at all times.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS RELATING TO THE PRACTICE:

List any additional items, procedures, and expectations pertinent to the physician assistant at your site:

The list of physicians who supervise physician assistants on the Trauma Service includes attending trauma surgeons, medical fellows and residents. It is understood by the members of the team that all physicians on the team are substitute supervising physicians.



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Utah Physician Assistant Board

As Medical Director of the Trauma Services at Intermountain Medical Center, I am writing to support the proposed Delegation of Services Agreement submitted for your review by our Advanced Practice Clinical Coordinator, Deanne Williams.

The physician assistants are highly valued members of a team of providers who provide continuous care to hospitalized patients with life threatening conditions. There is an attending physician available to oversee the care of these patients at all times and to discuss patient management decisions whenever needed. All of our attending physicians as well as Fellows and Residents are expected to work as partners with the physician assistants and to oversee the care provided to patients. I can assure you that the physician assistants have immediate access to an attending physician.

Because of the complex, painful and fragile condition of most of our patients and our need to respond immediately to the trauma bay in the emergency department, it is not possible to write a clinical note every time the patient's condition or need for medication changes. Thus, it is very important that we have written approval from the PA Board that signatures on our admission, daily progress and discharge notes will satisfy the state requirement for a physician signature on a chart note in relation to physician assistant orders for schedule II and III controlled substances.

Thank you for your support,


Mark H. Stevens, MD

3/3/15

I apologize that I cannot attend in person to present my viewpoint. I feel very strongly about this issue - and would be very willing to discuss the issue, or to answer questions. I appreciate your consideration of this matter -
