



CHANGES SB 1915 PROVIDES TO OKLAHOMA PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PRACTICE ACT

- PAs are to be considered primary care providers by insurers
- Updates terminology to reflect current healthcare practices by describing the PA-Physician relationship to include not only supervision but also terms that have been deemed less restrictive by CMS such as delegate and collaborate
- No longer requires “primary” and “alternate” supervising physician roles, but rather it updates the language to reflect current healthcare practices by enumerating a “delegating physician” role
- Alters limitations on licensure to allow PAs to have practice agreements with multiple delegating physicians in order to reflect current healthcare practices and remove impediments for access to healthcare in rural areas
- Expedites employment for PAs by removing the red tape of approval of applications to practice with OSBMLS and gives the power to the PA-Physician relationship to determine practice agreements
- PA and physician work together to determine the scope of practice and level of supervision for a PA based upon the PA's education, experience and training to more properly reflect current healthcare practices. This may be submitted electronically and no additional fees may be charged upon submission or amendment
- As with current practice, PAs cannot identify themselves as a physician
- OSBMLS will collect and publish data annually regarding PA-Physician relationships in hopes that it assists with conversations on future modernization efforts including:
 1. if PAs and physicians are working in the same practice
 2. type of facility a PA works
 3. number of physicians a PA has an agreement with (current practice)
 4. number of years a PA has been practicing
 5. number of licensed PAs in state (current practice)
- PAs are to be recognized for ordering, billing and reimbursement by all third-party payers for medical and surgical services. Direct reimbursement shall be allowed for medically necessary services ordered by a PA
- PAs may provide medical care in emergencies or declared disasters, and are not subject to liability
- SB 1915 goes into effect August 27, 2020