

**Alabama Board of Medical Examiners**


**Policy Updates, Procedures, and Proficiencies for Collaborative Practice and Supervisory Agreements**

Mission of the Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners and Medical Licensure Commission

"The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and the Medical Licensure Commission of Alabama are charged with protecting the health and safety of the citizens of the state of Alabama."

William M. Perkins  
Executive Director

Kimie Buley  
Director of Advanced Practice Providers  
Alabama Board of Medical Examiners  
www.albme.gov



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

A PA may hold an active Alabama license without an active registration to a supervising physician.

True False

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

A collaborating or supervising physician may supervise a PA, CRNP, or CNM practicing in a hospital where the physician does not have privileges.

True False

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## What's New?

- Alternative to the requirement of 12 months of active clinical practice in AL to qualify for a QACSC
- Qualifications of Collaborating/Supervising Physicians
- Continuing Medical Education Requirements
- Modified QACSC Applications
- Covering Physicians must "agree in writing"
- Termination of covering physicians online

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Objectives

Summarize Application Process	Summarize the application process for collaborative and supervisory practice including eligibility requirements.
Responsibilities of physicians, NPs, and PAs	State the responsibilities of physicians, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and physician assistants who are in a collaborative or supervisory practice agreement.
Identify Common Problems	Identify common problems seen in a collaborative or supervisory practice and methodologies to correct them.
Describe Regulations for Prescribing and QA Review	Describe regulations for prescribing drugs, participating in a quality assurance review and practicing in various practice settings, including remote sites.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Effective 4/13/2023, The Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners Is Not Able to Act As an IMLC State Of Principal License (SPL). This is a developing situation and more information will be provided as it comes available.**

- FEBRUARY 01, 2023** - **Grant Period for M2/DO License Renewal Has Ended** [View](#)
- FEBRUARY 01, 2023** - **Update on Physicians' U.S. Government-Related Shortage** [View](#)
- FEBRUARY 01, 2023** - **New CME Requirement for Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Supervising Physicians** [View](#)
- JANUARY 01, 2023** - **Registration OPEN for March 2023 Practicing Course** [View](#)
- JANUARY 01, 2023** - **Lower BMJ | IMLC Special Direct Matter 2023** [View](#)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Chapter 540-X-1	Organization and Administration	Chapter 540-X-16	The Practice of Medicine or Osteopathy Across State Lines (Repealed 10/15/2023)
Chapter 540-X-2	Definitions	Chapter 540-X-17	Guidelines and Standards for the Utilization of Controlled Substances for Weight Management
Chapter 540-X-3	Certificate of Qualification	Chapter 540-X-18	Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Registration Certificate (QACSC) for Certified Nurse Practitioners (CRNP) and Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM)
Chapter 540-X-4	Controlled Substances Certificate	Chapter 540-X-19	Pain Management Services
Chapter 540-X-5	Hearings and Appeals	Chapter 540-X-20	Limited Purpose Schedule II Permit (LPSP)
Chapter 540-X-6	Conduct of Hearings in Contested Cases	Chapter 540-X-21	Policy on Data 2020: Guidelines for the Treatment of Opioid Addiction in the Medical Profession (Repealed 10/15/2023)
Chapter 540-X-7	Assistants to Physicians	Chapter 540-X-22	Joint Rules of the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and the Medical Licensure Board of Alabama Concerning the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
Chapter 540-X-8	Advanced Practice Nurse: Collaborative Practice	Chapter 540-X-23	Physician Reentry Into Practice
Chapter 540-X-9	Miscellaneous	Chapter 540-X-24	Physician Assistant Reentry Into Practice
Chapter 540-X-10	Office-Based Surgery	Chapter 540-X-25	Physician Recommendation of the Use of Medical Cannabis
Chapter 540-X-11	Guidelines for the Use of Lasers and Other Modalities Affecting the Eye	Chapter 540-X-26	Collaborative Pharmacy Practice
Chapter 540-X-12	Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Registration Certificate	Chapter 540-X-28	Physician Supervision of Athletic Trainers
Chapter 540-X-13	Alabama Physician Health Program	Chapter 540-A	Appendices
Chapter 540-X-14	Continuing Medical Education		
Chapter 540-X-15	Telehealth (Repealed 10/23/18)		

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**In the Collaborative and Supervisory Practice Rules, you will find.....**

- ▶ IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS
- ▶ EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- ▶ COLLABORATION AND SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS
- ▶ FTE LIMITATIONS
- ▶ Quality Assurance Review Requirements

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Terminology!

CRNP	PA
Collaboration	Registration
Collaborative Practice	Supervisory Practice
Collaborating Physician	Supervising Physician

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### What is a Collaborative or Supervisory Practice?

- A formal relationship between a physician and a CRNP/CNM or PA.
- A collaborative (CRNP/CNM)/registration agreement (PA) is subject to the approved rules as well as written protocols approved by Board of Medical Examiners and Board of Nursing (CRNP/CNM).
- A collaborative/registration agreement provides for medical oversight and direction by the collaborating/supervising physician.
- It includes a detailed job description for the PA and an approved standard protocol for the CRNP/CNM as well as any approved additional skills.
- It requires a quality assurance review plan.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### What is a requirement to qualify as a collaborating/supervising physician?

- A. Collaborating/supervising physician has a current Alabama Controlled Substance Certificate
- B. Collaborating/supervising physician has practiced medicine for at least 4 years
- C. Collaborating/supervising physician is board certified
- D. Collaborating/supervising physician has a current, unrestricted medical license in Alabama

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Requirements to Qualify: Collaborating/Supervising Physician

- Current, unrestricted medical license in Alabama
- Practiced medicine for at least three (3) years
- Practiced medicine for one (1) year and is certified by one or more boards recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American Osteopathic Association
- Practiced medicine for one (1) year and the collaboration/registration practice site is limited solely to a general acute care hospital, critical access hospital, or a specialized hospital licensed as such by the Department of Public Health

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### A collaborative/registration agreement may consist of:

- Core Duties and Scope of Practice/ Standard Protocol
- Practice Sites of the PA/CRNP/CNM
- Supplemental Certificate of Employment (PA)
- Approved Formulary for Legend Drug Prescribing
- Covering Physician Agreements
- Disclosure of existing supervisory and collaborative agreements
- Any additional skill requests

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
 APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

**PHYSICIAN TO COMPLETE:**  
 Supervising Physician Name in Full \_\_\_\_\_, M.D. D.D.S. or \_\_\_\_\_  
 Medical Specialty \_\_\_\_\_ Board Certified \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No Board Eligible \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
 Address of Principal Practice Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/County of Principal Practice Location \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT TO COMPLETE:**  
 Physician Assistant Name in Full \_\_\_\_\_  
 M.D. P.A. License # \_\_\_\_\_ Place a "0" if you do not have an Address System

**3. Supervising Physician:** If you would like to add covering physicians to this registration agreement, please submit covering physician agreements.

**4. Core Duties and Scope of Practice:** Please submit the core duties and scope of practice form.

**5. Current Practice Sites:** List the core duties and scope of practice for the applicant with the number of hours that P.A. will be working weekly at each site. Must include name, address, and phone number of each site.

Site Name and # \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Practice Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hours per week \_\_\_\_\_

**6. FAX:** provide a plan describing the practice location, facilities and arrangements for appropriate communication, consultation, and referral.

**Important!**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



[Adult Care Nurse Practitioner Standard Protocol](#)

[Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Standard Protocol](#)

[Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Standard Protocol](#)

[Family Practice Nurse Practitioner Standard Protocol](#)

[FLEX/APRN Pool Protocol](#)

NOTE: This protocol may only be used in conjunction with a Standard Protocol.

The [ABN Administrative Code](#) provides for use of the FLEX protocol, if additional staff to cover for maternity leave, vacations, etc. If this is not possible, the APRN must be employed by the Alabama Department of Public Health.

[Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Standard Protocol](#)

[Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Standard Protocol](#)

[Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Standard Protocol](#)

[Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Standard Protocol](#)

## Standard Protocol

Specific to the NP's:

- certification
- educational training program
- patient population

39

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

<b>Anineoplastic Agents</b>
<b>Methotrexate</b>
<b>Oxytocics</b>
<b>Radioactive Agents</b>
Collaborating physician must have current license from the Alabama Department of Public Health for prescribing and dispensing radioactive pharmaceuticals.
<b>Non-biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs)</b>
<b>Biologic or Biosimilar DMARDs and Anti-tumor necrosis factor drugs (anti-TNF)</b>
<b>Other Biologics or Biosimilars (excluding anti-TNF)</b>
All <b>Specialty Legend Drugs</b> listed above must be given within the scope of the supervising physician's specialty. <u>The initial dose must be prescribed by a physician, with authorization to prescribe continuing maintenance doses according to written protocol (available for review on site) or direct order of the physician.</u>

## Approved Formulary for Non-Controlled Prescribing

### Specialty Legend Drugs

40

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Protocols: Standard and Specialty

Physician and CRNP/CNM/PA determine skills that will be performed from the Standard Protocol.

**Check only skills that are appropriate to the individual practice of the physician.**

PA/CRNP/CNM should not perform skills outside of the supervising/collaborating physician's scope of practice.

Physician should routinely perform the skill the PA, CRNP, or CNM will perform.

41

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What type of location is a remote practice site?

- A. Physician's principal practice site
- B. Acute Care Hospital
- C. Licensed assisted living facility
- D. Practice site without a supervising or covering physician on-site

22

---

---

---

---

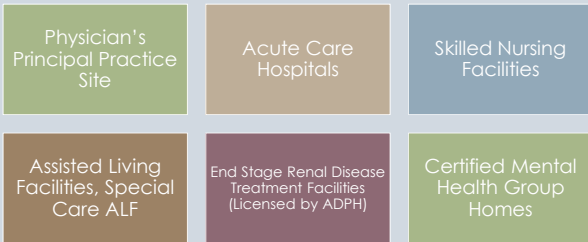
---

---

---

---

Practice Sites Not Considered as Remote:



23

---

---

---

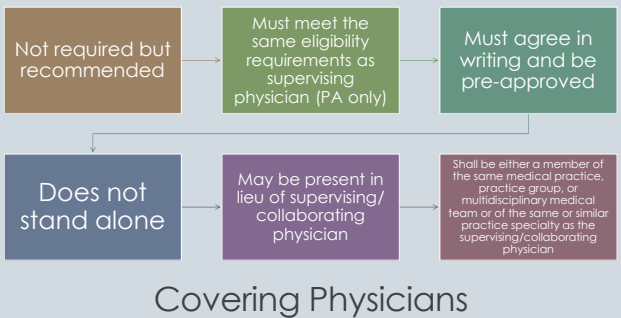
---

---

---

---

---



Covering Physicians

24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### How to verify current covering physicians:

PA or Supervising Physician:

1. Go to [www.albme.gov](http://www.albme.gov)
2. Select "license search"
3. Select "Search for Licensees"
4. Select license type "RA"
5. Type in PA's first and last name only
6. Select "I'm not a robot"
7. Find RA with applicable supervising physician's name
8. Select printer icon in the "details" column

Covering physicians and other details regarding registration agreement will be listed!

25

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### How to verify current covering physicians:

CRNP/CNM or Collaborating Physician:

1. Go to [www.albme.gov](http://www.albme.gov)
2. Select "license search"
3. Select "Search for Licensees"
4. Select license type "CP"
5. Type in collaborating physician's first and last name only
6. Select "I'm not a robot"
7. Find CP with applicable NP's name
8. Select printer icon in the "details" column

Covering physicians and other details regarding collaborative agreement will be listed!

26

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



60 Day Temporary  
Supervising/Collaborating  
Physician

27

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

In the event of an **unanticipated, permanent absence** of a collaborating/supervising physician, a previously approved covering physician may be designated as a temporary supervising/collaborating physician for a period of up to **sixty (60) days**.

During the **sixty (60) days**, a new commencement or registration application designating a new supervising/collaborating should be submitted for approval.

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---



**ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**  
William H. Poole, Executive Director

**Temporary Collaborating or Supervising Physician Agreement**

*In the event of an unanticipated permanent absence of a collaborating or supervising physician, a previously approved covering physician may be designated as a temporary collaborating or supervising physician for a period of up to sixty (60) days. During the sixty (60) day time period, a new "Notice of Commencement" or registration agreement designating a new collaborating or supervising physician should be submitted for approval.*

Currently Approved Collaborating or Supervising Physician \_\_\_\_\_  
License # \_\_\_\_\_ and Date of Expiration or Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Site Collaborative Agreement or Registration Agreement with \_\_\_\_\_  
APP Name \_\_\_\_\_ License # \_\_\_\_\_  
APP Name \_\_\_\_\_ License # \_\_\_\_\_  
APP Name \_\_\_\_\_ License # \_\_\_\_\_

The Approved Covering Physician \_\_\_\_\_  
License # \_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned physician, agree to act as the designated temporary supervising physician for the designated Collaborating Physician for the next 60-day time period. I understand and acknowledge my responsibilities as outlined on the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners, Chapter 440-5-1, Accounts of Physicians and Chapter 440-5-2, Advanced Practice Nurse, Collaborative Practice.

Physician Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

PHYSICIAN CERTIFICATES

Session period will begin \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved by \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

## 60 Day Temporary Agreement

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Scenario # 1

Office administrator calls the Board of Medical Examiners. The physician just notified them that he plans to retire in a month. They would like to utilize the 60-day temporary agreement.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Scenario # 2

Physician Assistant calls the Board of Medical Examiners with news that their supervising physician is deceased.

31

---

---

---

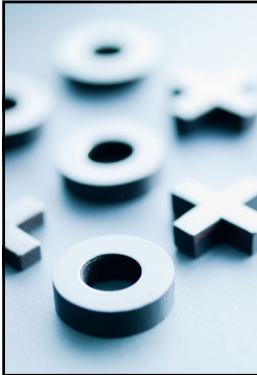
---

---

---

---

---



Which scenario would allow the 60-day temporary agreement to be utilized?

32

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Disclosure of Existing Supervisory and Collaborative Agreements

Out of state collaborations and registrations count towards the allowed 360 hours!

33

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Interim Approval of Registration Agreement

#### RESTRICTIONS

May continue until application is approved or denied by the Board

Additional requested duties not included

A PA granted temporary approval of their license may not obtain interim approval

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Temporary Approval of Collaborative Practice (CRNP/CNM)

- Issued by the Alabama Board of Nursing
- Limited to the standard protocol and formulary approved by the Joint Committee of the Alabama Board of Nursing and the Board of Medical Examiners and does not include the authority to:
  1. Perform additional skills as provided in Rule 540-X-8-.10.
  2. Prescribe drugs that are listed in the standard formulary with "Restrictions."

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### Collaborating & Supervising Physician:

### Responsibilities and Medical Oversight

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Collaborating/Supervising Physicians

- Medical Oversight**
  - Concurrent/ on-going
  - Direct consultation
  - Reviews, QA, etc.
- Readily Available**
  - Telephone, radio, etc.
  - Consultation, referral
  - Direct medical intervention
- Direct Medical Intervention**
  - Physical presence of physician to attend to the patient

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Minimum Presence Requirements of Collaborating/Supervising Physicians:

- Less than 2 years/4,000 hours of experience in a registration/collaborative agreement, or entering into a new registration/collaborative agreement with a physician who has a dissimilar primary specialty than the previous physician: **physician must be present 10 % of NP/PAs scheduled hours**
- Greater than 2 years/4,000 hours of experience in a registration/collaborative agreement: **Physician must visit remote site no less than twice a year and meet with NP/PA no less than quarterly**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### What is "QA"?

- a. Quarterly Assurance
- b. Quick Analysis
- c. Qualified Assurance
- d. Quality Assurance

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

How frequently must Quality Assurance be performed?

- a. Daily
- b. Yearly
- c. Quarterly
- d. Weekly

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Scenario

- Quality Assurance documentation not readily available at the time of site visit
- However, PA and supervising physician see each other two days a week during clinic and discuss specific cases or problems face to face
- In addition, all charts are signed off on
- Quality assurance documentation is submitted which appears to be patient charts
- Staff of BME is unable to identify the quality indicator being reviewed or proof of any discussion
- However, the documentation submitted does have the physician's signature on the patient chart

**Is this appropriate QA?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Overview of Medical Oversight Components

CHART REVIEW	COLLABORATION/SUPERVISION	QUALITY ASSURANCE
Review of charts is a clinical decision between practitioners	Time spent together in <u>discussion or consultation</u>	Review a <u>meaningful sample</u> of charts against selected <u>outcome indicators</u> with documentation using <u>patient identifier</u>
Signature of physician on the notes is not required	Time spent in review of Quality Assurance data required quarterly	Data can be pulled by anyone <u>with understanding of the criteria</u>
<u>Chart review does not constitute Quality Assurance Review</u>	Years of experience determine how much direct collaboration or supervision is required	Quarterly meeting to review the QA data (QA data should be <u>readily retrievable</u> )

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



When performing Quality Assurance, what percentage of adverse events should be reviewed?

- a. 10 %
- b. 100 %
- c. 50 %
- d. None

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### Quality Assurance- New!

A physician supervising/collaborating with more than four FTEs per week shall engage in documented quality assurance reviews with each PA/CRNP/CNM every month for six (6) months following the collaboration/registration with a new PA/CRNP/CNM.

Documentation of any quality assurance review shall be maintained by the collaborating/supervising physician for the duration of the collaborative/supervisory practice and for three years following the termination of the collaborative /supervisory practice agreement.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### Termination of a Collaborative/Registration Agreement

---

---

---

---

---





---

---

---



Termination of Collaborative Practice or Registration Agreement

-  No third-party submission
-  Effective Date/Reason
-  PA/Supervising Physician: Form on ALBME Website/ Email ALBME
-  CRNP/CNM: ABN Website  
Collaborating Physician: Licensee Portal on ALBME Website

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

How many AMA PRA Category 1 credits are PAs required to have to annually renew their Alabama license?

- a. 20
- b. 25
- c. 50
- d. 10

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---

 Effective January 1, 2025

Every **two** calendar years, each PA licensed by the Board must earn not less than **fifty (50) hours** of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ or the equivalent as defined in this rule of continuing medical education as a condition precedent to receiving his or her annual renewal of license, unless he or she is exempt from the minimum continuing medical education requirement.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

You are required to annually renew your collaborative practice agreements/ registration agreements.

True

False

52

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Physician Assistant License Renewal: October 1<sup>st</sup>- December 31<sup>st</sup>

License: \$100

**Registration Agreements**

- Not Renewed
- Should be **reviewed** each year during renewals to determine if modifications should be made

**January 1- 31**

- Between January 1 and January 31, submit a completed renewal application, pay the renewal fee of \$100, and certify completion of the continuing medical education hours required for renewal.

**February 1 and thereafter**

- February 1 and thereafter, submit a completed renewal application, pay the renewal fee of \$100, and submit proof of completion of the continuing medical education hours required for renewal.

53

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### RENEWALS: QACSC, LPSP, and DEA

- Any QACSC and/or LPSP obtained during the calendar year must be renewed annually before 12/31 for the next calendar year
- Renewals for the QACSC and/or LPSP are processed **online** between **10/01-12/31** [www.albme.gov](http://www.albme.gov)
- The fees are \$60.00 for each QACSC and \$10.00 for each LPSP
- **Obtain 4 AMA PRA Category 1 credits every 2 years through a Board approved course/courses**
- DEA renewals are processed on the DEA website: [www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov) every 2-3 years. The DEA will send one email reminder 30 days in advance. The fee is \$888. Please send the BME a copy

54

---

---

---

---





---

---

---

---

**Helpful Hints!**

-  If the collaborating or supervising physician does not renew their medical license, their collaborations and registration agreements will expire when their medical license expires.
-  If the collaborating or supervising physician does not renew their ACSC, the PA or NP's QACSC/LPSP will expire.
-  If the physician's medical license is restricted, suspended, or revoked, they may no longer be eligible to collaborate or supervise.
-  Agenda deadlines are important!
-  Ask for help!

55

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Advanced Practice Department

<p>Kimie Buley, Director of Advanced Practice Providers, <a href="mailto:kbuley@albme.gov">kbuley@albme.gov</a></p>	<p>Suzanne Powell, BSN, RN, QACSC/LPSP Coordinator, <a href="mailto:spowell@albme.gov">spowell@albme.gov</a></p>	<p>Sandi Kirkland, BSN, RN, Collaborative Practice Nurse Consultant, <a href="mailto:skirkland@albme.gov">skirkland@albme.gov</a></p>	<p>Tonya Vice, BSN, RN, Collaborative Practice Nurse Consultant, <a href="mailto:tvice@albme.gov">tvice@albme.gov</a></p>
<p>Hannah Paulk, Administrative Assistant, <a href="mailto:hpaulk@albme.gov">hpaulk@albme.gov</a></p>	<p>Shemika Whelstone, Administrative Assistant, <a href="mailto:swhelstone@albme.gov">swhelstone@albme.gov</a></p>	<p>Jaime Friday, Administrative Assistant, <a href="mailto:jfriday@albme.gov">jfriday@albme.gov</a></p>	

56

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---