

HISTORY OF COLORADO LEGISLATURE AND REGULATORY CHANGES

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1968 - Child Health Associate Legislation

Sponsored by Henry Silver MD who stated he did not want to graduate professionals who would not be able to practice. The law was very restrictive with a laundry list of medications that the CHA would be able to prescribe. Also established was a state administered certification exam for CHA graduates only (discontinued in 1988)

1976 - CAPA Registered with the Colorado Secretary of State

PAs that did not graduate from CHA program practiced under the delegation provision of the Medical Practice Act.

1983 - First Enabling Legislation with the Following Provisions:

1. Provided that the PA would be certified to practice in Colorado under the license of a physician.
2. Allowed PAs to write prescriptions but not fully clarified until 1987.
3. Required NCCPA certification by the PANCE but allowed individuals who could prove they had been working under the direction of a physician for 5 years were able to take the NCCPA exam and be granted a Colorado license (there were about 60 informally trained PAs who passed the exam).
4. Law was focused on out-patient care, with unclear direction on hospital staff taking orders from PA's.
5. Allowed only 2 PAs per physician and required every chart be cosigned within 2 days of the patient being seen.
6. Charged Board of Medical Examiners (now Colorado Medical Board) with writing rules and regulations for PA which is now Rule 400.

1987 - Clarified Prescription Authority and Procedures

for non-scheduled drugs only

1992 The Colorado Hospital Association

The Colorado Hospital Association sponsored a bill to allow hospital staff (specifically Nurses) to take orders from PAs. Orders needed to be cosigned within 2 days.

1995 First Sunset of Medical Practice Act

PAs were granted the ability to prescribe scheduled drugs and increased the cosign requirement to have every chart cosigned within 7 days of the patient being seen. Also established primary and secondary physician system that allowed PAs to work in multiple settings. But still only authorized 2 PAs per physician.

2002 Regulation Change

To allow experienced PAs to no longer have to have charts cosigned but established graduated cosigning requirements for new graduates and for experienced PAs changing practice settings and entering a new practice type.

~2005 Colorado Board of Medical Examiners, in response to a request by CAPA

put out a list of duties that they felt were logical delegated tasks, under the Medical Practice Act, for PAs to perform. This includes duties like handicap placards and being able to do sports physicals. PA continue to find resistance in performing these tasks as PAs are often not explicitly listed as a recognized provider in the legislation covering these myriad of actions. This may require diligence in inserting PA language in statute as each of these areas come up for sunset review. 2010 2nd Sunset of Medical Practice Act, major provisions:

1. Allow PAs to have a single seat on the Colorado Medical Board.
2. Eliminated the 2 day signing requirement in hospital settings.
3. Increased the number of PAs a physician could supervise to 4 at any one time.
4. Allowed PAs to own up to 49% of a Practice (up to this time only Physicians were allowed to be owners of a medical professional corporation.)

The next scheduled sunset review will be in 2019.

2011 Handicap Placards

CAPA piggy backed on bill to allow PAs to sign handicap placards



Updated 1/2014