



Approved by Board on October 9, 2015

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2015

9:30 a.m.

Ms. Van Atta announced that pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 192.660(2)(k), the Physician Assistant Committee of the Oregon Medical Board (OMB) may convene in Executive Session to consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection or information obtained as part of an investigation, including information received in confidence by the Board and Physician Assistant Committee, information of a personal nature the disclosure of which would constitute an invasion of privacy, and records which are otherwise confidential under Oregon law. The Physician Assistant Committee will reconvene in Public Session prior to taking any final action. Members of the news media may remain in the room during the Executive Session, but are directed not to report on the specific information discussed during the Executive Session.

Committee Members:

Jennifer Van Atta, PA-C, Chair
Bruce Carlson, MD
Melissa Peng, PA-C
Ian M. Hartman, PA-C
George Koval, MD

Staff Members:

Joseph Thaler, MD, Medical Director
Nicole Krishnaswami, JD, Operations & Policy Analyst
Eric Brown, Chief Investigator
Netia N. Miles, Licensing Manager
Catherine B. Cook, Licensing Specialist

Guests:

Kit Sandstrom FNP Practice Leader, Zoom+Care (9:43 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.)
Len Bergstein, Zoom+Care (9:43 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)
Cameron Steinacker, PA-C, Zoom+Care (9:43 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.)
Brett White, MD, Zoom+Care (9:43 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.)
Saje Davis-Risen, PA-C, Oregon Society of Physician Assistants (9:43 a.m. - 11:49 a.m.)
Lisa Morasch, Oregon Society of Physician Assistants (9:45 a.m. - 11:49 a.m.)
Mark Bonnano, Oregon Medical Association (9:43 a.m. - 11:49 a.m.)
Gwen Dayton, Northwest Permanente (9:55 a.m. - 11:49 a.m.)

Ms. Van Atta called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Dr. Carlson arrived at 9:35 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1	Update on Physician Assistants Currently Under Board Investigation Eric Brown, Chief Investigator	Van Atta
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Eric Brown, Chief Investigator updated the Committee on licensees currently under Board investigation. No action taken.

PUBLIC SESSION

DISCUSSION ITEMS

OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (OAR)

Please review the Fiscal Impact memo prior to conducting a First Review of rules.

2	OAR 847-050-0010; 847-050-0027; 847-050-0036; 847-050-0037; 847-050-0040: Supervising Physician Organizations	<i>FIRST REVIEW</i>	Van Atta
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Ms. Van Atta presented the fiscal impact of implementing the rule to the Committee. Under the rule, there would be an expense to supervising physicians, who are members of the supervising physician organization, to submit an application and complete an exam with fee, in order to become Board approved as a supervising physician. There will be revenue for the Board via the application fees, but also there will also be an expense for the administration of approving the supervising physician applications.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The Committee recommends rule as written. Forward to full board for review.

3	OAR 847-050-0025; 847-050-0063; 847-050-0065: Physician Assistant Committee; Duties of the Committee <i>SB 905 (2015); effective date 01/01/16</i>	<i>TEMPORARY & FIRST REVIEW</i>	Van Atta
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Ms. Van Atta presented the fiscal impact of implementing the rule to the Committee. Under the rule there will be reduced costs as the Physician Assistant Committee is being abolished, but an increased cost for adding a new Physician Assistant Board member.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The Committee recommends rule as written. Forward to full board for review.

PUBLIC SESSION

4	Request for exemption to the 8 hour on-site minimum supervision requirement (Supervision Requirements – OAR 847-050-0037: Supervision) Zoom+ (formerly known as ZoomCare) <i>Guests:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kit Sandstrom, FNP Practice Leader, Zoom+Care</i> • <i>Len Bergstein</i> • <i>Cameron Steinacker, PA-C</i> • <i>Brett White, MD</i> 	Van Atta
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Mr. Bernstein summarized the exemption request to the Committee.

Dr. White provided testimony about his affiliation with Zoom+ and his interactions with the clinical team (clinical support) in *immediate real time*.

Ms. Sandstrom stated the Zoom+ clinical support model provides even more interaction between the Supervising Physician (SP) and Physician Assistant (PA) than the current state requirement.

Mr. Steinacker testified that as a new PA entering the workforce, the Zoom+ clinical support model gives him assurance that he has immediate access with his SP and he shared a few practice examples.

Dr. Koval commented on how Zoom+ would be able to support the needs of hundreds of PAs under the supervising physician organization (SPO).

An inquiry was made to Dr. White regarding how many PAs he provides support to. Dr. White stated there are about 20 PAs that have access to him at any given time. He also has quiet space to field phone calls, emails, etc., as well as a confidential space to review confidential patient information which is considered “protected time.” All physicians are encouraged to utilize the protected time and any methods of communications are HIPAA compliant.

Mr. Hartman inquired whether the protected time is onsite and if so, why the eight hour onsite supervision requirement would be an issue. Dr. White commented that the protected time is often onsite but the current rule is restrictive where the Zoom+ model is more nimble and flexible.

Mr. Bernstein commented that that he would like to modernize the rule to fit into the Zoom+ model of care.

Mr. Hartman inquired how they handle a PA that does not reach out for support. Ms. Sandstrom commented that part of the hiring process is that each employee undergoes a mock physical exam and then goes through an onboarding process with a trainer. The trainer determines the area of weaknesses and provides support. In her tenure, she has not encountered this situation because it is a part of the onboarding process to reach out for support when needed.

Dr. Carlson inquired if they have physicians in all the clinics and if there are clinics that physicians do not go to. Ms. Sandstrom commented that they do not have physicians in all the clinics and the “Clinical Support” model allows real time access to a physician at all operating hours.

Mr. Steinacker commented that he is currently involved in the onboarding process and clinical support is almost immediate.

Ms. Van Atta inquired about the chart review process and the number of patients a PA expected to see per day. Mr. Sandstrom commented that they have a gold standard chart review process and the supervising physicians’ review the PAs charts each month. Typically, a PA sees about 10-15 patients per day.

Ms. Peng inquired whether they have a fail-safe protocol if a PA is unable to reach a supervising physician. Ms. Sandstrom commented that this was not an issue and PAs have access to other support staff if a physician is not available.

Ms. Peng inquired on what steps are taken if a PA does not reach out for support and how do they assess whether a PA is not working out. Ms. Sandstrom commented that the initial training incorporates a demand support structure and that they have never had an issue with a PA not reaching out for support. Also, the hiring process is so rigorous that they have never encountered a situation where a PA did not work out.

Dr. White commented that the physicians do go out to the clinics and meet with the PAs as well as ZoomCare University which is three hours of monthly evidence based guidelines.

Mr. Bergstein reiterated that they want to remove the restricted eight hour monthly onsite requirement. Dr. White commented that Zoom+ exceeds the current requirement.

Dr. Thaler inquired if they have a model on how PAs will work alongside specialists. Dr. White commented that the PA would work alongside the specialist at the clinic.

Ms. Van Atta inquired if Zoom+ is requesting a carte blanche exception to the rule. Mr. Bergstein commented that they want the Committee to provide them with an answer whether their “Clinical Support” model suffices enough to grant them an exemption.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Request Zoom+ to submit a more robust proposal for review by the Committee at the December meeting. The proposal should address the following:

- How much **onsite** supervision would be provided to the physician assistant (PA) by the supervising physician (SP)?
- How involved is the SP in the assessment of a PA in the areas of professionalism, clinical skills, interpersonal communications (patient interactions)?
- How would the SP identify a PA that requires additional assistance? And, what are the steps involved in providing a PA the assistance needed?
- Provide a description on how they plan to handle supervision of PAs at specialty care clinics.

This item will return to the Committee in December 2015 for additional review. No other action taken at this time.

5	Request for exemption to the 8 hour on-site minimum supervision requirement (Supervision Requirements – OAR 847-050-0037: Supervision); Peak Risk Adjustment Solutions, Joanne Jacalan, Director, Clinical Services	Van Atta
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The Committee reviewed an inquiry from Peak Risk Adjustment Solutions and discussed the challenges of PAs providing in-home care.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Request Peak Risk Adjustment Solutions to provide a more robust proposal for review by the Committee at the December meeting. The proposal should address the following:

- What would be the protocol for the supervising physician (SP) regarding supervision of PAs at the patient's home or in a medical setting?
- Is the SP involved in the assessment of a PA in the areas of professionalism, clinical skills, interpersonal communications (patient interactions)? If not, then how is the PA being assessed in these areas?

This item will return to the Committee in December 2015 for additional review. No other action taken at this time.

6	Supervision Requirements – OAR 847-050-0037: Supervision	Koval
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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The Committee requested members of the full Board continue deliberations at the October 2015 meeting. Forward to full Board for discussion.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS - **NO ACTION REQUIRED**

7	Surrounding States Application for Physician Assistant Licensure Comparison Chart	Peng
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Informational item only. No action taken.

Ms. Van Atta thanked Licensing Manager, Netia Miles, for providing this information. Dr. Carlson commended the Licensing staff for a job well done on expediting a new application for a PA he recently hired.

8	Summary of July 9-10, 2015, Board Meeting	Koval
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Informational item only. No action taken

9	June 11, 2015, PA Committee Meeting Minutes **Approved by the Full Board on July 10, 2015**	Hartman
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Informational item only. No action taken

10	Future Board Meeting Dates	Carlson
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Informational item only. No action taken.

11	Public Comment	Van Atta
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There were no public comments.

Ms. Van Atta adjourned the meeting at 11:49 a.m.