

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

THIS AGENDA CONSTITUTES NOTICE OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED  
MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS  
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING LAW, M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20

Thursday, January 14, 2021  
9:30 a.m.

General Session is open to the public and will be held via Webex at:  
<https://statema.webex.com/statema/j.php?MTID=maeccd6a731e2a89b496b87e40aedec49>  
Call-In Telephone number 1-866-692-3580 (toll-free)  
Meeting Number/Access Code: 178 275 4682  
Meeting Password: zJFKn9cfH37

AGENDA

All Votes Must Be Via Roll Call

Time	Item #	Item	Documents	Staff Contact
9:30 a.m.	I	Call to Order Determination of Quorum Notice of Electronic Recording		Board Chair
	II	Approval of Agenda Conflict of Interest	Draft Agenda	Board Chair
	III	Approval of Minutes A. December 10, 2020 General Session Meeting Minutes	Draft Minutes	Board Chair
	IV	Scope of Practice Inquiry A. General question posed regarding supervising physician oversight across different clinical domains & supervision criteria for PA with X license.	Email	ED & Board Counsel
	V	Investigations: N/A  <i>Triage: None</i> <i>Staff Assignment(s):None</i> <i>Complaint(s): None</i>	N/A	

	<b>VI</b>	<b>Flex Session</b> A. Announcements B. Topics for future agenda		ED
	<b>VII</b>	<b>Executive Session:</b> The Board will meet in Executive Session as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) for the purposes of discussing the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against an individual.  1. Specifically, the Board will consider approving prior executive session minutes in accordance with M.G.L. ch.30A, § 22(a) for previous executive sessions of the Board.  2. Specifically, the Board will discuss complaints or charges brought against a Licensee or Licensees.  <b>The Board will not reconvene in public session subsequent to the closed session(s).</b>		Board Chair
	<b>VIII</b>	<b>65C Session: N/A</b>	N/A	
	<b>IX</b>	<b>Adjudicatory Session: N/A</b>	N/A	
12:00 p.m.	<b>X</b>	<b>Adjournment</b> - Next Board meeting scheduled for February 11, 2021.		

**Commonwealth Of Massachusetts  
Department Of Public Health  
Bureau of Health Professions Licensure  
Board of Registration of Physician Assistants**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR SESSION  
(OPEN SESSION)**

**January 14, 2021  
Via WebEx**

Board Members

Present:

Dipu Patel, PA-C, Physician Assistant 1, Chair  
Shannon Sheridan-Geldart, PA-C, Physician Assistant

Educator,

Vice-Chair

Paul Crehan, PA-C, Physician Assistant 4, Secretary  
Mary Kuzmeski PA-C, Physician Assistant 2  
Alithia C. Monroe, PA-C, Physician Assistant 3

Board Members

Not Present:

Robert Baginski, MD, Physician  
Richard Baum, MD, Massachusetts Medical Society

Staff Present:

Steven Joubert, Executive Director, Multi-Boards  
Karen Geoghegan, Assistant Executive Director, Multi-

Boards

Mary Strachan, Board Counsel, Office of the General

Counsel

James Neal, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards  
Walens Noel, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards

Staff Not Present:

None.

- I. Call to Order | Determination of Quorum | Notice of Electronic Recording  
Ms. Dipu Patel, Board Chair, called the Regular Session meeting of the Board of Registration of Physician Assistants to order at 9:31 A.M. and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Board members stated their names for the record. A quorum of the Board was determined with Board members present via WebEx: Dipu Patel: Present; Paul Crehan: Present; Mary Kuzmeski: Present; Alithia C. Monroe: present; Shannon Sheridan-Geldart: Present;; Absent: Robert Baginski, Richard Baum.

- II. Conflict of Interest | Approval of Agenda

The regular meeting agenda for January 14, 2021 was reviewed for approval. Board members were asked to disclose any conflicts of interest with the present agenda there were no conflicts of interest.

Discussion:

None.

Action:

Motion by Mr. Paul Crehan to approve the regular meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Shannon Sheridan-Geldart and passed unanimously by roll call vote as follows: Dipu Patel: yes; Paul Crehan: yes; Mary Kuzmeski: yes; Alithia C. Monroe: yes; Shannon Sheridan-Geldart: yes; Abstained: None; Absent: Robert Baginski, Richard Baum; Recused: None.

**Document:** January 14, 2021 Physician Assistant Regular Session Meeting Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

Board members reviewed the December 10, 2020 Physician Assistant Regular Session Meeting Minutes for approval.

Discussion:

None

Action:

Motion by Ms. Sheridan-Geldart to approve the December 10, 2020 minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Crehan and passed unanimously by roll call vote as follows: Dipu Patel: yes; Paul Crehan: yes; Mary Kuzmeski: yes; Alithia C. Monroe: yes; Shannon Sheridan-Geldart: yes; Abstained: None; Absent: Robert Baginski, Richard Baum; Recused: None.

**Document:** December 10, 2020 Physician Assistant Regular Session Draft Meeting Minutes

IV. Scope of Practice Inquiry

Executive Director, Mr. Steven Joubert explained that Board staff received an email from a PA practicing in Massachusetts. The person asked if a Physician Assistant is able to have an Internal Medicine Supervising Physician while seeing pediatric patients. Additionally, they asked if a Physician Assistant with an X License can prescribe Suboxone without a Supervising Physician who prescribes Suboxone. The email asked for both the standard regulations as well as the temporary COVID-19 regulations.

Discussion:

Ms. Patel stated that for the first question, the Licensee cannot see pediatric patients unless they have a Family Medicine Supervising Physician. Ms. Mary Kuzmeski suggested that the Licensee could get a second Supervising Physician within pediatrics in order to see pediatric patients. Ms. Patel agreed.

Ms. Sheridan-Geldart stated that she did not think that there had been any change to the regulation about Supervising Physicians relating to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Ms. Kuzmeski stated that she believed that there had been a change surrounding the ability to cross-cover other specialties without designating a separate Supervising Physician. Ms. Patel believed that it only covered hospital and in-patient units. Board Counsel, Ms. Mary Strachan pulled up the COVID-19 alert and clarified that while records of the temporary change or addition of a Supervising Physician needed to be kept within the practice, it did not need to be filed with the state. Ms. Patel stated that regardless of whether the Licensee was seeing COVID-19 patients or not, in order to see pediatric patients, they needed to have a Supervising Physician who also saw pediatric patients.

Ms. Kuzmeski stated that she felt this was an important question to discuss. She asked if, unrelated to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, can a PA have a paperwork agreement filed within their practice that they have an additional Supervising Physician in a different specialty? Ms. Strachan responded that this was fine.

Ms. Strachan circled back to the Licensee's second question. She stated that a person needs a federal waiver in order to prescribe Suboxone for addiction purposes. However, if it is for pain management, you do not need that waiver. Ms. Strachan responded to the Licensee's email asking for further clarification, but received no response. Ms. Sheridan-Geldart stated that this had a similar answer to the first question. Unless the Licensee's Supervising Physician prescribes Suboxone, they cannot prescribe it. They can get an additional Supervising Physician who prescribes Suboxone.

Action:  
None.

V. Investigations:  
N/A

VI. Flex Session:

1. Announcements:  
N/A

2. Topics for the Next Agenda:

Ms. Patel asked if there had been any changes in Massachusetts pertaining to the requirement for having a Supervising Physician. Ms. Strachan responded that recently, Legislation was passed that permitted Nurse Practitioners to practice without a Supervising Physician, but there had been no changes to Physician Assistant practice. She went on to say that the nursing profession has strong lobbyists and that a similar change for PAs would need to come from a similar firm or individual. Ms. Kuzmeski noted that the Massachusetts PA society had legislation to make some of the COVID-19 regulations permanent, but that it was not voted into law..

VII. Executive Session

At 10:03 A.M. Ms. Patel announced that the Board will meet in Executive Session as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a) (1) and (3) for the purposes of discussing the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against an individual, and to discuss strategy with respect to litigation as a public discussion may have a detrimental effect on the Board's position.

1. Specifically, the Board will consider approving prior executive session minutes in accordance with M.G.L. ch.30A, § 22(a) for previous executive sessions of the Board.
2. Specifically, the Board will discuss and evaluate the Good Moral Character as required for registration for pending applicants.
3. Specifically, the Board will discuss complaints or charges brought against a Licensee or Licensees.

ACTION:

Motion to move to Executive Session at 10:03 A.M. by Mr. Crehan, seconded by Ms. Sheridan-Geldart and passed unanimously by roll call vote as follows: Dipu Patel: yes; Paul Crehan: yes; Mary Kuzmeski: yes; Alithia C. Monroe: yes; Shannon Sheridan-Geldart: yes; Abstained: None; Absent: Robert Baginski, Richard Baum; Recused: None.

**The Board will not reconvene in public session subsequent to the closed session(s).**

The next meeting of the Board of Registration of Physician Assistants is scheduled for **Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.** remotely on WebEx.

Respectfully Submitted By the Board of Registration of Physician Assistants on:

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Date