

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, March 12, 2015
9:30 a.m.**

**239 Causeway Street ~ 4th Floor ~ Room 417 A/B
Boston, Massachusetts 02114**

AGENDA

Time	Item #	Item	Documents	Staff Contact
9:30 a.m.	I.	Call to Order Determination of Quorum		
	II.	Approval of Agenda	Draft Agenda	
	III.	Approval of Minutes A. January 8, 2015 Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Draft Minutes	

	IV.	Inquiries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. CME requirements for newly licensed PAs? Within 6 months of the renewal date (March 1)? B. Is performing a procedure involving placement of a stimulation lead to send electrical pulses to an area near the sacral nerve within the scope of practice of a PA? If so, what type of physician supervision would be required for the PA to perform such procedure? C. Supervision of PAs related to review of medication prescriptions and diagnostic and treatment orders. D. PAs ability to perform pre-operative sentinel lymph node injections. 	Email Inquiries	
	V.	Other Business/Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. <u>Discussion</u>: Development of Policies for staff action on pending investigations B. <u>Announcement</u>: Board presentation to PA Programs 	Policy 14-02 None	VB MP/IH
	VI.	Flex Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Topic for next agenda 		

10:00 a.m.	VII.	<p>Executive Session 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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specifically, the Board will discuss and evaluate the <u>Good Moral Character</u> provision of an application or applications as required for registration. 2. Specifically, the Board will discuss complaints or charges brought against a Licensee or Licensees. 3. Specifically, the Board will discuss pending litigation: <i>Cushman vs. Board of Registration of Physician Assistants</i>, Suffolk Superior Court, C.A. No. 2014-03496-A. 4. Finally, 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. <p>The Board will not reconvene in public session subsequent to the executive session.</p>	Closed Session	
12:00 p.m.	VIII.	Adjournment		

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
BOARD MEETING

March 12, 2015
239 Causeway Street, Room 417
Boston, MA 02114

MINUTES

Board Members
Present: Dipu Patel-Junankar, PA-C, Physician Assistant 1, Chair
Miguel Valdez, PA-C, Physician Assistant 3, Vice-Chair
Laura Hilf, RN, MS, Public Member 1
Nicole Meregian, PA-C, Physician Assistant 2
Paul Crehan, PA-C, Physician Assistant 4
Richard Baum, MD, Massachusetts Medical Society
Shannon Sheridan-Geldart, PA-C, Physician Assistant, Educator

Staff Present: Mary Phillips, Executive Director, DHPL
Ichelle Herbu, Assistant Executive Director, DHPL
Rebecca Ferullo, Office Support Specialist, DHPL
Vita Berg, Chief Board Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, DPH
Mary Strachan, Board Counsel, Office of General Counsel, DPH
Marjorie Campbell, Investigator Supervisor, Office of Public Protection, DHPL
Philip Beattie, Board Investigator, Office of Public Protection, DHPL
Scott Sherman, Program Coordinator, Probation and MPRS, DHPL

Guest: Stephen Barrett, Bethany Foster, Marya Woodruff-Ochs, and Amy Jacobson & Atty. Carol Lynch (via conference call)

I. Call to Order – Determination of Quorum
A quorum of the Board was present. The Board Chair, Ms. Patel-Junankar, called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

II. Approval of the Agenda
The Meeting Agenda was reviewed.

DISCUSSION: None

ACTION: Ms. Hilf made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Mr. Crehan seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: March 12, 2015 Board Meeting Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes
Minutes of the January 8, 2015 Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting were reviewed.

DISCUSSION: None

ACTION: Ms. Hilf made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. Crehan seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: January 8, 2015 Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes

IV. Inquiries

A. CME requirements for newly licensed PAs? Within 6 months of the renewal date (March 1)?

DISCUSSION: The regulations are silent regarding the CEU requirement for new licensees. Board members noted that licensees licensed for less than a year do not have enough time to complete CEU required for the renewal cycle. Therefore, the Board should waive the requirement and directed staff to draft an advisory ruling for next meeting.

ACTION: Ms. Patel-Junankar made a motion to waive CME requirements for new licensee licensed for less than one year and to draft an advisory ruling for the Board's website; Mr. Valdez seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

ACTION: Ms. Patel-Junankar made a motion to allow AAPA approved Opioid management courses to count as pharmacology CME credits; Mr. Valdez seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: Email Inquiry

B. Is performing a procedure involving placement of a stimulation lead to send electrical pulses to an area near the sacral nerve within the scope of practice of a PA? If so, what type of physician supervision would be required for the PA to perform such procedure?

DISCUSSION: The Board determined that a PA is able to perform a procedure involving placement of a stimulation lead to send electrical pulses to an area near the sacral nerve as long as several requirements are met. This is permissible if the procedure is within the PA's competence as determined by the supervising physician; the procedure is within the scope of services for which the supervising physician can provide adequate supervision; the PA/supervising physician scope of practice agreement clearly states the parameters for the PA; the PA/supervising physician know and understand the specific facility policies and procedures; and the PA/supervising physician fully comply with 263 CMR 5.04 and 5.05 governing the scope of practice and supervision required.

ACTION: Ms. Meregian made a motion to have staff respond to the inquiry as discussed; Ms. Patel-Junankar seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: Email Inquiry

C. Supervision of PAs related to review of medication prescriptions and diagnostic and treatment orders.

DISCUSSION: Non-scheduled II prescriptions, treatment orders, and other documentation in the medical records must be reviewed at least every 3 months by the supervising physician. A record of the review must be maintained; however, the form and the exact frequency for the review are according to the policy of the facility/agency for which a PA is employed.

ACTION: None

Document: Email Inquiry

D. PAs ability to perform pre-operative sentinel lymph node injections.

DISCUSSION: A pre-operative sentinel lymph node injection is performed by a physician specializing in radiology and/or nuclear medicine. It is not within a PA scope of practice. An individual is required to be an approved user for this procedure, and PAs cannot be approved users. Staff will follow up with Radiation Control to confirm who is able to perform the procedure and return to the Board with a definite answer. The response to the inquiry is deferred pending additional information.

ACTION: None

V. Other Business/Announcements

A. Discussion: Development of Policies for staff action on pending investigations

DISCUSSION: As an example for the Board to review, Ms. Berg distributed Board of Registration in Nursing, Discipline Policy 99-03, Board staff disposition of Selected Complaints. Ms. Berg informed the Board that if the Board adopts the similar policy, the staff would have the authority to take action as the indicated by the policy. A similar policy would allow board staff to resolve certain cases faster; it would assist the Board in acting consistently in certain cases; and it would allow the Board more time during a meeting for other agenda items. Place as an item on the next meeting agenda for discussion.

ACTION: None

Document: Copy of Policy 14-02

B. Announcement: Board presentation to PA Programs

DISCUSSION: Board members were informed that Ms. Patel-Junankar, Ms. Phillips, and Ms. Herbu are scheduled to present information regarding the Board's duties, functions, and licensing process to the graduating class at Tufts and MCPHS (Boston). Northeastern University is tentatively scheduled for April 17, 2015; however, at this time, Ms. Patel-Junankar is unable to participate on that date. Ms. Meregian, Dr. Baum, and Ms. Sheridan-Geldart are available depending on the time of day. Board staff will confirm the time and get back to Board members.

ACTION: None

Document: None

VI. Flex Session

Topics for next agenda

DISCUSSION: The Board may want to update the regulations; possibly form a subcommittee to review the current regulations.

ACTION: The topic will be added to the April 9, 2015 meeting agenda.

DISCUSSION: Looking for a new Public Member for the Board.

ACTION: None

VII. Executive Session (closed session)

At 10:11 a.m., Ms. Dipu Patel-Junankar announced that the Board will meet in Executive Session as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) for the purpose 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, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.

5. Specifically, the Board will discuss and evaluate the Good Moral Character as required for registration for pending applicants.
6. Specifically, the Board will discuss and evaluate the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of licensees relevant to their petitions for license status change.
7. Approval of prior executive session minutes in accordance with M.G.L. ch.30A, § 22(f) for sessions held during the June 12, 2014.

Ms. Patel-Junankar made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 10:11 a.m.; Mr. Valdez seconded the motion; Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote with Board members present and voting in favor: Ms. Dipu Patel-Junankar: yes; Mr. Miguel Valdez: yes; Ms. Laura Hilf: yes; Ms. Shannon Sheridan-Geldart: yes; Dr. Richard Baum: yes; Ms. Nicole Meregian: yes; and Mr. Paul Crehan: yes; Opposed: None Abstained: None Recused: None

VIII. Adjudicatory Session (closed session)

None

IX. M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C Session (closed session)

None

X. Adjourn

There being no other business before the Board, Ms. Patel-Junankar made a motion to adjourn the Meeting; Dr. Baum seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously. The Meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Registration of Physician Assistants will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. at 239 Causeway Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted:

Dipu Patel-Junankar, PA-C, Chair

Date