

## Professional Practice Corner

### Chapter Med 8 translated: III

This article will address prescriptive practice and supervising physician responsibilities.

Prescribing limitations are addressed in section 8.08. PAs can issue prescription orders as long as we follow written guidelines. These guidelines are determined by the supervising physician in conjunction with the PA and must be reviewed yearly. The regulations do not contain a specific format for the guidelines, so they may be as simple or complex as necessary to meet the needs of the practice setting.

Section 8.07 states that all prescription orders issued by a PA must be reviewed and countersigned. This can be accomplished in one of three ways:

- 1) the prescription can be cosigned,
- 2) the patient chart can be cosigned within 72 hours (a physician signature sheet at the front of the chart meets this requirement as does physician signature on those clinic notes where prescription orders are given)
- 3) if PA and SP work in separate locations, review can take place by telephone, fax, email, etc. within 72 hours and cosignature of the chart within one week.

The last sections of Med Chapter 8 deal with employee status and supervising physician responsibilities.

Med 8.09 states that PAs may not be self-employed. More importantly, this section states that if the employer of a PA is not a physician, the employer may NOT interfere with the PA / supervising physician relationship. One caveat to this; employers may add restrictions to PA practice IF the supervising physician agrees with the restrictions.

Med 8.10 outlines supervising physician responsibilities. The number of supervising physicians you can have is unlimited. You can list any number of physicians as alternate supervising physicians with the state. However, a physician can only supervise two PAs concurrently unless special permission is obtained from the Medical Examining Board. Lastly, if the PA and supervising physician work in different sites, the supervising physician must visit at least once a month.