



House Bill 4081: Oregon's PA Modernization Proposal

The Oregon Society of Physician Assistants (OSPA) is proposing to update the Physician Assistant (PA) statute to better reflect the current medical practice model. OSPA's proposal maintains the physician-PA team-based care that is a hallmark of the PA profession. The bulk of the proposal centers on reducing the onerous and unnecessary administrative burden associated with hiring PAs, which can be especially difficult for smaller and more rural clinics. House Bill 4081 will increase access to care in Oregon by making it easier to hire PAs in clinics and hospitals across the state.

House Bill 4081:

- Maintains PA licensure through the Oregon Medical Board (OMB), and PA representation on the OMB.
- Maintains the requirement that all PAs successfully graduate from an ARC-PA accredited educational program and pass the National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants Physician Assistant National Certification Examination in order to be eligible for Oregon licensure.
- Maintains the direct relationship between a PA and a supervising physician or group of supervising physicians, but removes the requirement that a supervising physician apply to the Medical Board, take a test and pay a fee in order to supervise a PA. Supervising physician organizations still must provide a list of providers in the SPO to the OMB.
- Requires that a PA have adequate access to a supervising physician, which can include synchronous and asynchronous technology, based on the condition of the patient and the education, experience and competency of the PA.
- Maintains the requirement to have a signed practice agreement outlining the PA's scope, but removes the requirement that it be filed with the Oregon Medical Board and updated every two years. Requires that the practice agreement be kept on file at a PA's primary place of employment and made available to the Oregon Medical Board upon request.
- Removes requirements for minimum chart review and hours of on-site supervision, allowing a PA's employer to determine how best to manage their PA employees.
- Aligns PA prescribing and dispensing requirements with those of a physician.
- Nothing in the policy will prohibit employers from continuing to hire and manage PAs in whatever manner they deem necessary to ensure patient safety.