

481—781.1(148C,88GA,ch1020) Duties. The medical services to be provided by the physician associate are those for which the physician associate has been prepared by education, training, or experience and is competent to perform. The ultimate role of the physician associate cannot be rigidly defined because of the variations in practice requirements due to geographic, economic, and sociologic factors. The high degree of responsibility a physician associate may assume requires that, at the conclusion of the formal education, the physician associate possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to provide those services appropriate to the practice setting. The physician associate's services may be utilized in any clinical settings including but not limited to offices, ambulatory clinics, hospitals, patient's homes, extended care facilities, and nursing homes.

781.1(1) A physician associate's duties relating to prescribing, dispensing, ordering, administering, and procuring drugs and medical devices include all of the following:

a. Administering any drug.
b. Prescribing, dispensing, ordering, administering, and procuring drugs and medical devices. A physician associate may plan and initiate a therapeutic regimen that includes ordering and prescribing nonpharmacological interventions, including but not limited to durable medical equipment, nutrition, blood and blood products, and diagnostic support services, including but not limited to home health care, hospice, and physical and occupational therapy. The prescribing and dispensing of drugs may include Schedule II through V substances, as described in Iowa Code chapter 124, and all legend drugs.

c. A physician associate may prescribe drugs and medical devices subject to all of the following conditions:

(1) The physician associate will have passed the national certifying examination conducted by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or its successor examination approved by the board.

(2) The physician associate must comply with appropriate federal and state regulations.

(3) If a physician associate prescribes or dispenses controlled substances, the physician associate must register with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

(4) The physician associate may prescribe or order Schedule II controlled substances that are listed as depressants in Iowa Code chapter 124.

(5) The physician associate may prescribe, supply, and administer drugs and medical devices in all settings, including but not limited to hospitals, health care facilities, health care institutions, hospice, clinics, offices, health maintenance organizations, and outpatient and emergency care settings.

(6) A physician associate may request, receive, and supply sample drugs and medical devices.

d. Supplying properly packaged and labeled prescription drugs, controlled substances, or medical devices when pharmacist services are not reasonably available or when it is in the best interest of the patient.

(1) If the physician associate is the prescriber of the medications supplied pursuant to this paragraph, the medications supplied will be for the purpose of accommodating the patient and will not be sold for more than the cost of the drug and reasonable overhead costs as they relate to supplying prescription drugs to the patient and not at a profit to the physician associate.

(2) A nurse or staff assistant may assist the physician associate in supplying medications.

781.1(2) The medical services to be provided by the physician associate also include but are not limited to the following:

a. Initial approach to a patient of any age group in any setting to elicit a medical history and perform a physical examination.

b. Assessment, diagnosis and treatment of medical or surgical problems and recording the findings.

c. Order, interpret, or perform laboratory tests, X-rays or other medical procedures or studies.

d. Performance of therapeutic procedures such as injections, immunizations, suturing and care of wounds, removal of foreign bodies, ear and eye irrigation and other clinical procedures.

e. Performance of office surgical procedures including, but not limited to, skin biopsy, mole or wart removal, toenail removal, removal of a foreign body, arthrocentesis, incision and drainage of abscesses.

f. Assisting in surgery.

g. Prenatal and postnatal care and assisting a physician in obstetrical care.

- h.* Care of orthopedic problems.
 - i.* Performing and screening the results of special medical examinations including, but not limited to, electrocardiogram or Holter monitoring, radiography, audiometric and vision screening, tonometry, and pulmonary function screening tests.
 - j.* Instruction and counseling of patients regarding physical and mental health on matters such as diets, disease, therapy, and normal growth and development.
 - k.* Function in the hospital setting by performing medical histories and physical examinations, making patient rounds, recording patient progress notes and other appropriate medical records, assisting in surgery, performing or assisting with medical procedures, providing emergency medical services and issuing, transmitting and executing patient care orders.
 - l.* Providing services to patients requiring continuing care (i.e., home, nursing home, extended care facilities).
 - m.* Referring patients to specialty or subspecialty physicians, medical facilities or social agencies as indicated by the patients' problems.
 - n.* Immediate evaluation, treatment and institution of procedures essential to providing an appropriate response to emergency medical problems.
 - o.* Order drugs and supplies in the office, and assist in keeping records and in the upkeep of equipment.
 - p.* Admit patients to a hospital or health care facility as defined in Iowa Code section 135C.1.
 - q.* Order diets, physical therapy, inhalation therapy, or other rehabilitative services as indicated by the patient's problems.
 - r.* At the request of the peace officer, withdraw a specimen of blood from a patient for the purpose of determining the alcohol concentration or the presence of drugs.
 - s.* Direct medical personnel, health professionals, and others involved in caring for patients and the execution of patient care.
 - t.* Authenticate a medical form by signing the form.
 - u.* Perform other duties appropriate to a physician associate's practice.
 - v.* Health care providers will consider the instructions of a physician associate to be authoritative.
- 781.1(3)** Emergency medicine duties.
- a.* A physician associate may be a member of the staff of an ambulance or rescue squad pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 147A.
 - b.* A physician associate will document skills, training and education equivalent to that required of a certified advanced emergency medical technician or a paramedic.
 - c.* A physician associate must apply for approval of advanced care training equivalency on forms supplied by the board of physician associates.
 - d.* Exceptions to this subrule include:
 - (1) A physician associate who accompanies and is responsible for a transfer patient;
 - (2) A physician associate who serves on a basic ambulance or rescue squad service; and
 - (3) A physician associate who renders aid within the physician associate's skills during an emergency.

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