



**Joint Report to the Governor and 2022 General Assembly
Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine
December 2021**

The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and the Iowa Board of Medicine share a common purpose to protect the public. Board members are appointed by the governor to license applicants, impose licensee discipline as authorized by law, and promulgate appropriate administrative rules to protect the public and provide guidance to licensees.

Board powers are conferred by the Iowa Legislature. In 2007, the Legislature amended Iowa Code Chapter 148C to require the Board of Physician Assistants and the Board of Medicine to provide a joint report to the Governor and General Assembly by January 31 of each year detailing the Boards' collaborative efforts and teambuilding practices.

Here are highlights of primary activities undertaken in 2021:

- The Board of Physician Assistants initiated rule making (ARC 5555C) in April 2021, to amend rules for physician assistants who provide patient care through telemedicine. The amended rule establishes the standard of care and requires HIPAA-compliant technology. The rule aligned with the Board of Medicine rules governing telemedicine to ensure that physician assistants and their supervising physician will operate under uniform standards without differing or potentially conflicting telemedicine standards when coordinating remote care. The rule was adopted and published as (ARC 5862C) that became effective September 29, 2021.
- In 2021, the Board of Physician Assistants in accordance with IAC 327.8 has referred four complaints to the Board of Medicine that involve licensee interests of both boards.
- The boards routinely route agendas, rules and other material that might be of interest to each other to facilitate collaboration and the exchange of information. As issues of interest are identified, each board sends representatives to the other board's meetings to facilitate discussion and understanding of each board's position.
- Investigators from each board may coordinate interview schedules in cases where complaints received involve licensee interests of both boards. In addition, both boards may share investigative records and findings in such cases as appropriate and as allowed by law.
- The boards hold their separate and regularly scheduled public meetings in accord with their mission to protect the public through licensing, compliance and rulemaking. Meeting agendas are posted on the internet in accord with Iowa's Open Meetings Law as set forth in Iowa Code Chapter 21. This practice assures that the public, licensees and other stakeholders are informed about current and emerging issues affecting physicians and physician assistants.
- Each year, the boards review pending legislation that could affect medical practices by physicians and physician assistants and will work collaboratively, when appropriate, to prepare legislative assessments.

Since 2007, both boards have been required to produce a joint annual report summarizing collaborative efforts. Since that time, the report has been annually published with no requests for additional information.

Acknowledgements

Suggested Citation:

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