

Report to the 2016 Iowa General Assembly

Collaboration and Teambuilding

Prepared by

Iowa Board of Physician Assistants - Iowa Board of Medicine

Pursuant to

Iowa Code Chapter 148C

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Joint Report to the 2016 Iowa General Assembly

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 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. This report highlights primary activities undertaken in 2015 to achieve this purpose.

Both Boards spent considerable time in the fall of 2015 to respond to a directive from the Legislature to develop supervisory requirements for a physician assistant's practice. The legislation, signed by the Governor on July 2, 2015, is 2015 Iowa Acts, Senate File 505, Division 31, section 113, commands the boards to jointly adopt rules pursuant to Chapter 17A to establish specific minimum standards or a definition of supervision for appropriate supervision of physician assistants. The legislation sets a deadline of February 1, 2016, for adoption of such rules.

Four-member subcommittees from each board met together five times over approximately 20 hours and received significant comment from the public and stakeholders to work on the legislative mandate. On December 4, 2015, the subcommittees unanimously agreed to a draft joint rule that established 10 minimum standards for appropriate supervision. On December 10, 2015, the full Board of Medicine voted to accept the subcommittees' proposed joint rule. At the time of the filing of this joint report, the full Board of Physician Assistants has considered the joint rule at two meetings but has not yet voted to accept the subcommittees' proposal.

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.

Both Boards routinely place proposed changes to the other's Board rules and regulations on the agenda for discussion. As issues of interest are identified each Board sends representatives to the other Board's meeting to facilitate discussion and understanding of each Board's position. In addition both Boards share their respective Board member contact information with each other to facilitate communication. The executive director of the Board of Medicine routinely attends meetings of the Board of Physician Assistants to provide information relevant to licensure and standard of practice issues. In 2015, those topics included telemedicine practice standards, a new license for the practice of administrative medicine and Iowa's entry in the new Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. The executive director also provided Board of Medicine recommendations to the Board of Physician Assistants on their proposed rules revisions.

The Board of Physician Assistants and Board of Medicine investigators coordinate interview schedules in cases where complaints received involve licensee interests of both Boards. In addition both Boards share investigative records and findings in such cases as appropriate and allowed by law.

The Board of Physician Assistants and the Board of Medicine hold 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.

The Board of Medicine has referred reports of competence/conduct to the Board of Physician Assistants. Staff for both Boards discuss ways to address emerging issues affecting both Boards as needed.

Each year, the Board of Physician Assistants and Board of Medicine review pending legislation that could affect medical practices by physicians and physician assistants and work collaboratively, when appropriate, to prepare legislative assessments.

In 2016, the Boards will seek additional opportunities to promote public protection through collaborative activities and teambuilding practices.

The Board of Physician Assistants and Board of Medicine work closely together in issues of mutual interest. 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.