

Iowa Department of Public Health



**Iowa Boards of Medicine and Physician Assistants
2017 Report to the Governor and General Assembly**

Iowa Department of Public Health

January 2017

Pursuant to Iowa Code 148C.12, the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and the Iowa Board of Medicine shall 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 2016 to achieve this purpose.

In 2016, four-member subcommittees of both boards continued to meet to respond to a legislative mandate to adopt joint rules to establish specific minimum standards or a definition of supervision for appropriate supervision of physician assistants by physicians. The joint rulemaking commenced in August 2015 after the legislation, 2015 Iowa Acts, Senate File 505, Division 31, section 113, was signed into law by the Governor on July 2, 2015.

The Board of Medicine approved a Notice of Intended Action to adopt rule 653—21.4 (147,148,148C, 86GA,SF505) on December 10, 2015. A similar Notice of Intended Action to adopt rule 645—27.8 (147,148,148C, 86GA, SF505) was approved by the Board of Physician Assistants on January 20, 2016. A public hearing on the Board of Medicine's rulemaking, ARC 2372C, was held on February 12, 2016. A public hearing on Board of Physician Assistants' rulemaking, ARC 2417C, was held on March 9, 2016. Subcommittees of the boards met on April 8, 2016, to consider possible changes in their notices in response to public comments. At the conclusion of that meeting, both subcommittees accepted changes made to the proposed amendments and agreed to present the revised notices to their respective boards for adoption. The Board of Medicine voted to adopt the revised notice on April 13, 2016, and it became effective June 15, 2016. The Board of Physician Assistants published an Amended Notice of Intended Action, ARC 2531C, in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on May 11, 2016. The Board of Physician Assistants on October 19, 2016, determined to succeed ARC 2531C with a new Notice of Intended Action, ARC 2832C. Subcommittees of both boards were scheduled to meet on December 16, 2016, but that meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.

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.