

**Iowa Board of Physician Assistants  
and the Iowa Board of Medicine**



**Joint Report to the Governor and 2018 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 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 2017:

- 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 591, was signed into law by Governor Branstad on April 12, 2017, causing more collaboration between the two boards. The new law requires the Board of Physician Assistants to provide information to the Board of Medicine when a physician assistant may have been inadequately supervised. In addition, the new law identifies administrative rules in 645 IAC Chapters 326 and 327 that cannot be amended or rescinded by the Board of Physician Assistants without approval of the Board of Medicine. In general, the identified rules relate to the supervision of a physician assistant by a physician. The new law also repealed 2015 Iowa Acts, Chapter 137, section 113, which had directed the boards to adopt joint rules concerning the appropriate supervision of a physician assistant by a physician.
- The Board of Medicine initiated rule making (**ARC 3069C**) on April 28, 2017, to require that a physician who supervises a physician assistant must have a supervisory agreement in place prior to the provision of supervision. The agreement requires a discussion between a supervising physician and a physician assistant about seven essential elements of appropriate supervision in existing state laws and administrative rules. From October 4 through December 27, 2017, the Board of Medicine offered extensive training and communications on the new rule to physicians, physician assistants and other stakeholders. The rule making became effective September 20, 2017.
- The Board of Physician Assistants initiated rule making (**ARC 3455C**) on October 18, 2017, to implement a requirement of 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 591. This rule making establishes the process for the Board of Physician Assistants to consult with and share information with the Board of Medicine regarding complaints that a physician assistant may have been inadequately supervised. The rule making will become effective March 21, 2018.
- 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. Reports from the past seven years are available on the Board of Medicine's website:

[http://www.medicalboard.iowa.gov/IBM\\_PA%20Joint%20Reports.html](http://www.medicalboard.iowa.gov/IBM_PA%20Joint%20Reports.html).