

## CHANGE TO PA SUPERVISION RULE IN EFFECT SEPTEMBER 30, 2004:

### *Physician-PA Teams Now Have Greater Flexibility in Treating Patients*

Effective September 30, 2004, the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners (BME) has given physicians and physician assistants (PAs) more flexibility in how they work as a team to treat patients.

- The Colorado Academy of Physician Assistants (CAPA), recognizing the need for a more meaningful supervisory system, spent the last year working with the BME. As of today, there is no longer a blanket policy requiring the supervising physician's signature on all PA charts; though, a supervising physician still has the authority to establish more stringent supervision guidelines, if necessary.
- Under the new rule, new physician assistant (PA) graduates will need all charts to be signed within seven days (which is the same as the current rule), but only for the first six months and a minimum of 500 patient encounters. New PA graduates will have the added requirement of on-site physician supervision for their initial 1,000 working hours. The supervising physician must then provide a personalized performance assessment of the PA by the end of the first six months of employment, quarterly for the first two years, and twice during each twelve-month period thereafter.
- For experienced PAs new to a practice setting, for the first three months and for a minimum of 500 patient encounters, the supervising physician must sign all charts within fourteen days of treatment. At the end of the first six months of employment, and twice each twelve-month period thereafter, the supervising physician must provide a personalized performance assessment of the PA.
- For experienced PAs currently with a practice, the supervising physician must meet with the PA a minimum of two times during each twelve-month period for performance assessments.

“CAPA is very pleased with these changes to the supervisory rule,” says Candace Lacey, PA-C, president of CAPA. “We believe it demonstrates the combined desire of the PAs in the state and the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners to enforce a high standard of accountability and medical expertise for the citizens of Colorado, while also recognizing the need for flexibility in structuring an efficient medical practice.”

*CAPA has generated assessment forms for each level of PA practitioner, to aid practices in complying with the revised rule. These forms are enclosed and also available through the CAPA office.*

For a complete copy of Rule 400 - PA Supervision: [www.dora.state.co.us/medical](http://www.dora.state.co.us/medical)

