

Questions: (1) Can a PA sign a chart; (2) Can a PA see and treat patients without a Physician being present in the room; and (3) does a Physician have to be in the office at all for a PA to see and treat a patient?

I believe the short answer to all three questions is that the Supervising Physician can determine what the PA may or may not do with regards to patients. The Statutes and the Rules each state (see below) that it is up to the Physician how much a PA can do.

Please see Statute and Rule references below:

1. Can a PA sign a chart?

459.022 Physician assistants.—

(3) PERFORMANCE OF SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN.—Each physician or group of physicians supervising a licensed physician assistant must be qualified in the medical areas in which the physician assistant is to perform and shall be individually or collectively responsible and liable for the performance and the acts and omissions of the physician assistant.

A physician may not supervise more than four currently licensed physician assistants at any one time. A physician supervising a physician assistant pursuant to this section may not be required to review and cosign **charts** or medical records prepared by such physician assistant.

NOTE: This is the only mention of the word "chart" or "charts" in Ch. 459, FS

2. Can a PA see and treat patients without a Physician being present in the room?

459.022 Physician assistants.—

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

(f) "Supervision" means responsible supervision and control. Except in cases of emergency, supervision requires the easy availability or physical presence of the licensed physician for consultation and direction of the actions of the physician assistant. For the purposes of this definition, the term "easy availability" includes the ability to communicate by way of telecommunication. The boards shall establish rules as to what constitutes responsible supervision of the physician assistant.

64B15-6.010 Physician Assistant Performance.

(1) A supervising physician shall delegate only tasks and procedures to the physician assistant which are within the supervising physician's scope of practice. The physician assistant may work in any setting that is within the scope of practice of the supervising physician's practice. The supervising physician's scope of practice shall be defined for the purpose of this section as "those tasks and procedures which the supervising physician is qualified by training or experience to perform."

(2) The decision to permit the physician assistant to perform a task or procedure under direct or indirect supervision is made by the supervising physician based on reasonable medical judgment regarding the probability of morbidity and mortality to the patient. Furthermore, the supervising physician must be certain that the physician assistant is knowledgeable and skilled in performing the tasks and procedures assigned.

(3) All tasks and procedures performed by the physician assistant must be documented in the appropriate medical record.

(4) In a medical emergency the physician assistant will act in accordance with his or her training and knowledge to maintain life support until a licensed physician assumes responsibility for the patient.

Rulemaking Authority 459.005, 459.022(4)(a), (13) FS. Law Implemented 459.022(2), (3), (4), (13) FS. History—New 10-28-87, Amended 4-18-89, 9-26-90, Formerly 21R-6.010, 61F9-6.010, Amended 3-13-96, Formerly 59W-6.010, Amended 10-13-98, 3-17-99, 1-12-04, 2-2-10, 7-19-16.

3. Does a Physician have to be in the Office at all while a PA see's a patient?

Please see above