

## PROVIDER BULLETIN

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## Physician Assistant Bulletin

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### CONTENTS

- **Physician Assistant**
  - **Provider Enrollment Information**
  - **Supervision of Physician Assistants**
  - **Qualifications**
  - **Scope of Practice**
- 

### Physician Assistant

Senate Bill (SB) 716, passed by the 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly allows physician assistants to become enrolled MO HealthNet providers while acting under a supervision agreement with a physician.

A physician assistant is a person who:

- has graduated from a physician assistant program accredited by the American Medical Association's Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation or by its successor agency,
- has active certification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, and
- provides health care services delegated by a licensed physician.

### Provider Enrollment Information

For dates of service on or after August 17, 2015, physician assistants may enroll as a MO HealthNet provider and submit claims for service reimbursement. Until a physician assistant becomes individually enrolled as a provider, he/she may still provide and bill for services as currently allowed by MO HealthNet policy, through the supervising physician using modifier AR. For additional information, please reference section 13.17.A (1) of the physician provider manual posted on the MO HealthNet web site at:

[http://manuals.momed.com/collections/collection\\_phy/print.pdf](http://manuals.momed.com/collections/collection_phy/print.pdf).

MO HealthNet provider applications are available through the MO HealthNet Provider Enrollment application site at: <http://mmac.mo.gov/providers/provider-enrollment/new-providers/>.

The application must be completed online. This site contains applications and requirements for enrollment.

PLEASE NOTE: Those providers who have already submitted applications by mail will have their applications entered online; therefore, it is not necessary to reapply.

All questions regarding provider applications and general questions for Provider Enrollment must be communicated by e-mail to [MMAC.ProviderEnrollment@dss.mo.gov](mailto:MMAC.ProviderEnrollment@dss.mo.gov).

### **Supervision of Physician Assistants**

As stated in Section 334.735 of the Missouri Revised Statutes, a physician assistant shall only practice at a location where a physician routinely provides patient care, except existing patients of the supervising physician in the patient's home. The supervising physician must be immediately available in person or via telecommunication during the time the physician assistant is providing patient care. Appropriate supervision shall require the supervising physician to be working within the same facility as the physician assistant for at least four hours within one calendar day for every fourteen days on which the physician assistant provides patient care. The requirement of appropriate supervision shall be applied so that no more than thirteen calendar days in which a physician assistant provides patient care shall pass between the physician's four hours working within the same facility. A supervision agreement shall limit a physician assistant to practice only at locations where the supervising physician is no further than 50 miles by road using the most direct route available and where the location is not so situated as to create an impediment to effective intervention and supervision of patient care or adequate review of services.

### **Qualifications**

A physician assistant must be licensed by the Missouri Board of Healing Arts as set forth in 20 CSR 2150-7.

### **Scope of Practice**

A physician assistant must practice within their scope of practice referenced in Section 334.735 of the Missouri Revised Statutes. Their scope of practice includes:

- Taking patient histories;
- Performing physical examinations of a patient;
- Performing or assisting in the performance of routine office laboratory and patient screening procedures;
- Performing routine therapeutic procedures;
- Recording diagnostic impressions and evaluating situations calling for attention of a physician to institute treatment procedures;
- Instructing and counseling patients regarding mental and physical health using procedures reviewed and approved by a licensed physician;

- Assisting the supervising physician in institutional settings, including reviewing of treatment plans, ordering of tests, diagnostic laboratory and radiological services, and ordering of therapies using procedures reviewed and approved by a licensed physician;
- Assisting in surgery;
- Performing such other tasks not prohibited by law under the supervision of a licensed physician; and
- Physician assistants shall not perform or prescribe abortions.

Providers should reference Section 13.17 of the physician's manual at the web address provided above for further guidance on policy and procedures.

**Provider Bulletins** are available on the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) (Formerly the Division of Medical Services) Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pages/bulletins.htm>. Bulletins will remain on the Provider Bulletins page only until incorporated into the [provider manuals](#) as appropriate, then moved to the Archived Bulletin page.

**MO HealthNet News:** Providers and other interested parties are urged to go to the MHD Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/global/pages/mednewssubscribe.htm> to subscribe to the electronic mailing list to receive automatic notifications of provider bulletins, provider manual updates, and other official MO HealthNet communications via E-mail.

**MO HealthNet Managed Care:** The information contained in this bulletin applies to coverage for:

- MO HealthNet Fee-for-Service
- Services not included in MO HealthNet Managed Care

Questions regarding MO HealthNet Managed Care benefits should be directed to the patient's MO HealthNet Managed Care health plan. Before delivering a service, please check the patient's eligibility status by swiping the MO HealthNet card or by calling the Provider Communications Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System at 573-751-2896 and using Option One for the red or white card.

**Provider Communications Hotline**  
**573-751-2896**