



INSIDER

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Message from the Executive Officer



I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. As the executive officer of the Physician Assistant Board, I would like to express my gratitude for your dedication and unwavering commitment to providing quality health care to the people of California. Your hard work and expertise play a crucial role in improving the lives of countless individuals, and we value the contributions you make to the health care system.

I want to emphasize that the Board remains committed to upholding the highest standards of professionalism, competence, and ethical conduct within our profession. We continue to work diligently to protect the public by ensuring that physician assistants meet the necessary qualifications and adhere to the established regulations and guidelines. We believe that physician assistants can play a vital role in bridging the health care gap and improving health outcomes for all Californians. By supporting outreach programs and fostering partnerships with community organizations, we aim to address disparities in health care access and delivery.

I encourage you to stay connected and engaged with the Board. Your involvement is crucial to shaping the future of our profession and ensuring that our voices are heard. We welcome your feedback, suggestions, and active participation in our endeavors. Please remember that you can always reach out to our office if you have any questions, concerns, or require assistance. We are here to support you and provide the necessary resources to help you thrive in your professional journey.

Thank you once again for your unwavering dedication and commitment to patient care. Together, we can make a significant difference in the health and well-being of all Californians.

Sincerely,

Rozana Khan, Executive Officer
Physician Assistant Board of California

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— MISSION —
Protect and serve consumers through licensing, education, and objective enforcement of the physician assistant laws and regulations.

— VISION —
Assure that health care needs for all people are met in a compassionate, competent, and culturally sensitive manner.

— JURISDICTION —
The Physician Assistant Board's jurisdiction includes physician assistants.
The Board's jurisdiction does not include physicians (M.D.s), licensed midwives, polysomnographic trainees, technicians and technologists, and research psychoanalysts and student research psychoanalysts, chiropractors, dentists, health maintenance organizations, hospitals, insurance companies, malpractice actions/civil lawsuits, Medi-Cal, Medicare, nurses (R.N., N.P., FNP), optometrists, or osteopathic physicians (DOs).
The Board also has no authority over a medical provider's attitude, bedside manner, demeanor, office staff, prices charged, or refund disputes with a medical provider unless there is a double payment by the insurance company. The Board cannot assist consumers in obtaining medical care or financial compensation for medical malpractice.

What to Expect from a Controlled Substances Education Course Audit

The Physician Assistant Practice Act provides for licensure and regulation of physician assistants by the Physician Assistant Board. In 2020, Senate Bill 697 (Chapter 707, Statutes of 2018) made numerous changes to the Act.

One of the changes impacted Business and Professions Code section 3502.1(e)(3), which states a physician assistant (P.A.) who holds an active license and is authorized through a practice agreement to furnish Schedule II controlled substances must complete a course that covers Schedule II controlled substance and the risks of addiction associated with their use based on the standards developed by the Board.

Please review the following frequently asked questions to assist with interpreting the statutory change and to clarify how the change impacts licensees:

1. Do I have to complete the controlled substance education course if I am not registered with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and/or authorized through a practice agreement to furnish Schedule II controlled substances?

No. Only licensees who at the time of renewal are authorized through a practice agreement to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances and hold an active DEA license, are required to complete the controlled substance education course. Licensees with a license status of inactive are not required to complete the controlled substance education course.

2. What if I don't remember taking the controlled substance education course?

Prior to January 1, 2020, licensees were not required to file a copy of their controlled substance course certificate with the Board; therefore, the Board may not have a certificate of completion on file to confirm if you have completed the course. Please check with the vendors listed below to see if they have a record of you completing the course and can provide you with a certificate of completion.

3. Can I renew my license if I am unable to complete the course prior to the expiration date of my license?

Yes. Until this requirement is met, section 3501.1(d)(2) of the Business and Professions Code requires a patient-specific order approved by the treating or supervising physician and surgeon to furnish Schedule II controlled substances. A certificate meeting the requirement of California Code of Regulations sections 1399.610 and 1399.612 must be submitted to the Board before the expiration date of your next renewal cycle or you will be ineligible to renew your license. If a course is not available prior to the expiration of the next renewal cycle, please provide the Board evidence indicating your intent to enroll in a future course.

4. How do I know if the Board has a copy of my certificate of completion on file?

Visit [DCA License Search](#) to view your licensing details. The controlled substance education course certificate of completion will show as a "Qualification" if the certificate is on file with the Board.

5. Do I have to complete the controlled substance education course prior to registering with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to obtain my DEA license?

No. The controlled substance education course is a license renewal requirement and does not impact your ability to register with the DEA.

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6. Does a continuing medical education (CME) course specific to opioids or the MAT waiver fulfill the controlled substance education course requirement?

No. While many opioid CME courses do qualify for CAT 1 CMEs, they do not meet the requirements of CCR section 1399.610. The MAT waiver is required to obtain a waiver from the DEA to prescribe buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid use disorder and does not fulfill the requirements of CCR section 1399.610.

7. When was the controlled substance education course first offered?

The controlled substance education course was first offered in 2008.

8. How do I submit a copy of my certificate to the Board?

Submit a copy of the certificate to the Board by emailing paboard@dca.ca.gov.



CURES Fee Decrease—The Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) fee will decrease from \$11 to \$9 annually for licenses expiring on and after July 1, 2023. The fee is assessed at the time of license renewal on licensees that prescribe, order, administer, or furnish Schedule II, Schedule III, Schedule IV, or Schedule V controlled substances. Most licensees will see an \$18 CURES fee due to the biennial renewal cycle. The fee covers the reasonable regulatory costs of the Department of Justice for operating and maintaining CURES, a critical element

in the state's effort to address the growing danger of opioid addiction stemming from prescription drug abuse. For more information about CURES, visit <https://oag.ca.gov/cures>.

Professional Title Change

The Board is aware there is a movement to change the title of our profession from physician assistant to physician associate. While the Board is aware of this proposed title change, it is inappropriate for P.A.s to call themselves "physician associates" unless and until legislative and regulatory changes are made to incorporate the new title.

Stay Connected

PAB is on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and utilizes them for all the latest PAB information including upcoming meeting reminders, information about the profession, COVID-19-related updates and reminders, information regarding waivers issued by the director of the California Department of Consumer Affairs, alerts of disciplinary action taken against licensees, proposed regulatory updates, and job announcements.

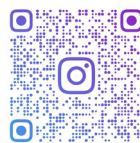
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or visit our website at
www.pab.ca.gov

Board Member Update— Welcome Deborah (Debbie) Snow



Ms. Snow was appointed as a public member to the Physician Assistant Board by Senate President Pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins, on February 1. Ms. Snow previously served two terms as a member of the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board. She received her Bachelor of Arts from California Baptist University in Riverside, majoring in English and behavioral science. Ms. Snow is retired from her position as library assistant at the University of California, Riverside, and has spent her career working in library professions.

Ms. Snow has been involved in consumer advocacy for several years and has authored articles regarding consumer protection issues facing healing arts boards. Ms. Snow is a member of the Humane Society and volunteers with Schools on Wheels, an organization established to provide tutors to children experiencing homelessness.

Congratulations to Ms. Snow on her appointment!

Attend a Board Meeting

Attend a Board meeting to learn about the Board's administrative and disciplinary processes. The Board encourages everyone to attend a Board meeting to enhance the learning of the processes and work the Board conducts. Meetings are held four times a year in locations throughout California.

Visit the Board's website for updates and more information at [www.pab.ca.gov/about us/meetings/index.shtml](http://www.pab.ca.gov/about_us/meetings/index.shtml).



Become a Board Member

Board members collectively provide oversight and direction. Board members make important decisions on agency policies and on disciplinary actions against professionals who violate state consumer protection laws. Board members approve regulations and help guide licensing, enforcement, public education, and consumer protection activities. Some board members are licensed professionals themselves, while others are public members. The governor appoints many board members, but the Legislature makes appointments as well. For more information and how to apply, view our informational bulletin at https://pab.ca.gov/forms_pubs/board_member.pdf.

Do We Have Your Email Address?

Licensees are encouraged to provide PAB with an email address if the licensee has one. Email is an efficient channel for sharing information between PAB and its applicants and licensees. PAB will be able to communicate the status of applications, renewals, and requests for various PAB services; provide law and regulation updates; and disseminate important PAB news directly to each applicant and licensee. PAB hopes this accelerated delivery and exchange of information will decrease processing times in all aspects of the PAB's programs and facilitate licensees keeping apprised of laws and regulations, and PAB activities. You can submit/update your email address using BreEZe or submit your physical address change with BreEZe.

You may also submit your email address in writing to the PAB office—please include your name and license number.

Pocket Licenses Are Now Printable from BreZE!



The Board will no longer issue pocket licenses upon initial licensure or renewal. Licensees can now print their own pocket license from their online [BreZE](#) account. Licensees can log into their BreZE account, and under the “Manage Your License Information” section, they can click on the drop-down menu and have the option to print the configured pocket license. You then select the license and it will pop up in a PDF on a separate tab.

Additionally, the California Department of Consumer Affairs [License Search](#) tool is available to verify a license in real-time or anytime the status is changed. Consumers, employers, or any interested party can verify the license status online 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

New Temporary Licensure

Effective July 1, 2023, [AB 107 \(Salas, Chapter 693, Statutes of 2021\)](#) requires boards and bureaus to grant temporary licensure to military spouses licensed in another state in the same profession when they come to California. A temporary license is valid for 12 months, or until the full physician assistant license is issued, whichever occurs first, allowing an applicant to work on completing the application process for the full physician assistant license. Visit our Board’s [website](#) for eligibility requirements and updated information.

New Licensing Video!

The Board has created a step-by-step tutorial to assist applicants in the initial application process. The link to the video: <https://youtu.be/K5EZtRpomLQ>.



The California Academy of P.A.s in Napa

In February 2023, our Assistant Executive Officer Kristy Voong, Enforcement Analyst Christina Haydon, and Complaint Analyst Armando Melendez had the pleasure of attending the California Academy of P.A.s conference in Napa. Our amazing staff was available to answer licensee, student, applicant, and consumer questions.



Complaint Analyst Armando Melendez and Assistant Executive Officer Kristy Voong.



Complaint Analyst Armando Melendez and Enforcement Analyst Christina Haydon.

The Federation of State Medical Boards Hosts Annual Meeting

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) held its annual meeting on May 4–6 in Minneapolis, MN. FSMB is a national, nonprofit organization that represents the 70-state medical and osteopathic boards in the United States and its territories. Its mission is to serve as the voice for state medical boards, supporting them through education, assessment, research, and advocacy while providing services and initiatives that promote patient safety, quality health care and regulatory best practices. FSMB is a recognized authority throughout the United States and internationally on issues related to medical licensure and discipline.



Legislative and Regulatory Specialist Jasmine Dhillon and Executive Officer Rozana Khan in attendance at the 2023 FSMB annual meeting.



Administrative Actions–Citations

A Citation and Fine is an administrative action by which the Physician Assistant Board may address relatively minor violations of the Physician Assistant Practice Act that would not necessarily warrant discipline to protect the public. Citation and fine orders are NOT disciplinary actions but are matters of public record. Citations remain on a licensee's file for five years and are then purged. By law, payment of a fine is considered satisfactory resolution of all violations contained in the citation.

NAME AND CITY	LICENSE NO.	ACTION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Manuel Palomo <i>Baldwin Park</i>	51756	Citation Issued	01/12/2023
Christopher Johnson <i>Yuba City</i>	13576	Citation Issued	01/24/2023



Administrative Actions–Discipline

The Physician Assistant Board (PAB) regulates the profession of physician assistants through the enforcement of the Physician Assistant Practice Act. The following summary indicates administrative actions taken by PAB against licensees for violations of the Act.

Although every effort is made to ensure the following details are correct, before you make any decision based on this information, obtain a copy of the action in its entirety, including terms and conditions. You can download the copy through the the California Department of Consumer Affairs' License Search tool at <https://search.dca.ca.gov>.

NAME AND CITY	LICENSE NO.	ACTION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Andrew Kevin Sajo <i>Arcadia</i>	16136	License Surrendered	10/06/2022
Clayton T. Rector <i>Napa</i>	16404	License Revoked	12/21/2022
Sandi Lee Altmiller <i>Bakersfield</i>	13958	License Revoked	12/30/2022
Craig Francis Kuly <i>Redding</i>	16001	License Revoked	12/30/2022
Kerrie S. North <i>Cameron Park</i>	13061	Five Years' Probation	01/06/2023
Francisco H. Martinez <i>Nevada City</i>	12506	35 Months' Probation	01/19/2023
George David Guido <i>Pacifica</i>	51518	License Surrendered	01/26/2023
Sean Thomas Lynch <i>Lakeside</i>	20059	Three Years' Probation	03/03/2023
Oscar Galindo <i>Bellflower</i>	19847	Five Years' Probation	03/10/2023
Ramon Castellon Gonzalez <i>Downey</i>	20804	License Surrendered	03/28/2023
Cheyenne Mallas <i>Los Angeles</i>	19450	License Surrendered	04/03/2023
Sonia Shefayee <i>Alameda</i>	17868	Three Years' Probation	04/03/2023
Matthew Steven Hartman <i>Danville</i>	56898	Three Years' Probation	04/21/2023



Licensing—Licenses Issued

DATES	LICENSES ISSUED
October 1, 2022–March 31, 2023	840

Name and Address Changes

It is crucial that the Board has current and accurate name and address information on file should the Board need to contact its licensees or applicants. Instructions for submitting name and address changes are available on the Board website. Click one of the icons below:

ADDRESS CHANGE



NAME CHANGE



Licensees are required by law to notify the Board within 30 days if they change their name or address of record. It is important the Board has current and complete records so licensees receive timely renewal notices and other important information, and applicants receive messages regarding application status.

Join the Board Subscriber List

Please join the Board's [email subscriber list](#), an online subscription service, to receive notices of changes in laws and regulations, enforcement actions taken against licensees, and information related to the physician assistant practice.

