

PART 10 - DELEGATION

Definitions

- 10-1 (1) In sections 10-2 to 10-5:
- (a) physician means a registrant of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia who is recognized by the College to practice medicine and is privileged by a Health Authority to work in an emergency department of the hospital,
 - (b) physician assistant means a health care provider:
 - (i) who is recognized and licensed by the College as a physician assistant; and,
 - (ii) is employed by a Health Authority in British Columbia,
 - (c) a delegating or supervising physician must be personally:
 - (i) competent to perform the restricted activity;
 - (ii) satisfied that the physician assistant has the knowledge, skills and ability to perform the restricted activity and can carry out the act as competently and safely as the delegating physician;
 - (iii) ensure that it is safe and appropriate for the physician assistant to perform the restricted activity on a particular patient;
 - (iv) where deemed appropriate and necessary, prior to delegating the authority for a physician assistant to perform an activity, assess the patient and establish a treatment plan;
 - (v) obtain the patient's informed consent for the restricted activity to be performed, unless consent is not possible because of emergency;
 - (vi) remain readily available for consultation during the performance of the restricted activity and for an appropriate follow-up period; and,
 - (vii) ensure the physician assistant performing the restricted activity is clearly identified in the patient record,
 - (d) "restricted activity" means an activity that may only be performed by regulated health professionals who are authorized to provide the activity under their profession-specific regulations and in accordance with the bylaws of their regulatory college,
 - (e) "assign" means that a non-restricted activity may be performed without requiring delegation or authorization under supervision,

- (f) “delegate” means that a physician can authorize all or part of a restricted activity to be performed by a physician assistant without supervision,
- (g) “authorize under supervision” means the physician assuming medical responsibility for the care of the patients receiving services performed by the physician assistant must be in attendance or immediately available at all times,
- (h) “direct supervision” means the supervising physician must:
 - (i) be in attendance together with the physician assistant and the patient while the physician assistant is performing the task/activity/procedure or assisting alongside the physician.

Assign to Physician Assistants

- 10-2 (1) A physician may assign to a physician assistant the following activities that are not restricted activities and that do not require supervision:
- (a) conduct patient interview and obtain medical history,
 - (b) perform physical examination of patient,
 - (c) document provision of care for patient,
 - (d) coordinate and facilitate care for patients with other care providers, agencies, or community resources, and
 - (e) communicate assessment findings and or diagnoses including outcomes and prognosis to patients/ families.

Delegation to Physician Assistants

- 10-3 (1) A physician may delegate to a physician assistant the following activities, which are the practice of medicine as defined in the Act:
- (a) for the purpose of assessment, put an instrument or a device, hand or finger
 - (i) into the external ear canal, up to the eardrum;
 - (ii) beyond the point in the nasal passages where they normally narrow;
 - (iii) beyond the pharynx;
 - (iv) beyond the opening of the urethra;
 - (v) beyond the labia majora;
 - (vi) beyond the anal verge; or
 - (vii) into an artificial opening into the body,

- (b) perform syringing and curetting of the external ear canal,
 - (c) perform cauterization, packing or removal of packing of nasal passages,
 - (d) perform insertion of urethral catheter,
 - (e) perform insertion of peripheral venous catheter,
 - (f) prescribe and administer a drug or vaccine,
 - (g) prescribe and administer a drug orally, rectally, by injection under the dermis, by inhalation, or by peripheral intravenous catheter,
 - (h) administer local / topical anesthetics for the purpose of providing minor skin, soft tissue, and corneal procedures,
 - (i) cast or immobilize a fracture of a bone,
 - (j) order diagnostic tests,
 - (k) administer diagnostic imaging contrast agents,
 - (l) respond to cardiac arrests according to hospital procedures and policies,
 - (m) perform initial resuscitation in life-threatening situations according to established protocols (i.e. Basic Cardiac Life Support/Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Neonatal Resuscitation Program, and Pediatric Advanced Life Support), while awaiting arrival of the supervising physician,
 - (n) insertion and maintenance of airways not requiring visualization of larynx,
 - (o) procure and prepare arterial blood gas (ABG) sampling including monitoring ABG levels, analyzing results and reporting findings to the physician,
 - (p) gastric intubation and suction.
- (2) The authority to delegate must be provided in writing to the physician assistant and must contain:
- (a) a specific description of the activities which have been delegated, and
 - (b) any conditions or restrictions associated with the delegation including, any time limitation on the delegated authority.
- (3) A delegation is only valid if the physician assistant accepts the delegation.
- (4) A delegation may be revoked by the delegating physician at any time.
- (5) A physician who has delegated an activity shall have access to a copy of the document which authorizes the delegation.

- (6) A delegation is only valid while the delegating physician is available to provide oversight and advice to the physician assistant. If the physician who has delegated the activity no longer has oversight responsibility for the delegated activity, the delegation is no longer valid, unless that physician transfers the delegation to another physician as part of a transfer of care.

Authorization to Physician Assistants to perform activities under direct supervision

- 10-4 (1) A physician may authorize a physician assistant to perform the following activities under direct supervision, which are the practice of medicine as defined in the Act:
- (a) assist in or perform insertion of nasotracheal or endotracheal airway (i.e. endotracheal intubation) for the purpose of airway management,
 - (b) insertion and maintenance of advanced airway devices which do not require laryngoscopy,
 - (c) perform insertion of intra-arterial lines,
 - (d) initiation of external jugular vein cannulation,
 - (e) administration of colloid and non-crystalloid volume expanders,
 - (f) perform ultrasound to guide the physician with:
 - (i) insertion of central venous catheters;
 - (ii) insertion of arterial lines;
 - (iii) insertion of chest tubes;
 - (iv) pericardiocentesis,
 - (g) administer procedural sedation and provide for monitoring of the patient, and
 - (h) assist in or perform cardioversion, defibrillation, and external pacing.