



Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners
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***** Advisory Opinion *****

**PA WITHOUT PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY-
ORDERING MEDICATION IN AN INPATIENT SETTING**

April 14, 2014

The Board has received inquiries requesting clarification on whether a physician assistant without prescriptive authority can order medication in an inpatient setting. According to current law, PAs are not eligible to apply for prescriptive authority until they have completed one year of training rotations and one year of clinical practice, or 2 years of practice under a supervising physician.¹ Further, the rules require the supervising physician to obtain prior Board approval to delegate legend/CDS(3-5) authority to a specific PA. Thereafter the PA can prescribe/order legend /CDS(3-5) to the extent delegated by his/her SP.² The rules regarding the PA's role in prescribing without prescriptive authority do not vary according to setting. If the PA does not yet have prescriptive authority because of limited practice experience, or does not have prescriptive authority specifically delegated by the SP in that location, the PA may not order or prescribe, regardless of the clinical setting.

¹ **§1521. Qualifications for Physician Assistant Registration of Prescriptive Authority**

A. Legend Drugs/Medical Devices. To be eligible for registration of prescriptive authority for legend drugs or medical devices, or both, a physician assistant shall:

1. satisfy the licensure requirements of §1507 of this Chapter;
2. possess a current license to practice as a physician assistant duly issued by the board and not be the subject of a current investigation or pending disciplinary proceeding by the board;
3. have received authority to prescribe legend drugs and/or medical devices to the extent delegated by a supervising physician;
4. **have completed:**
 - a. **a minimum of one year of clinical rotations during training and one year of practice under a supervising physician; or**
 - b. **a minimum of two years of practice under a supervising physician;**

² **§4506. Services Performed by Physician Assistants Registered to Prescribe Medication or Medical Devices; Prescription Forms; Prohibitions**

A.1. A physician assistant who is registered with the board pursuant to §§1521 and 1525 of these rules to prescribe medication and/or medical devices may, to the extent of such registration and the authority delegated by such supervising physician:

- a. issue prescriptions for medication or medical devices to a patient of the supervising physician;
- b. transmit orally, electronically, or in writing on a patient's record a prescription or order to an individual who may lawfully furnish such medication or medical device;