

Physician Assistant Committee

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PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS ASSISTING PODIATRISTS

California law allows a physician assistant (PA) performing medical services under the supervision of a physician to assist a podiatrist if the following requirements are met:

- (1) the podiatrist must be a partner, shareholder, or employee in the same medical group as the supervising physician,
- (2) the PA may only assist the podiatrist according to patient-specific orders from the supervising physician, and may only perform those duties included within the scope of practice of the podiatrist, and
- (3) the supervising physician must be physically available to the PA for consultation when the assistance is provided.

[Reference: Business and Professions Code, Section 3502 (b).]

However, please note that a PA may only be supervised by an approved physician and surgeon or doctor of osteopathic medicine. Therefore, while PAs may assist a podiatrist under the conditions specified above, the podiatrist *may not supervise PAs*, as defined in Physician Assistant Law and Regulations, unless the podiatrist also holds an M. D. or D. O. license and has received supervisory approval.

A copy of the Physician Assistant Laws and Regulations may be obtained by contacting the Physician Assistant Committee at (916) 263-2670 or pacommittee@mbc.ca.gov.

Note: This document does not purport to be an exhaustive analysis of laws relating to physician assistants. This is not a declaratory opinion of the Physician Assistant Committee.