



GUIDANCE DOCUMENT: Implementation of S.B. 110

Concerning Applying for Prescriptive Authority
October 7, 2015

The provisions of S.B. 110 make significant changes in the licensing of and practice of physician assistants in Ohio. One of the changes concerns the process by which a physician assistant obtains prescriptive authority.

As enacted in S.B. 110, Section 4730.11(D), Ohio Revised Code, provides that a license to practice as a physician assistant includes with it a prescriber number if the applicant meets specified requirements. There is also a provision under which a physician assistant who does not hold a qualifying master's or higher degree to receive a prescriber number upon submitting evidence of having obtained a qualifying master's or higher degree. Under the current wording, however, there is not a mechanism for a physician assistant to obtain a prescriber number in the future if at the time of initial licensure the physician assistant held a qualifying master's or higher degree but has not obtained a provisional or full certificate to prescribe. **See the information at the bottom of this document to determine whether a master's or higher degree is "qualifying."***

Efforts are currently underway to have the Ohio General Assembly amend the language to offer a mechanism for all physician assistants who do not have prescriptive authority to obtain it. **In the meantime, the Medical Board encourages all current physician assistants who hold a qualifying master's or higher degree, but not a provisional or full prescriptive authority, to take the following steps to receive a license to practice with a prescriber number on or about December 15, 2015.**

1. Until December 15, 2015, the Medical Board will accept paper applications and continue issuing certificates as we currently do.
2. Until December 15, 2015, the Medical Board will be transitioning to a new licensing database system. At that time the Medical Board will begin issuing licenses as provided in SB 110.
3. As authorized in S.B. 110, the Medical Board will continue to issue separate certificates to practice and provisional and full certificates to prescribe through December 15, 2015. This will coincide with the migration of physician assistant data to the new licensing data system.
4. The holder of a certificate to practice who has a qualifying master's degree or higher, but who does not have either a provisional or full certificate to prescribe at

this time, should file an application for a provisional certificate to prescribe with the Medical Board as soon as possible, but no later than December 15, 2015.

5. The \$100 application fee must be submitted. A transcript evidencing that the applicant was granted a qualifying master's or higher degree must be submitted to the Medical Board.
6. The applicant who has not completed the pharmacology, fiscal and ethical coursework must complete Sections 1, 2, and 4 of the application and Form A. These applicants will not receive a provisional certificate to prescribe at this time. However, contingent upon meeting all requirements other than the pharmacology, fiscal, and ethics coursework requirements, the physician assistant who submits the above application and fee no later than December 15, 2015 will receive a license with a prescriber number under the new law. The credential will be "50.00000-RX."

NOTE: All current holders of a certificate to practice AND a provisional or full certificate to prescribe will automatically receive a license to practice that includes a prescriber number on December 15, 2015. The credential will be "50.00000-RX." NO APPLICATION NEEDS TO BE SUBMITTED.

QUESTIONS?

Please direct any questions concerning the application process and requirements to Cathy Hacker, Physician Assistant Administrator, at: Cathy.Hacker@med.ohio.gov.

*A master's or higher degree is a "qualifying master's or higher degree" if it was received from one of the following:

- (a) A program accredited by the accreditation review commission on education for the physician assistant or a predecessor or successor organization recognized by the board;
- (b) A program accredited by a regional or specialized and professional accrediting agency recognized by the council for higher education accreditation, if the degree is in a course of study with clinical relevance to the practice of physician assistants.