

Physician Assistant Academy of Vermont (PAAV)
S.128, An Act Relating to Physician Assistant Licensure
May 12, 2020

Current law	S.128 As Passed by Senate
Relationship between physician and PA	
Supervising physician is legally liable for all PA activity.	Physician liability eliminated. Each member of the team is responsible for their own clinical decision making.
Relationship between physician and PA is supervisory .	Relationship between physician and PA is collaborative .
Practice-level licensure paperwork	
Delegation Agreement provides a detailed narrative description of individual PA's practice parameters.	Delegation Agreement is replaced by a Practice Agreement. The Practice Agreement defines the degree and type of collaboration required by the PA and states that the scope of practice shall not exceed the PA's education, training, and experience.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate agreement required for each employer, specialty, practice location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Practice Agreement per employer and specialty
Primary and Secondary Supervising Physician Agreements required for each employer, specialty, practice location	Eliminated. One Participating Physician who represents the practice shall sign the Practice Agreement.
All original paperwork with original signatures must be filed with the Board of Medical Practice in hard copy.	A copy of the Practice Agreement must be filed with the Board (may be filed electronically).
Continuity of patient care	
In the event of unavailability of Primary Supervising Physician due to departure, illness, or death, the PA must notify the Board immediately and cease practice until a new signed Primary Supervising Physician Agreement is received by the Board.	If the Participating Physician is a solo practitioner and becomes unavailable due to serious illness or death, a PA may continue to practice for 30 days without entering into a new Practice Agreement in order to ensure continuity of patient care.
Emergency/Disaster Care by PAs in Vermont	

No provision allowing Vermont PAs to provide medical services without a delegation agreement in the case of a Vermont emergency/disaster.	Provision allowing Vermont PAs to provide emergency/disaster services without the need to enter into a Practice Agreement.
PAs as Primary Care Providers	
PAs not considered primary care providers (PCP) in Vermont.	PAs shall be considered a PCP when practicing in one of the specialties for which a physician would be considered a PCP.
Payment for Medical Services	
Unlike physicians, APRNs, PTs, mental health clinicians, and many other professionals, PAs are billing providers, however they are not eligible for direct payment for services rendered.	Health insurers and Medicaid shall reimburse a participating PA for any medical services that would be covered were they rendered by a physician.
What doesn't change with S.128	
This legislation reflects how PAs and physicians currently practice.	
PAs do not become independent providers.	
PAs continue to provide primary and specialty care services, including psychiatric care and medication-assisted therapy for substance use disorders.	
PA scope of practice is not expanded.	
PA continues to complete an online application and submit a practice agreement to the Board at the time of license application.	
PAs continue to work with physicians, and other healthcare professionals and consult, collaborate, and refer as needed.	
PAs are still required to notify the Board of legal actions taken against them (malpractice, convictions, etc...).	
PAs must continue to pass the PA National Certifying Exam administered by the National Commission on Certification of PAs prior to practicing as a PA.	