

GEORGIA ~ STATUTE

STATUTE	Georgia Code Annotated §16-13-21 (DEA registration); §43-34-100 et seq; §43-34-21 et seq (medical board provisions; PA committee)
DATE	Enacted 1972
REGULATORY BODY	Georgia Composite State Board of Medical Examiners
PA DEFINED	Skilled person qualified by academic and practical training to provide patient services not necessarily in physical presence but under personal direction or supervision of physician. §43-34-102
SCOPE OF PRACTICE	Medical practice act does not prohibit PA from performing as authorized by statute. §43-34-26(d) PA job description is document signed by primary supervising physician and PA which describes professional background and specialty of supervising physician, qualifications including related experience of PA and general description of how PA will be utilized in practice. Job description not required to contain every activity physician deems PA qualified to perform, but shall confine activities of PA to those in scope of practice of primary supervising physician. §43-34-102 PA may perform tasks described in job description upon notice of board's approval. Tasks not in job description may be performed under direct supervision and in presence of supervising physician. §43-34-105 PA allowed to perform duties only in principal offices of physician (public or private places or health facilities where physician regularly sees patients); not precluded from making house calls, hospital rounds, serving as ambulance attendant or performing any functions performed by supervising physician for which PA is qualified. §43-34-103 PA may perform any act deemed necessary to provide treatment to hospital or nursing home patient in a life-threatening situation when so authorized by standing procedures established by medical staff. §43-34-26.1
PRESCRIBING/DISPENSING	Physician may delegate to PA, in accordance with job description, the authority to order controlled substances from a formulary established by the board. PA may also order dangerous drugs, medical treatment, or diagnostic studies and dispense such drugs as an agent or employee of state or county public health agency or non-profit clinic if done at no cost to patient or at cost based solely on the patients' ability to pay. PA may also order and dispense to patients of a hospital outpatient clinic serving the medically disadvantaged. §43-34-26.1 Supervising physician may delegate authority to prescribe Schedule III-V controlled medications and all non-controlled drugs and devices. Such authority must be contained in approved job description. Prescription must contain name, address and telephone of supervising physician. Form must be signed by the PA using the language: "This prescription authorized through (supervising physician) by (PA), physician's assistant." PA must inform patients that they have the right to see the physician prior to prescription being issued. PA may not prescribe more than 30 day supply except in chronic illnesses where a 90 day supply may be ordered. PA may authorize refills up to 6 months from date of original prescription; 12 months for oral contraceptives or other drugs or devices approved by the board. Supervising physician must personally evaluate patients receiving prescription medications every 12 months; 3 months for patients receiving controlled substances. Copy of prescription must be maintained in patient's medical record. Supervising physician to countersign prescription or medical record entry for prescription within 7 working days. Supervising physician may delegate to a PA the authority to request, receive, and sign for professional samples and to distribute samples to patients. The office or facility at which the PA practices must keep on file a list of samples the PA is authorized to request, receive, and distribute; as well as a list of those samples and the dosage that are received and dispensed. §43-34-103 PAs delegated controlled substance prescribing authority must register with the DEA. §16-13-21
SUPERVISION DEFINED	No provision
PAs PER PHYSICIAN	No physician shall have more than 4 PAs licensed to him and may not supervise more than 2 PAs at a time. Physician may supervise up to 4 PAs in specified circumstances and settings (such as on call in a group practice) when acting as an alternate supervising physician. §43-34-103

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APPLICATION	Physician application for approval to utilize PA, with job description (description of physician's practice, way in which PA will be utilized, professional background and specialty of physician) plus data on PA. New job description may be submitted when PA, by reason of further education or experience and successfully passing additional test(s) as outlined and administered by board, becomes capable of performing wider range of medical tasks. §43-34-103
QUALIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good moral character• Evidence of competency (satisfactory completion of board-approved training program, finding by board-approved evaluation agency that PA qualified to perform tasks in job description). If not graduate, additional training and testing required• Satisfactory score on exam outlined, approved or administered by board §43-34-103
TEMPORARY PERMIT	Board may issue temporary permit to any applicant who meets qualifications except examination and is either waiting to take next scheduled exam or has taken exam and is awaiting results. Temporary permit expires upon notification of failure to pass exam. §43-34-103
TERMINATION	No provision
CONTINUING EDUCATION	Three hours biennially for prescribing PAs in practice-specific pharmaceuticals in which the PA has prescriptive privileges. §43-34-103
TITLE/PRACTICE PROTECTION	No provision
IDENTIFICATION	Any physician, clinic or hospital using PA shall post a notice to that effect in a prominent place. §43-34-106
PHYSICIAN LIABILITY	No provision
FEE/RENEWAL SCHEDULE	Established by board; no fee if PA is a state or county employee. §43-34-103
PROGRAM APPROVAL	No provision
BOARD REPRESENTATION/ ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Board shall appoint PA Advisory Committee composed of 4 physicians (at least 2 board members) and 4 licensed PAs who shall each serve 2-year terms. Committee reviews board matters relating to PAs, including but not limited to applicants for PA licensure and license renewal and education requirements therefor and proposed board regulations regarding PAs. Committee to make periodic recommendations. Committee shall appoint PA in advisory capacity to board, who shall serve at committee's pleasure as ex officio advisor to board in all PA matters, share in board privileges and benefits but without vote. §43-34-21
BOARD POWERS	All acts necessary to the efficient development of PAs, including promulgation of rules and regulations. §43-34-108
DISCIPLINARY POWERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Termination of approval to utilize PA• Revocation of license §43-34-107
VIOLATIONS/PENALTY	PA license revoked if guilty of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• incompetence• unethical or immoral acts• holding himself out or permitting another to represent him as licensed physician• performing other than at direction of a physician approved by board to utilize PA• habitually using intoxicants or drugs• being convicted of felony or other criminal offense involving moral turpitude §43-34-107
PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	No provision
GRANDFATHER CLAUSE	No provision
STUDENTS	No provision
LOCUM TENENS	No provision
OTHER	

GEORGIA ~ REGULATIONS

REGULATIONS	Rules of the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners Chapter 360-5 Amended "Physician's Assistants"; Chapter 480 (Board of Pharmacy regulations)
DATE	Revised 12/04
REGULATORY BODY	Georgia Composite State Board of Medical Examiners
PA DEFINED	The board has 2 general categories of job descriptions for licensure of PAs: primary care and anesthesiology assistant. §360-5-.02
SCOPE OF PRACTICE	<p>PA may perform only those tasks which are specified and for physician(s) named in job description currently on file and approved by board. Tasks outside job description may be performed under direct supervision, in presence of physician. Board will not approve any task which is experimental or investigational; acupuncture is deemed experimental. §360-5.04</p> <p>PA is not permitted to perform duties other than in principal offices and/or hospitals of supervising physician, which shall be those public or private places of health facilities where supervising physician regularly sees patients. PA not precluded from making house calls, hospital and nursing home rounds, or performing functions which PA is qualified to perform. §360-5.07</p> <p>PA may not be utilized to perform duties of pharmacist. §360-5.07</p> <p>PA may gather data base from a new patient or an established patient with a new problem and then shall transmit this information to physician. §360-5-.07</p>
PRESCRIBING/DISPENSING	<p>PA may order or select a drug, including a dangerous drug or a controlled substance, or order medical treatment or diagnostic study in any health care setting, provided (1) authority is delegated by supervising physician in accordance with job description; (2) controlled substances are selected from a board-approved formulary (formulary includes all scheduled drugs with the exception of Schedule I). Ordering or selecting a drug may include writing, telephoning or otherwise orally communicating. (Oral orders for Schedule II authorized only in an emergency.) PA may prepare written prescription for the physician's signature.</p> <p>PA may dispense non-controlled substances in suitable, properly labeled container provided PA is an agent or employee of state or county public health agency or nonprofit clinic. Dispensing must be done in accordance with written procedure signed by licensed physician and pharmacist. §360-5-.07</p> <p>PA may carry out a prescription drug or device order in any authorized health care setting provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• authority delegated by physician in approved job description and drug or device is one routinely prescribed by supervising physician• no more than 30 day supply prescribed, except in cases of chronic illness where 90 day supply may be ordered. Refills no longer than 6 months with the exception of 12 months for oral contraceptives or other drugs at board approval• physician evaluates patient receiving controlled substances every 3 months and patient receiving other prescription drugs or devices every 6 months• PA informs patients that they have the right to see physician prior to prescription being ordered. This must be documented in chart.• drug or device must be included in board approved formulary; this is defined as any legend drug and controlled substances in Schedules III-V• prescription contains name, address and phone number of supervising physician and form is signed using the statement that the prescription is authorized through (supervising physician) through (PA)• copy of prescription is maintained in the patient's medical file and supervising physician countersigns prescription or the medical record entry for prescription within 7 working days. §360-5.12 <p>All controlled substance prescription drug orders issued by a PA must bear the PA's name, address, telephone number and DEA number. Each prescription must be signed and dated on the day when issued. §480-22-03</p>
SUPERVISION DEFINED	<p>Except in life-threatening situations, supervising physician shall be readily available for personal supervision and shall be responsible for follow-up care. §360-5.07</p> <p>Physician may submit letter of intent to utilize PA in remote site (an office where physician is present at least 25% of the time) in an area with a shortage and maldistribution of health care services. In remote site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• supervising physician must be available for consultation either personally or via telecommunications

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physician must be physically present at least twice a week and review patient records daily • any patient seen on regular basis by PA must be scheduled to see physician at routine intervals • predetermined plan for the initial management and referral of emergencies must be submitted with job description • all entries made by PA in patient medical records must be co-signed by supervising physician(s) within 7 days. §360-5-.08
PAs PER PHYSICIAN	No physician shall have more than 4 PAs licensed to him or her at any one time. No physician may supervise more than 2 PAs at any one time except that physician may supervise more than 2 PAs while on call for solo practitioner or as member of a group practice, including but not limited to clinics, hospitals and other institutions. §360-5-.07
APPLICATION	By PA for license, includes medical qualifications and related experience. By physician, includes Basic Job Description and other tasks to be delegated; locations where PA will perform such tasks; remote site information if applicable. §360-5-.03
QUALIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good moral character as demonstrated by 2 references from licensed physicians other than supervising physician(s) who are personally acquainted with PA • Graduation from board-approved PA program • Passage of board-approved exam (board approves either NCCPA exam or NCCAA exam for graduates of approved anesthesia assistant programs) <p>Personal interviews may be required §360-5-.03</p>
TEMPORARY PERMIT	May be issued to applicants who have applied to take next available exam or have already taken exam and are awaiting results. Duties limited to those in basic job description approved by board. Permit expires upon notification of failure to pass exam. §360-5-.03
TERMINATION	Immediately upon termination of physician-PA relationship, both must notify board by certified mail. §360-5-.04
CONTINUING EDUCATION	Biennial requirement of 40 hours of Category I CME. PA s authorized to prescribe must have a minimum of 3 hours in practice-specific pharmaceuticals. Requirement waived for those with inactive licenses or for board-approved hardship. §360-5.10
TITLE/PRACTICE PROTECTION	No person shall practice as a PA without board approval. §360-5-.03
IDENTIFICATION	No PA shall be used in office of a physician or in a clinic or hospital unless a notice to that effect is posted therein in a prominent place. Posting of PA certificate issued by the board complies with this requirement. §360-5-.07 PA must clearly identify himself as such in order to insure that he is not mistaken by public as a licensed physician. PA must wear clearly legible identification name tag at all times, with words "physician's assistant" on tag. The PA is to be addressed as Mr., Mrs., Ms., or Miss. §360-5-.07
PHYSICIAN LIABILITY	Physician(s) who apply for or utilize a PA shall be responsible for any violation of the enumerated limitations on practice of a PA. §360-5-.07
FEE/RENEWAL SCHEDULE	PA license renewable biennially October through December of even-numbered years. §360-5-.06
PROGRAM APPROVAL	Board approves PA programs offered by accredited colleges or universities, 2 or more academic years in length. Standards for curriculum and instruction detailed in regulations. §360-5-.03
BOARD REPRESENTATION/ADVISORY COMMITTEE	[See statute]
BOARD POWERS	Adopt rules and perform all acts necessary, proper or incidental to the efficient development of PA. §360-5-.01
DISCIPLINARY POWERS	Board may refuse to grant or renew a license; suspend, limit, restrict, or revoke a license; impose a fine not to exceed \$500 for each violation; administer a private or public reprimand; place the licensee on probation and withhold formal disposition pending the licensee's or applicant's submission to care, counseling or board directed treatment. §360-5-.09
VIOLATIONS/PENALTY	Any of the provisions of O.C.G.A. 43-1-19 or 43-34-37, or unprofessional conduct (for PAs) as defined as practicing without supervision, performing duties outside job description, signing physician's signature on prescription. For physicians unprofessional conduct includes lack of appropriate supervision of PA and pre-signing prescriptions. §360-5-.09

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PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	All charges for services rendered by PA must be by and through the physician(s) named on currently approved application. §360-5-.07
GRANDFATHER CLAUSE	No provision
STUDENTS	No provision
LOCUM TENENS	No provision
OTHER	