



NURSE PRACTITIONERS & NURSE-MIDWIVES- SUPERVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

Legislation enacted during 2001-2002 Session

SB 111, Chapter 358 (Alpert) was signed by Governor Gray Davis on September 26, 2001 and becomes effective January 1, 2002. Per Business & Profession Code Section 2069(a)(1) and Health & Safety Code 1204 (A) & (B), a supervising physician and surgeon at a “community clinic” or “free clinic” may, at his or her discretion, in consultation with the nurse practitioner, nurse-midwife, or physician assistant provide written instructions to be followed by a medical assistant in the performance of tasks or supportive services. The written instructions may provide that the supervisory function for the medical assistant for these tasks or supportive services may be delegated to the nurse practitioner, nurse-midwife, or physician assistant and that tasks may be performed when the supervising physician and surgeon are not on site. This delegation to the nurse practitioner or nurse midwife is limited to those licensed clinics under Health and Safety Code 1204.

Background

Medical assistants are unlicensed personnel who perform non-invasive routine technical support services under the supervision of the physician and surgeon, or podiatrist in a medical office or clinic setting. The supervising physician and surgeon or podiatrist must be on the premises in order for the medical assistant to perform those non-invasive technical support services. The **exception** as outlined in the above paragraph where BPC Section 2069 (a)(1) and Health and Safety Code 1204 (A) community clinic and (B) “free clinic” where the physician and surgeon may delegate through written instructions that the nurse practitioner, nurse mid-wife, or physician assistant may provide the supervisory function for the medical assistant when the supervising physician is not on site.

For information regarding medical assistant please use the Medical Board of California website:
http://www.mbs.ca.gov/allied/medical_assistants.html

Medical Board of California information includes:

- *Medical assistants may obtain “certified” status through private agencies approved by Medical Board of California.
- *A list of “Frequently Asked Question” addressing the appropriate training, supervision, and scope of practice issues is available to assist members of the public and profession to understand the role of medical assistant within the health care system.
- *A copy of the Business and Profession Code, Health and Safety Code, and the California Code of Regulations relating to the scope of practice of medical assistants in the State of California, may be obtained from the Medical Board of California website: http://www.mbs.ca.gov/allied/medical_assistants.html