



Joint Commission
an Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

August 8, 2000

Sharon Kulesz
American Academy of Physician's Assistants
950 North Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1552

Dear Ms. Kulesz:

The following is from an old clarification that was retired in April since it seemed to no longer be an issue for the field.

Can physician's assistants, nurse practitioners and other licensed health care professionals perform the medical assessment, reassessment and other functions required by the Joint Commission standards? Does this apply to the Veterans Administration Medical Center facilities also?

The Joint Commission standards do not prohibit nurse practitioners, and other licensed independent health care practitioners, and physician's assistants from performing any tasks required of the physician by the standards provided law and regulation and the organization's policies and procedures allow for it.

When allowed by laws and regulations and the facilities policies and procedures the following caveats are met:

- the individual is appropriately trained and determined to be competent to perform the assessment
- the individual is appropriately credentialed and as applicable, privileged
- the individual performing the assessment documents the findings as the author of entry and signs and dates the document prior to review by the physician
- the physician reviews the assessment, as appropriate, confirms the findings, and authenticates the document.

Sharon K. Kulesz, PA-C
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This interpretation applies to all facilities including Veterans Administrative Medical Center facilities.

If you have additional questions please call me at 630-792-5908.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Herringer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

John Herringer
Associate Director
Standards Interpretation Group
Division of Accreditation Operations

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