

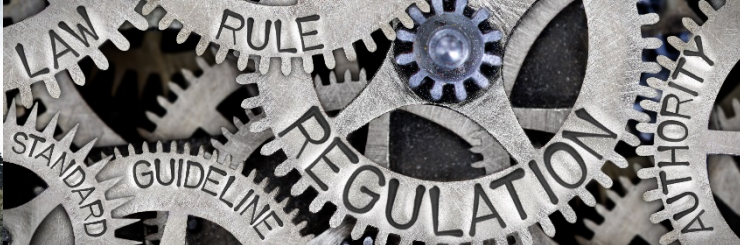


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# Changes to Physician Assistant Practice in WA June 16, 2021

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# Before We Begin



## Questions

Questions will be answered at the end. You can submit a question at any time through the question module.



## Tech Issues

Look for the 'Help' button at the top of the webinar control panel.



## Presentation

The slide deck and presentation recording will be available on our website within the next few days.



## Stay Connected

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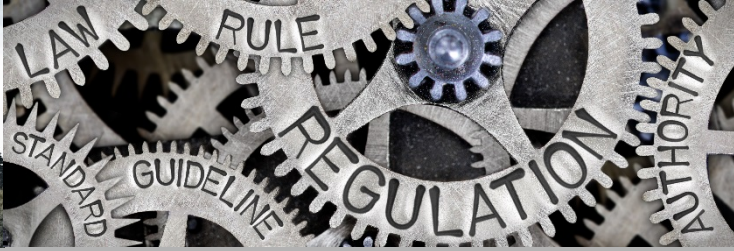
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# Agenda

- Practice Agreements
- Remote Sites
- Supervision
- Osteopathic PA Changes
- What are the long terms implications for your practice?



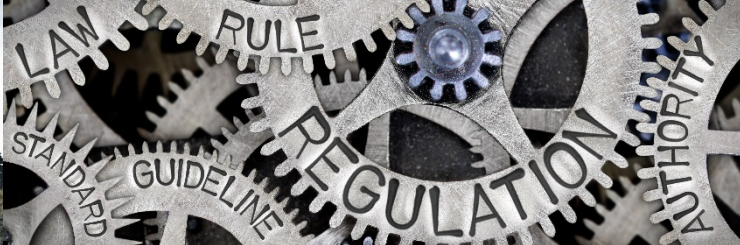
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# What's New?

- Substitute HB 2378
  - Changes to Chapter 18.71A RCW
- Rulemaking
  - Current stage: submitted to Secretary of Health
  - Anticipated effective date: September 2021
- Temporary overlap – new law, old rules, (July 1 ~Sept)



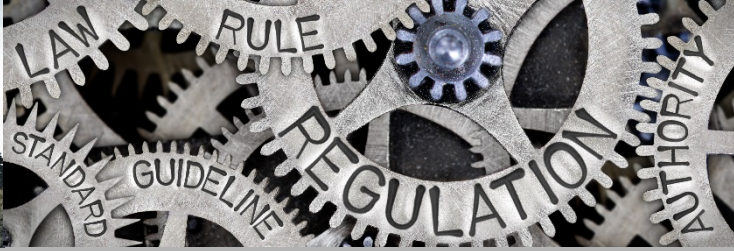
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# Practice Agreements

- Delegation agreements are now called Practice Agreements
- WMC will no longer approve Practice Agreements for a PA to begin practicing.
- A copy of the completed/signed practice agreement must be sent to the WMC to keep on file.
  - We have an online portal that acts as a “one stop shop” that will send the completed practice agreement to the PA and the WMC.
- WMC must be notified when the practice arrangement has been terminated.
  - There is a termination form on our website to complete this.



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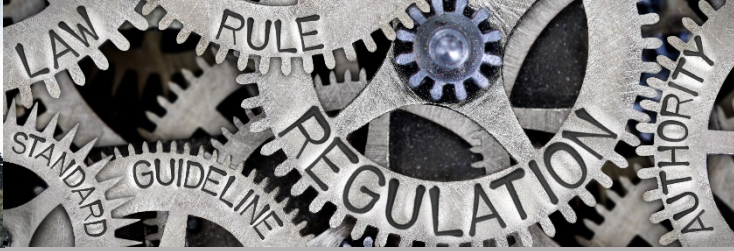


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# Practice Agreement Requirements

The practice agreement may be in a format of your choosing, but must include:

- The duties and responsibilities of the physician assistant, the supervising physician, and alternate physicians.
- Describe supervision requirements for specified procedures or areas of practice.
- A process between the physician assistant and supervising physician or alternate physicians for communication, availability, and decision making when providing medical treatment to a patient.
- If there is only one physician party to the practice agreement, a protocol for designating an alternate physician for consultation in situations in which the physician is not available.
- The signature of the physician assistant and signature(s) of the supervising physician.
- A termination provision.



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# Remote Sites

- WMC no longer needs to approve PA practice in remote sites.
- If the PA has a limited license (interim permit) they are permitted to practice in a remote site pursuant to a procedure outline in the practice agreement.



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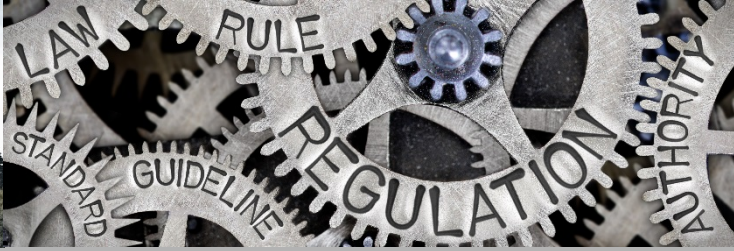


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# Physician Supervision

- A physician assistant may have more than one supervising physician if the practice agreement is entered into with a group of physicians and the language of the practice agreement designates the supervising physicians.
- Physician limits are outlined as “No more “than the physician is able to adequately supervise.”
- Current max 5 PAs per physician
  - **New limit 10, with waiver provision (effective July 1)**
- Current max 3 PAs working at remote sites
  - **New statute – no limit**



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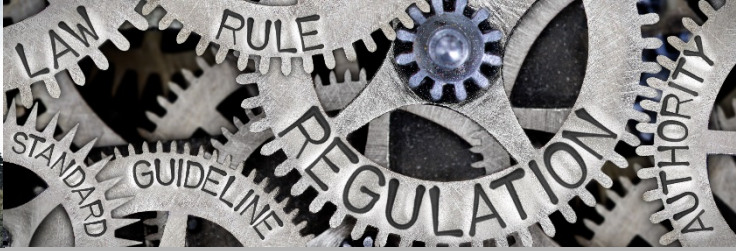
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# Osteopathic PAs

- No new DO.PA licenses will be provided after July 1, 2021.
- When it is time to renew your DO.PA license, you will renew with the WMC and receive a PA.PA license.
  - You are then on a 2-year renewal cycle.
- You do not need to have a separate license to work with a DO.



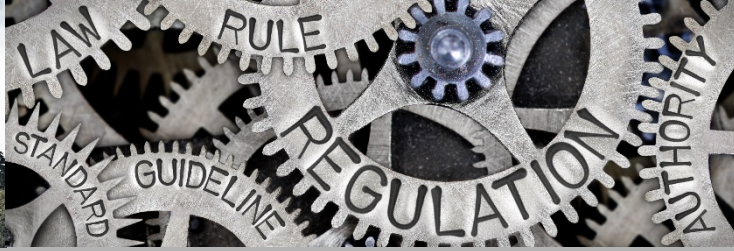
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# Long Term Implications

- One license type
- Broader supervision
- Less oversight
- Get to work faster



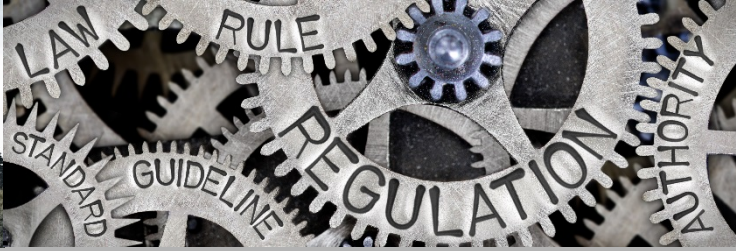
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# FAQ



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# How long do I have to wait to begin practicing?

- Assuming you have a place of employment and a practice agreement on file with the WMC... you do not have to wait. You can begin practicing as soon as the practice agreement has been sent to the WMC.



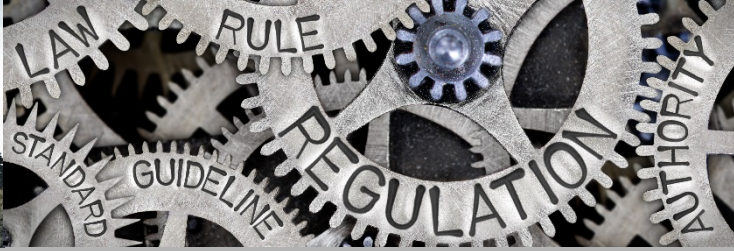
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# Do I need to file a new Practice Agreement?

- No
- Everyone with a valid practice agreement as of July 1, 2021 will be grandfathered in.
- If the scope of duties have not changed, you can keep your 'old' practice agreement.
- You will need to file an amendment when you have your new license number.



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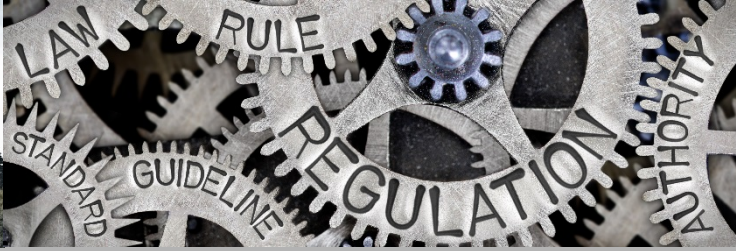


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# Do I need to find a MD supervising physician?

- No
- A supervising physician or alternate physician can be either a DO or MD.



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# I practice telemedicine...Is there anything I need to be aware of?

- Yes - RCW 43.70.495
- Beginning **January 1, 2021**, and **no later than June 30, 2021**, PAs who offer telemedicine services to patients must complete telemedicine training.
- To learn more about the different training options available and access additional FREE resources, please visit the [Washington State Telehealth Collaborative Training webpage](#).
- The [law](#) refers to the definition of telemedicine as “the delivery of health care services through the use of interactive audio and video technology, permitting real-time communication between the patient at the originating site and the provider, for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation, or treatment.”



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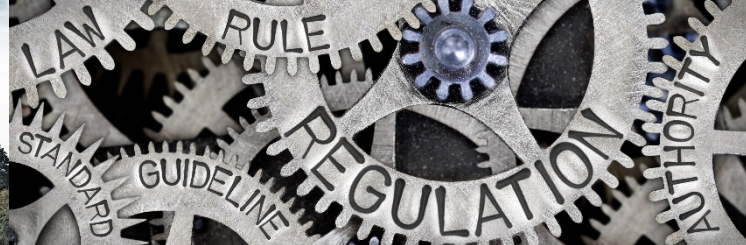


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# Thank You!



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