

Physician Assistant Scope of Practice: State by State

Key Elements of State Regulation of Physician Assistants:

- “Licensure” used as the Regulatory Term
- Full Prescriptive Authority
- Is Scope of Practice determined at the Practice Level?
- Are there Adaptable Collaboration Requirements?
- Are Co Signature Requirements Determined at the Practice Level?
- Is there a limit on the number of PAs a Physician Can Oversee?

The boundaries of each PA’s scope of practice are determined by four parameters, and vary state to state:

- Education and experience
 - State law
 - Facility policy
 - Supervising physician’s delegatory decisions
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Alabama

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: No

Alaska

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: No

Arizona

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician can oversee no more than FOUR PA’s at one time

Arkansas

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: No; PA’s are not authorized to prescribe Schedule II medications

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes, in compliance with Board Policy

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: No

California

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician can oversee no more than FOUR PA’s at one time.

Colorado

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician can oversee no more than FOUR PA's at one time.

Connecticut

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes
Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee as many as, but not more than, six PA's concurrently, or the part time equivalent thereof.

Delaware

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes
Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than FOUR PA's at one time

Florida

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes
Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than FOUR PA's at one time

Georgia

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: No; Formulary of the Board
Scope of Practice Determination: Determined by State Medical Board
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than FOUR PA's at one time

Hawaii

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes
Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than FOUR PA's at one time

Idaho

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes
Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than FOUR PA's at one time

Illinois

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; a physician can oversee no more than TWO PA's at one time

Indiana

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than TWO PA's at one time

Iowa

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: No; PA's may prescribe Schedule II medications, excluding depressants

Scope of Practice Determination: Determined by law

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No, determined by law

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than TWO PA's at one time

Kansas

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than THREE PA's at one time

Kentucky

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: No; A PA may not prescribe OR administer Scheduled drugs

Scope of Practice Determination: Determined by law

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than FOUR PA's at one time

Louisiana

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than TWO PA's at one time. A Physician acting as a Locum Tenens Supervisor may oversee no more than FOUR PA'S at one time.

Maine

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: No

Maryland

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes
Scope of Practice Determination: Determined by law
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than FOUR PA's at one time. Limitation does not apply to PAs practicing in hospitals, correctional facilities, detention centers, or public health facilities.

Massachusetts

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes
Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: No

Michigan

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes
Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: No

Minnesota

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes
Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: No

Mississippi

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes
Scope of Practice Determination: Determined by law
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: No

Missouri

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: No; PA's with a certificate of controlled substance prescriptive authority may prescribe Schedule III – V medications with restricted authority in Schedule II when delegated in a supervision agreement.
Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than THREE PA's at one time. Limitation does not apply to Physicians supervising hospital employed PA's.

Montana

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes
Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: No

Nebraska

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than TWO PA's at one time. Board may grant exceptions.

Nevada

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes
Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than THREE PA'S or APRN's at one time. Board may grant exceptions.

New Hampshire

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes
Scope of Practice Determination: Yes
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; a Physician may oversee no more than FOUR PA's at one time

New Jersey

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes
Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; a Physician may oversee no more than FOUR PA's at one time

New Mexico

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes
Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No provision
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: No

North Carolina

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes
Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: No

North Dakota

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes
Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes
Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA
Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes
Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes
Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: No

Ohio

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than THREE PA's at one time. Limitation does not apply to services performed in a hospital.

Oklahoma

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: No; Board defines scope

Scope of Practice Determination: Determined by law

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than FOUR PA's at one time, unless he or she is a Medical Director or supervising physician of a state institution.

Oregon

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: No

Pennsylvania

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: Determined by law

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than FOUR PA's at one time

Rhode Island

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: No

South Carolina

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: Determined by law

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than THREE PA's at one time. Board may grant exceptions.

South Dakota

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; Oversight of more than ONE PA requires application and approval of the board. The board may establish the number of PA's (up to FOUR full time employed) to be overseen by a Physician upon determination that adequate supervision will exist under the Physician's proposed arrangement.

Tennessee

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: No

Texas

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than a combined number of SEVEN APRN's and PA's, or the full time equivalent of SEVEN APRN's and PA'S

Utah

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than FOUR PA's at one time. Board may grant exceptions.

Vermont

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: No

Virginia

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: Determined by law

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than SIX PA's at one time

Washington

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: Determined by law

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than THREE PA's working remotely, or more than the physician can adequately supervise. Board may grant exceptions.

West Virginia

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: No; State imposes restrictions on prescribing Controlled Substances and certain other classes of drugs. Schedule III drugs may be prescribed with limitations on supply and refill.

Scope of Practice Determination: Determined by law

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: No; determined by law

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: No; determined by law

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than FIVE PA's at one time; exceptions apply for physicians or PA's employed by or on behalf of a hospital.

Wisconsin

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: Determined by law

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: No

Wyoming

Licensure as the Regulatory Term: Yes

Full Prescriptive Authority: Yes

Scope of Practice Determination: On site between Physician and PA

Adaptable Supervision Requirements: Yes

Co Signature Requirements Determined at Practice Level: Yes

Limit on Number of PAs a Physician Can Supervise: Yes; A physician may oversee no more than THREE PA's at one time. Board may grant exceptions