

# Georgia Composite Medical Board

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## Physician Assistants

The following changes have been incorporated into the updated Form F - Basic Job Description Physician Assistant Primary Care which is available on the Board's website. Please do not use the website's search function, please visit the PA information page: <https://medicalboard.georgia.gov/pa-initial-addchange-and-reinstatement-licensure-application-information> to access the new form.

If your supervising physician is **not** going to authorize you to perform these new delegable duties, then you do not need to take any action.

If your supervising physician **is** going to authorize you to perform these new delegable duties, then you will need to file a new job description. If a PA is in an existing job description and needs to update it the new version, with no changes to supervising or alternate physicians, there will be no fee associated with the submission. If any changes are being made to the supervising physician, then the \$75 add/change fee will apply.

### HB 557 Changes

- O.C.G.A. § 43-34-103(e.1)(1)(B) creates a new delegable authority related to specific Schedule II Controlled Substances.
  - Issuance of prescription drug orders for hydrocodone, oxycodone, or compounds thereof in emergency situations of:
    - PA has at least one-year post-licensure clinical experience,
    - PA is in good standing with the Georgia Composite Medical Board,
    - Authorization is specifically included in the PA job description,
    - PA has directly evaluated the patient,
    - The prescription drug order is limited to an initial prescription, not to exceed a five-day supply,
    - The patient is 18 years of age or older, and
    - Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-34-103(e.1)(10)(B) The PA completes one hour of continuing education biennially in the appropriate ordering and use of hydrocodone, oxycodone, and compounds thereof.
  - IMPORTANT NOTES:
    - This will require a change to the PA's DEA registration, which currently only permits the prescribing of Schedule III – V controlled substances.
    - This will require the PA to take a continuing education course.
    - This will require the supervising physician to verify that the PA meets the listed requirements and abides by the limited circumstances in which this is permitted.
- New Automatic Approval Upon Submission Process
  - O.C.G.A. § 43-34-103(c)(3) is unapplicable as all job descriptions are between a PA and a supervising physician; there are no PA job descriptions held by a medical practice.
  - O.C.G.A. § 43-34-103(c)(4) the submission of a job description under this new code section will essentially remain the same, except **the new submission will be required to contain a copy of the substantially similar approved job description.** Although “automatically deemed approved” upon submission, the new submission will still be reviewed for compliance with the laws and medical practice standards.
    - IMPORTANT NOTE: This new code section does not change the requirement that all job descriptions must be submitted to the Board for review, nor does it eliminate payment of the associated fee(s).

## **HB 1046 Changes**

### Death Certificates

- O.C.G.A. §§ 43-34-23 and 43-34-103(j)
  - Physicians may now add the delegation of signing death certificates to PA job descriptions. This delegation must be specifically stated in the job descriptions.
  - IMPORTANT NOTE: For any previously approved or pending job descriptions, a new Form F will need to be signed and filed.
  - Per the requirement in § 43-34-23, the PA must also complete biennial continuing education regarding the recognition and documentation of the causes of death and appropriate execution of death certificates as approved by the Board.

### Limits

- O.C.G.A. § 43-34-103(b)(1)
  - A delegating physician will be limited to entering and supervising “the combined equivalent of eight” APRN protocol agreements and PA job descriptions at any one time.
  - Previously, a delegating physician was limited to four APRNs and four PAs at any one time. Now the physician will get to determine the appropriate ratio based on their practice needs. The exceptions to the limit contained in subsection (b)(4) still apply.