

P.A. written orders

Legislation was passed to provide that registered nurses will execute written orders by a Physician Assistant that are within the scope of practice. We can report that this is a solid scope expansion and role clarification for the profession (SB 428).

P.A. certification of student athlete health

In a second scope expansion, legislation was passed (SB 456) that provides new training to athletic coaches to recognize when a student athlete may have suffered a concussion. The bill provides new authority for Physician Assistants to examine and certify that an athlete is ready to rejoin the team and participate in contact sports.

P.A. reports on reports on impaired drivers

In another recognition of the important role Physician Assistants play in ensuring the health and safety of patients, legislation was enacted (SB 414) that specifically references practitioners as having authority to report a patient to the Department of Motor Vehicles when the individual appears incapable of driving safely due to a medical condition. The same bill also includes a rewrite of the handicapped placard law— Physician Assistants retain current authority to certify a patient's need for a placard.

P.A. inclusion in charity care

Legislation was passed (HB 5452) that permits out-of-state practitioners—including Physician Assistants—to come into Connecticut and treat at medical charity or sporting events such as Mission of Mercy or the Special Olympics