

INSIDER



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Message from Board Member Jed Grant, PA-C

As we celebrated Independence Day this year, I reflected on this holiday and what it means to me, our nation, and the physician assistant (PA) profession. When the founders of our great nation sent King George the Declaration of Independence 246 years ago, they didn't know exactly what would happen, and it took six years to determine the outcome of that proclamation. The PA profession started similarly—a good idea from a doctor at Duke University and three former corpsmen/medics to an outcome that has proven over time to be a great idea—there are more than 140,000 practicing PAs across the United States delivering high-quality care in all types of medical specialties. The concept of a physician/PA team was revolutionary at the time and even today is sometimes challenged as the profession continues to mature.

I spent my last Independence Day in Baghdad with my supervising physician while on a military deployment. As a military-trained PA, my first experiences with supervising physicians were important for mentoring and shaping how to approach problems while also allowing me wide latitude and broad scope. Military PAs often work many miles away from their supervising physicians and must be able to make timely critical decisions independently. They knew that I needed to be able to function autonomously, with guidance when needed, and trained me to think independently to accomplish the mission. Most importantly, I had to know what I did not know—when to evacuate a patient or ask for help. Later in the Emergency Department, those same principles served me well with my various supervising physicians, who taught me little

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From the left: Major Jed Grant, Aeromedical PA, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, and Colonel Brian Goldsmith, Brigade Surgeon, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, on July 4, 2021, in Baghdad, Iraq.

Physician Assistant Board
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— MISSION —

Protect and serve consumers through licensing, education, and objective enforcement of the physician assistant laws and regulations.

— VISION —

Assure that health care needs for all people are met in a compassionate, competent, and culturally sensitive manner.

— JURISDICTION —

The Physician Assistant Board's jurisdiction includes physician assistants.

The Board's jurisdiction does not include physicians (M.D.s), licensed midwives, polysomnographic trainees, technicians and technologists, and research psychoanalysts and student research psychoanalysts, chiropractors, dentists, health maintenance organizations, hospitals, insurance companies, malpractice actions/civil lawsuits, Medi-Cal, Medicare, nurses (R.N., N.P., FNP), optometrists, or osteopathic physicians (DOs).

The Board also has no authority over a medical provider's attitude, bedside manner, demeanor, office staff, prices charged, or refund disputes with a medical provider unless there is a double payment by the insurance company. The Board cannot assist consumers in obtaining medical care or financial compensation for medical malpractice.

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things every day but gave me great latitude in the care of my patients. When correctly applied, the physician/PA team is very effective: The physician is there when needed for consultation but allows the PA to work efficiently without undue restrictions. I have learned so much from my collaboration with supervising physicians, and now that I am older, often working with less experienced physicians, that

collaboration often goes both ways. A strong physician/PA team makes this profession successful and good for patients. So sometimes you travel hundreds of miles to hang out with your doc on the Fourth of July to share a piece of cake and a non-alcoholic beer in a tent in a foreign land—because the relationship is that important.

Stay Connected

PAB is on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and utilizes them for all the latest PAB information including upcoming meeting reminders, information about the profession, COVID-19-related updates and reminders, information regarding waivers issued by the director of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), alerts of disciplinary action taken against licensees, proposed regulatory updates, and job announcements.

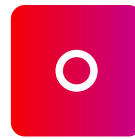
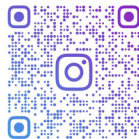
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What is the Physician Assistant Board?

The Physician Assistant Board (PAB) is a government agency within the Department of Consumer Affairs. PAB serves and protects consumers of California through licensing and enforcement of the laws governing the Physician Assistant Practice Act.



Pocket License Change as of July

As of July 1, PAB no longer issues plastic pocket licenses upon initial licensure or renewal. The Board approved this proposal at its May 9 meeting to reduce its environmental footprint and to provide immediate access to real-time and accurate license information by verifying a license online. Licensees will continue to receive a printout of a pocket license to carry with them if they choose. However, PAB strongly encourages the use of electronic services to verify a licensee's status and/or any enforcement action taken on a license.

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) License Search database is updated in real-time as a license is renewed, or any time the status is changed. An easy access "License Search" button is available on the home page of the PAB website (www.pab.ca.gov) by clicking on "Verify a License." Consumers, employers, or any interested parties can verify the license status online at any time. License status can change any time during a two-year licensing period. The status can change from active to inactive, inactive to active, or retired, and licensees can be disciplined, which could have an immediate effect on their license status. If PAB staff updates the status of a license in the BreEZe system, it is reflected immediately online, and the pocket license becomes invalid. For these reasons, the online license verification system has become the optimal license verification source for consumer protection.



Do We Have Your Email Address?

Licensees are required to provide PAB with an email address if the licensee has one. Email is an efficient channel for sharing information between PAB and its applicants and licensees. PAB will be able to communicate the status of applications, renewals, and requests for various PAB services; provide law and regulation updates; and disseminate important PAB news directly to each applicant and licensee. PAB hopes this accelerated delivery and

exchange of information will decrease processing times in all aspects of the PAB's programs and facilitate licensees keeping apprised of laws and regulations, and PAB activities. You can submit/update your email address using BreEZe or submit your physical address change with BreEZe. You may also submit your email address in writing to the PAB office—please include your name and license number.

Become a Board Member

Board members collectively provide oversight and direction. Board members make important decisions on agency policies and on disciplinary actions against professionals who violate state consumer protection laws. Board members approve regulations and help guide licensing, enforcement, public education, and consumer protection activities. Some board members are licensed professionals themselves, while many others are public members. Governor Gavin Newsom appoints many board members, but the Legislature makes appointments as well. For more information and how to apply, view our informational bulletin at https://pab.ca.gov/forms_pubs/board_member.pdf.

CAPACon 2022

PAB attended the annual conference hosted by the California Academy of Physician Assistants (CAPA) during Physician Assistant Week in Carlsbad. CAPACon is for general medicine and specialty PAs that encompasses clinical lectures and hands-on workshops for a total of 48 possible Category 1 continuing medical education (CME) credits. Our staff was available to answer any questions licensees and students had and to hand out updated laws and regulations material. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to attend this exceptional event.

Students from PA schools across California took part in the annual Student Challenge Bowl hosted by CAPA. Each PA school assigned a team captain and two other team members to represent their schools. Teams faced off against each other, two at a time in bracket format, culminating in a final winner.



From left: Board Member Jed Grant, Executive Officer Rozana Khan, Legislative and Regulatory Specialist Jasmine Dhillon, and Complaint Analyst Armando Melendez.



Students from Chapman University who won this year's Student Challenge Bowl.



Judges of this year's Student Challenge Bowl, from left: Physician Assistant Board Member Vasco Deon Kidd, PA-C; Jeremy Meis, PA-C, MPH; and Eric Glassman, PA-C, MHS.

Controlled Substances Education Course

Senate Bill 697 (Chapter 707, Statutes of 2018) became effective in 2020 and made numerous changes to the Physician Assistant Practice Act, which provides for licensure and regulation of physician assistants by PAB.

One of the changes impacted Business and Professions Code section 3502.1(e)(3) that states a PA who holds an active license, who is authorized through a practice agreement to furnish Schedule II controlled substances, and who is registered with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and who has not successfully completed a one-time course in compliance with Title 16, sections 1399.610 and 1399.612 of the California Code of Regulations, as those provisions read in 2019, shall complete, as part of their continuing education requirement, a course that covers Schedule II controlled substances, and the risks of addiction associated with their use, based on the standards developed by PAB.

This one change has generated many questions, and in hopes of eliminating misinterpretation of the law and to clarify how the above-referenced change impacts you as a licensee, please review the answers to the most frequently asked questions:

- Q:** Do I have to complete the controlled substance education course prior to registering with DEA to obtain my DEA license?
- A:** No. The controlled substance education course is a license renewal requirement and doesn't impact your ability to register with DEA if you have not completed the course.
- Q:** Do I have to complete the controlled substance education course if I am not registered with DEA and/or authorized through a practice agreement to furnish Schedule II controlled substances?
- A:** No. If at the time of renewal, you are not authorized through a practice agreement to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances and/or hold an active DEA license, you are not required to complete the controlled substance education course.
- Q:** Does a continuing medical education (CME) specific to opioids or the MAT Waiver fulfill the controlled substance education course requirement?
- A:** No. While many opioid CME courses do qualify for CAT 1 CMEs, they do not meet many of the requirements of section 1399.610 of Title 16, California Code of Regulations. The MAT Waiver is required to obtain a DEA waiver to prescribe buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid use disorder and does not fulfill the requirements of section 1399.610 of Title 16, California Code of Regulations.
- Q:** What is the date that the controlled substance education course was first offered?
- A:** It was first offered in 2008.
- Q:** What if I don't remember taking the controlled substance education course?
- A:** Licensees were not required to file a copy of their controlled substance course certificate with PAB prior to 2020; therefore, the Board may not have a copy of the certificate on file to confirm whether you have completed the course. Please check with the approved providers to see if they have a record of you completing the course and can provide you with a certificate of completion. For a list of approved education course providers please visit https://pab.ca.gov/licensees/csec_info.shtml.
- Q:** Can I renew my license if I am unable to complete the course prior to the expiration date of my license?
- A:** Yes. You must complete the course prior to the expiration date of your next renewal and may furnish or order Schedule II or III controlled substances in accordance with the practice agreement or a patient-specific order approved by the treating or supervising physician.
- Q:** How do I know if PAB has a copy of my certificate of completion on file?
- A:** Visit the DCA License Search web page (<https://search.dca.ca.gov>) to view your licensing details. The controlled substance education course certificate of completion will show as a "Qualification" if the certificate is on file with PAB.

Meet Our Staff

Julie Caldwell, Lead Licensing Analyst

1. How long have you worked for PAB?

Since 2012.

2. What is your favorite food/cuisine?

I love Mexican food, chicken salads, and omelets.

3. When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

An actress and a mom.

4. What are your hobbies or what do you like to do in your spare time?

I love baking, meal prepping, paper crafting, walking the family dog, and playing games.

5. What is the most exciting place you've traveled to and why?

I traveled to Canada when I was about 16. Canada was hosting the World Fair and it was a huge event filled with so much culture, food, traditions, clothing, etc. We also visited the Butchart Gardens that still ranks as one of the most beautiful places I have seen.

6. What is the furthest place you've traveled to?

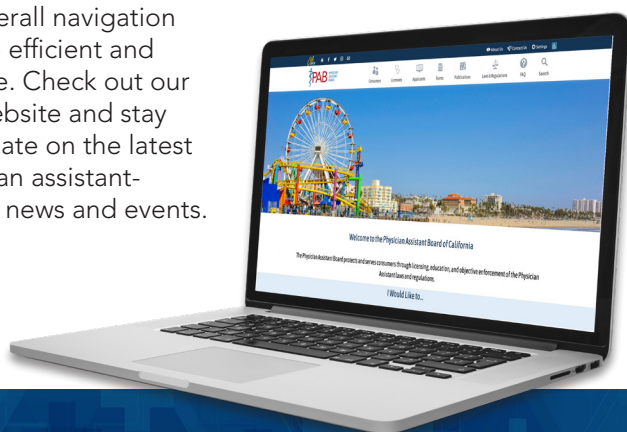
Hawaii. My husband and I traveled to Hawaii around our 5th wedding anniversary. I am not a fan of flying but it was worth the anxiety. He somehow even talked me into riding on a helicopter. We have never been back, but I would love to return one day. I will soon be traveling to Ireland with my parents and sisters. I am very excited about soaking in the culture, traditions, food, and landscape.

7. What does the lead licensing analyst do?

My role as the lead licensing analyst is to direct the activities involved with processing applications. The licensing unit currently has two staff members, myself and my licensing analyst, and it is my responsibility to evaluate the work performance of our analyst to ensure projects are completed efficiently and effectively. I review the most complex applications to make recommendations for probation or denial for applicants who do not meet the requirements for a free and clear license. I work closely with PA programs and professional organizations providing guidance and assistance with understanding the application process and laws and regulations. This helps to prevent undue delays in the issuance of a license. I prepare data for quarterly board meetings, annual reports, and oversee medical and controlled substances education course audits. I love being involved with outreach, primarily when we have an opportunity to speak with students graduating from a program. I am always looking for ways to improve the Licensing Unit's processes.

We've Launched our New Website!

PAB completely redesigned its website and went live in August. This new website has a new look, full of improved features to make it easier to find what you want. Frequently visited pages and important information are now easier to locate and overall navigation is more efficient and intuitive. Check out our new website and stay up to date on the latest physician assistant-related news and events.



Outreach: School Presentations

PAB has created a School Presentation Application which is a fillable PDF available on PAB's website (www.pab.ca.gov). This application furthers PAB's outreach attempts as a method for California schools to express interest in a presentation from PAB. You can find the application by clicking "Forms" on the PAB homepage, and a link to the application is located under "Outreach." The application is available at: https://pab.ca.gov/forms_pubs/school_presentation_application.pdf

Administrative Actions–Citations

A Citation and Fine is an administrative action by which PAB may address relatively minor violations of the Physician Assistant Practice Act that would not necessarily warrant discipline. Citation and Fines are NOT disciplinary actions but are matters of public record. Citations remain on a licensee’s file for five years and are then purged. By law, payment of a fine is considered satisfactory resolution of all violations contained in the citation.

NAME AND CITY	LICENSE NO.	ACTION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Blaed J. Gerhart Cheyney, PA	PA 54149	Citation Issued	05/05/2022

Administrative Actions–Discipline

PAB regulates the profession of physician assistants through the enforcement of the Physician Assistant Practice Act. The following summary indicates administrative actions taken against licensees for violations of the Act.

Although every effort is made to ensure the following details are correct, before you make any decision based on this information, obtain a copy of the action in its entirety, including terms and conditions. You can download the copy through the Department of Consumer Affairs License Search page at <https://search.dca.ca.gov>.

NAME AND CITY	LICENSE NO.	ACTION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Jon Eason Perry Roswell, NM	PA 22153	License Revoked	04/01/2022
Stephen James Grant Chico, CA	PA 13240	License Surrendered	05/20/2022
Sarah Joi Newman Cave Junction, OR	PA 18737	License Surrendered	05/31/2022
Christopher Pilaczynski Angwin, CA	PA 18727	License Reinstated and placed on Three Years’ Probation	06/02/2022
Larissa Jean Poles San Marcos, CA	PA 20111	License Reinstated and placed on Five Years’ Probation	06/17/2022
Elsie Belinda Taylor Herlong, CA	PA 17921	License Revoked	07/15/2022
Ngan Kim Tran San Jose, CA	PA 22668	Five Years’ Probation	07/15/2022
Jennifer Marie Edwards Los Angeles, CA	PA 14956	License Surrendered	08/23/2022

