

**BOARD OF MEDICINE: 2009 SCOPE OF PRACTICE:
A COMPARISON OF FLORIDA HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS**

PROFESSIONS	SUMMARY
Anesthesiologist Assistant	Anesthesiologist Assistants are often referred to as AAs. They are graduates of an approved program who are licensed to perform medical services delegated and directly supervised by an anesthesiologist. Anesthesiologists are physicians (MDs or DOs) who specialize in the relief of pain during and after surgical procedures and childbirth, during certain chronic disease processes, and during resuscitation and critical care of patients in the operating room and intensive care environments. AAs may not prescribe legend or controlled substance medication.
Medicine - Medical Doctor	Medical Doctors, are often referred to as MDs. They are licensed to practice in all areas of health care that are concerned with the diagnosis, treatment, operation, or prescription for any human disease, pain, injury, deformity, or other physical or mental condition. MDs may prescribe legend and, if holding a valid DEA registration, controlled substance medication. MDs provide indirect supervision to Physician Assistants. Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNP) practice under a written protocol with an MD or an Osteopathic Medical Doctor (D.O).
Medicine - House Physician	A House Physician has a limited medical practice. They may only practice while employed by a Florida licensed hospital under the direct supervision of an MD or DO. These licensees assist in conducting the professional work of the hospital by writing histories, doing and recording physical examinations, performing laboratory work, and such other functions as the medical staff

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	feels are within the house physician's capabilities. House Physicians may not prescribe legend or controlled substance medication.
Medicine - Limited License Medical Doctor	These MDs practice medicine as described above under Medical Doctor; however, MDs licensed under this provision must have been licensed to practice medicine in any jurisdiction for at least 10 years, and may only practice in the employment of public agencies or institutions or nonprofit agencies or institutions meeting the requirements of s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, located in areas of critical medical need as determined by the Board. If a physician has not fully retired in all states, or has not practiced medicine within 3 years, other restrictions apply.
Medicine – Medical Assistant	<p>Medical Assistant (MA) is not a licensed profession. An MA is a professionally multi-skilled person who assists in limited aspects of medical practice under the direct supervision and responsibility of a physician. These limited tasks include assisting with: patient care management, administrative and clinical procedures, and managerial and supervisory functions. Competence in the field also requires that a medical assistant adhere to ethical and legal standards of professional practice, recognize and respond to emergencies, and demonstrate professional characteristics. Under the direct supervision and responsibility of a licensed physician, a medical assistant may undertake the following duties:</p> <p>(a) Performing Clinical Procedures, to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performing aseptic procedures. 2. Taking vital signs. 3. Preparing patients for the physician's care. 4. Performing venipunctures and non-

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	intravenous injections. 5. Observing and reporting patients' signs or symptoms. (b) Administering basic first aid. (c) Assisting with patient examination or treatments. (d) Operating office medical equipment. (e) Collecting routine laboratory specimens as directed by the physician. (f) Administering medication as directed by the physician. (g) Performing basic laboratory procedures. (h) Performing office procedures including all general administrative duties required by the physician. (i) Performing dialysis procedures, including home dialysis. MAs may not prescribe legend or controlled substances.
Medicine - Medical Doctor Area Critical Need	These MDs practice medicine as described above under Medical Doctor; however, to be licensed pursuant to this section, these MDs must have a current, valid license from another state and may only practice in certain designated, approved facilities located in communities of Florida where there is a critical need for physicians.
Medicine - Medical Doctor Limited to Cleveland Clinic	These MDs practice medicine as described above under Medical Doctor; however, these MDs may only practice in the Cleveland Clinic or its affiliated facilities in Florida.
Medicine – Temporary certificate for visiting physicians to practice in approved cancer centers	A certificate holder under this provision may practice medicine as described above under Medical Doctor; however, only for a 1 year period under direct supervision of a medical doctor in a board-approved cancer center under the International Cancer Center Visiting Physician Program.

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Medicine - Temporary certificate for visiting physicians to obtain medical privileges for instructional purposes in conjunction with certain plastic surgery training programs and plastic surgery educational symposiums	A certificate holder under this provision may practice medicine as described above under Medical Doctor; however the certificate is only available for visiting physicians to obtain limited privileges for instructional purposes in conjunction with certain plastic surgery training programs and plastic surgery in approved locations. The certificate expires after 1 year and may not be used for more than 3 days during that 1 year period.
Medicine - Medical Doctor Medical Faculty Certificate	These MDs practice medicine as described above under Medical Doctor; however, these MDs may only practice medicine in conjunction with a full time faculty position at an accredited medical school in the State of Florida and its affiliated clinical facilities or teaching hospitals.
Medicine - Medical Doctor Public Health Certificate	These MDs practice medicine as described above under Medical Doctor; however, a physician who holds a master of public health degree or is board eligible or certified in public health or preventive medicine to practice medicine as an employee of the Department of Health.
Medicine - Medical Doctor Public Psychiatry Certificate	These MDs practice medicine as described above under Medical Doctor; However, these MDs licensees must be psychiatrist certified by the American Board of Psychiatry to practice medicine in a public mental health facility or program funded in part or entirely by state funds.
Medicine - Medical Doctor Restricted	These MDs practice medicine as described above; however; physicians licensed under this provision may only practice for no more than 2 years while under contract to work solely in the employ of the state or certain federally funded projects.
Medicine - Medical Doctor Visiting Faculty Certificate	These MDs practice medicine as described above under Medical Doctor; however, these MDS may only practice

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	pursuant to a certificate issued for a single period of time, not to exceed 180 days to practice medicine in connection with the education of students, residents, or faculty at the request of the dean of an accredited medical school or teaching hospital in the State of Florida.
Medicine - Registration of Physician-in-Training:	A physician-in-training, may only practice medicine, as described above under Medical Doctor, in an approved program of training designed to increase his/her knowledge of the clinical disciplines of medicine, surgery, or other special fields which provide advanced training in preparation for the practice of a specialty. A physician-in-training may prescribe legend and controlled substance medication under certain requirements.
Surgical Technician	Surgical Technicians are not health care providers licensed by the Department. Pursuant to Chapter 395, surgical technicians provide certain assistance in hospitals. Surgical Technicians are non licensed personnel employed by the hospital. The Hospital is required to insure that surgical technicians are provided a competency assessment and participating in any surgical procedure is done under the direct and immediate supervision of a licensed physician.
Physician Assistant	Physician Assistants, referred to as PAs, are health professionals licensed to practice medicine with indirect supervision of an MD or DO. PAs are qualified by graduation from an accredited physician assistant educational program and certification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. Within the Physician/Physician Assistant relationship, Physician Assistants exercise autonomy in medical decision making and provide a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services. The clinical role of Physician

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	<p>Assistants includes primary and specialty care in medical and surgical practice settings in rural and urban areas. Physician Assistants' practice is centered on patient care and may include educational, research and administrative activities. PAs may prescribe legend medications only. The medication must be within a special formulary and must be authorized by the supervising MD or DO.</p>
Office Surgery Registration	<p>Every Florida licensed physician who holds an active Florida license and performs Level II surgical procedures in Florida with a maximum planned duration of five (5) minutes or longer or any Level III office surgery, as fully defined in 64B8-9.009, F.A.C., shall register with the Board of Medicine as an Office Surgery facility. It is the physician's responsibility to ensure that every office in which he or she performs Levels II or III surgical procedures as described above is registered separately, regardless of whether other physicians are practicing in the same office or whether the office is non-physician owned.</p>
Pain Management Clinic Registration	<p>All privately-owned pain management clinics/facilities/offices not licensed under Chapter 395, F.S., which advertise in any medium for any type of pain management services, or employ a physician who is primarily engaged in the treatment of non-malignant pain by prescribing or dispensing controlled substance medications, must register. Each clinic location must register separately even if the clinic/facility/office is operated under the same business name or management as another. The clinic must designate a physician, who practices pain management at the clinic, to register.</p>