

Alaska State Medical Board
Board Issued Guidelines

Subject:	<i>Delegating to Medical Assistants (Unlicensed Assistive Personnel)</i>
Implemented:	July 28-29, 2011
Revised:	January 26-27, 2012, November 3-4, 2016
<p>Medical Assistants (MAs) are unlicensed assistive personnel that perform office and clinical functions. There is currently no licensing program for MAs. Unlicensed assistive personnel are prohibited from providing services that are considered the practice of medicine, such as patient assessment or evaluation of care, health counseling, IV therapy, procedural sedation, home dialysis therapy, oral tracheal suction, medication management, injections, chemical peels, liposuction, autotransplantation, administering Botox or dermal fillers, or use of certain equipment (such as lasers, etc.) Procedures considered to be the practice of medicine may only be performed by a licensed physician.</p> <p>A physician who supervises MAs is the primary treating physician with ultimate responsibility for the patient and is responsible for the activities of the MA, including direct supervision when delegating routine duties. A physician may only delegate routine duties; there is no provision for a physician to delegate clinical duties that are under their own scope of practice. The scope of practice for physicians in Alaska is defined in statute; those physicians who employ MAs are advised to be familiar with the requirements and comply with them.</p> <p>Note: Under Alaska law, a licensee may be sanctioned for intentionally or negligently permitting the performance of patient care by persons under the licensee's supervision that does not conform to minimum professional standards even if the patient was not injured; in addition, it is considered unprofessional conduct to delegate professional practice responsibilities that require a license or permit under to a person who does not possess the appropriate education, training, or licensure to perform the responsibilities.</p>	