

SB89, passed by the Alaska Legislature in 2026, updates scope of practice and collaborative agreement rules for physician associates, effective September 16, 2026.

Frequently Asked Questions about the revised scope of practice and collaborative agreement requirements

Can I practice in Alaska without a Collaborative agreement?

Effective September 16, 2026, physician associates (PAs) can practice without a collaborative agreement **in certain circumstances**. AS 08.64.107(d) allows a physician associate to practice without a collaborative agreement if

- (1) the physician associate is practicing at
 - (A) a facility directed by a licensed physician, osteopath, or podiatrist;
 - (B) a health care facility licensed by the Department of Health under AS 47.32;
 - (C) a health care facility that is operated by the federal government or a tribal organization as defined in 25 U.S.C. 5304;
 - (D) a federally qualified health center or rural health clinic;
 - (E) a military and veterans' facility; or
- (2) the board has, upon application of the physician assistant, authorized the physician assistant to practice at a facility not described in (1) of this subsection without obtaining a collaborative agreement.

To practice without a collaborative agreement, the PA must complete and submit an attestation that (s)he is either practicing in one of the facilities described in (1) above or must apply for and receive approval for the exemption under AS 08.64.107(d)(2). Attestation forms and exemptions forms are available [here](#).

Please be aware that approval to practice without a collaborative agreement is specific to the facility approved under AS 08.64.107(d). If a PA changes the facility they practice at, the board must be notified. If the PA is practicing at a facility not listed in AS 08.64.107(d)(1) or has not been approved for the exemption under AS 08.64.107(d)(2), they are not authorized to practice unless they have provided written attestation to the board that they have entered into a collaborative agreement as required in AS 08.64.107(c). A public note will be placed on the PA's license that lists the facility in which they are authorized to practice without a collaborative agreement, if applicable.

I currently have a collaborative agreement on file with the Medical Board. Is there anything new I need to do?

Under the new law, PAs must provide a written attestation to the board that they either have entered into a collaborative agreement with a physician as required by AS 08.64.107(c) or are practicing without a collaborative agreement at a facility described in AS 08.64.107(d). If you are currently working under an active collaborative agreement, the agreement on file may serve as your written attestation in accordance with AS 08.64.107(c). You do not need to do anything at this time unless you wish to change your collaborating physician or practice without a collaborative agreement. Upon renewal of your license, you must submit a written attestation that you are still practicing under a collaborative agreement, if applicable.

I am entering into a new collaborative agreement; do I need to provide a copy of the agreement to the Medical Board?

No. The agreement is not required to be submitted to the Medical Board unless the Board requests a copy of the agreement. When entering into a new collaborative agreement, you must submit a new attestation form as described in AS 08.64.107(c) to the Board. The attestation form is available [here](#).

I am entering into a new collaborative agreement; what needs to be included in the agreement?

Per AS 08.64.107(c), the written collaborative agreement must describe how the collaboration will occur between the physician associate and the physician.

Does my collaborating physician have to be licensed in Alaska and physically located in Alaska?

Collaborating physicians must be licensed in Alaska unless they are exempt from licensing under [AS 08.64.370](#). Collaborating physicians do not need to be physically present in Alaska.

Do I still need to have two collaborating physicians?

Effective September 16, 2026: No, a collaborative agreement may be entered into with one physician.

Will my collaborating physician have to approve my prescriptive authorization?

No, under the new law physician associates are not subject to approval from a collaborating physician for their prescriptive authorization.

I was offered a job at a remote practice location. What special conditions apply?

“Remote practice location” means a location in which a physician associate practices that is 30 or more miles by road from the collaborating physician’s primary office.

- **If you are practicing without a practice agreement because you are practicing at an approved facility as listed under AS 08.64.107(d); no special conditions apply.**
- **If you are practicing under a collaborative agreement, the following conditions apply in accordance with 12 AAC 40.415:**

To qualify to practice in a remote practice location, a physician assistant with less than two years of full-time clinical experience must work 160 hours in direct patient care under the direct and immediate supervision of the collaborating physician. The first 40 hours must be completed before the physician assistant begins practice in the remote practice location, and the remaining 120 hours must be completed within 90 days after the date the physician assistant starts practice in the remote practice location.

(b) A physician assistant with less than two years of full-time clinical experience who practices in a remote practice location and who has a change of collaborating physician must work 40 hours under the direct and immediate supervision of the new collaborating physician within 60 days after the effective date of the new collaborative plan agreement

(c) A physician assistant with two or more years of full-time clinical experience who applies for authorization to practice in a remote practice location shall submit with the collaborative plan (1) a detailed curriculum vitae documenting that the physician assistant’s previous experience as a physician assistant is sufficient to meet the requirements of the location assignment; and

(2) a written recommendation and approval from the collaborating physician.

(d) In this section, “remote practice location” means a location in which a physician assistant practices that is 30 or more miles by road from the collaborating physician’s primary office.

Did the scope of practice and collaborative agreement requirements for PAs change?

Yes, effective September 16, 2026, the scope of practice and collaborative agreement requirements for physician associates was repealed and reenacted by Senate Bill 89 in the 34th legislative session. Please see AS 08.64.107 on or after the effective date to review the updated scope and/or collaborative agreement requirements.

Did the PA regulations change due to the statute changes that took effect on September 16, 2026?

Yes, effective September 16, 2026, some of the PA regulations in 12 AAC 40.400 – 12 AAC 40.490 lost the force of law. This is because statutes always overrule regulations. However, regulations cannot automatically be updated so the regulations available are partially outdated until the State Medical Board’s regulations project in response to the new statutes is approved and in effect. In the meantime, you can see a “red line” version of the current regulations through the link below. All text in red strikethrough font loses the force of law on the September 16, 2026, effective date; all highlighted text takes effect on that date; and all text in black remains in effect.

[Red line of PA regulations, effective 9/16/2026.](#)

What is the difference between a Physician Assistant and Physician Associate?

There is no difference. The Alaska Legislature simply updated the official PA title from “Physician Assistant” to “Physician Associate” in Alaska law with the passage of House Bill 195 in the 34th legislative session.

Please be aware that you will likely see both titles references across state laws, webpages, applications, forms, etc. for a while. This is because the title change is not automatic and requires a lot of work by boards and state agencies. All laws referencing “physician assistant” and/or “physician associates” apply to Alaska PAs.