

NURSE PRACTITIONER AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT IN PCP'S PRACTICE

Policy

VCHP recognizes that a physician's practice may include the services of other professionals, such as a Nurse Practitioner (NP) and Physician Assistant (PA), in the provision of care to Plan members.

A Nurse Practitioner is licensed by the California Board of Registered Nursing to perform an expanded role and whose functions are governed by the Board's Nurse Practice Act.

A Physician Assistant is licensed by the California Department of Consumer Affairs, Physician Assistant Committee, to work under the supervision of a medical doctor, assisting in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and injuries.

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Credentialing Committee on 01-23-06 and approval by the QA Committee the Plan will accept Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC) MSO credentialing of NPs and PAs associated with VCMC system providers. For NPs and PAs associated with non-VCMC system ("private") providers, the Committee will require that

- (i.) the burden of compliance with Plan practice standards shall be on the contracted Plan physician provider by whom the NP or PA is employed; and
- (ii.) a copy of each NP or PA licenses shall be on file in the Plan's office; and
- (iii.) a copy of the executed Delegation of Services Agreement from each Plan physician provider by whom or which the NP or PA is employed shall be on file in the Plan's office; and
- (iv.) a copy of delegation protocols including but not limited to protocols that clearly define when the NP and/or PA should consult the physician; and
- (v.) a copy of the DEA licenses of those NPs and PAs will be on file in the Plan's office. **This only applies to those who are issuing drug orders for controlled substances.

The Plan will review delegation protocols and licenses during routine site visit. In addition, the Plan will routinely update NP and PA files.

Procedure

The presence of NP and PA protocols will be validated as part of the Plan's routine site visit to the physician's office. Additionally, the Plan may ask the physician for copies of NP and PA protocols and licenses at any time it deems appropriate.

A. Attachments: None

B. Reviewers: R. Ashby MD, L. Keller, Admin, L. Catapang RN **Date:** April 2003

Reviewed/Revised: S. Haas, MD & L. Catapang, RN **Date:** July 2005

Committee Review: UM on 08-08-05; QA on 08-23-05; Credentialing on
01-23-06 & QA on 02-28-06

Reviewed for Archiving: Albert Reeves **Date:** 11.1.11
UM on 11/10/11 & QA on 11/22/11

C. References:

Department of Consumer Affairs: Board of Nursing – RN Scope of Practice

Department of Consumer Affairs: Physician Assistant Committee – Physician
Assistant Scope of Practice