

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: AB 1070
 AUTHOR: Low
 CHAPTER: Chaptered, #827
 BILL DATE: June 28, 2023, Amended
 SUBJECT: Physician Assistant: Physician Supervision:
 Exceptions
 SPONSOR: [Signify Health](#)
 POSITION: Oppose

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION

Allows a physician to supervise up to eight physician assistants (PA) at one time who will perform home health evaluations, as defined.

AB 1070 was not amended after the previous Board meeting.

IMPLEMENTATION TASKS

- Report in Board newsletter (expected to be published in December 2023).
- Update Board [frequently asked questions webpage](#) related to PA supervision (expected to be completed in December 2023).

BACKGROUND

[Business and Professions Code \(BPC\) section 3516](#) generally prevents a physician from supervising more than four PAs at any one time.

ANALYSIS

According to the author’s fact sheet:

“In-home health evaluations are an incredibly valuable service provided by clinicians throughout the state. A clinician can spend an average of 50 minutes either sitting face-to-face or via video conferencing with the member to review current and past health conditions, perform diagnostic tests when appropriate, examine the home for safety hazards, and discuss social determinants of health.

The in-home evaluation also allows clinicians an unparalleled line of sight into the member’s clinical, social, functional, behavioral, and environmental condition. They can review medications for contraindications or lack of adherence, check for physical safety concerns and determine whether food insecurity exists, or the individual is socially isolated.

Currently California allows a physician to oversee four physician assistants that provide in-home evaluations. Additionally, unnecessary supervision of certain tasks performed by a physician assistant and related clinical chart review requirements create an administrative burden on physicians and ultimately impact the patient needs and treatment.”

The bill allows a physician to supervise up to eight PAs at one time, provided that all the PAs are focused solely on performing in home health evaluations solely for the following purposes:

- Gathering patient information.
- Performing an annual wellness visit or health evaluation if it does not involve direct patient treatment or prescribing medication.

AB 1070 includes the following definitions:

- “In home health evaluation” means a comprehensive physical exam, assessment of current and prior health conditions, a complete medication review, screening tests, health education, and assessment of social determination of health needs to be used for diagnosing individual medical conditions.
- “Annual wellness visit” means a preventive visit with correlating current procedural terminology codes performed annually to a patient, to be used for the purposes of diagnosing patient conditions during the annual wellness visit, which may include a nonphysical examination for patients covered by Medicare Part B for more than 12 months.

PAs performing these services are subject to other existing supervision and scope of practice requirements and must provide to their supervising physician all information related to the evaluation of their performance.

FISCAL: No anticipated costs.

SUPPORT: California Academy of Physician Assistants

OPPOSITION: None identified.

ATTACHMENT: [AB 1070, Low - Physician Assistants: Physician Supervision: Exceptions.](#)

Version: 10/13/23 – Chaptered