MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Resolution: 2017 - 105

Introduced By: Nassau County Medical Society

Subject: Expanded Clinical Roles for Medical Assistants in New York State

Referred to: Reference Committee on Governmental Affairs - B

Whereas, unlike many states, New Jersey maintains highly specific rules defining the circumstances under which Medical Assistants (MAs) can work independently; and

Whereas, while New Jersey maintains one of the strictest MA licensing definitions in the country, medical assistants in New Jersey generally enjoy a wide scope of practice whereby clinical duties include:

- Administering medications and injections
- Assisting with minor surgical procedures
- Positioning patients for diagnostic testing
- Applying casts and bandages; and

Whereas, In New York State, tasks that can be performed by medical assistants include the following:

- secretarial work such as assembling charts or assisting with billing
- measuring vital signs
- performing ECGs
- taking laboratory specimens including blood work, assisting an authorized practitioner, under the direct and personal supervision of said practitioner, to carry out a specific task, as a "second set of hands" (e.g. authorized practitioner, after positioning a limb, asks the medical assistant to maintain the limb in the position while a bandage is applied or sutures removed. Medical assistant could not independently position the patient.); and

Whereas, Tasks that cannot be performed by medical assistants in New York State include:

- triage
- administering medications through any route
- administering contrast dyes or injections of any kind
- placing or removing sutures
- taking x-rays or independently positioning patients for x-rays
- applying casts
- first assisting in surgical procedures; and

Whereas, regulations governing MA’s in New York State are much more restrictive and defer judgment to supervising physicians, diminishing the MA’s usefulness to physicians in their offices in spite of their training and qualifications; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the MSSNY work with New York State approved Medical Assistant teaching programs to develop suitable rules defining and expanding independent clinical work guidelines that can be incorporated into current New York State regulations.

Sources: http://www.medicalassistantcertification.org/states/new-jersey/