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Act 79 removed certain restrictions on physician assistant practice to provide greater autonomy for PAs.

Act 79 contained the following key elements:

- 1. Creating a permanent seat for physician assistants on the medical board.
- 2. Removing the requirement that a supervising physician countersign 100% of patient's charts.
- 3. Allowing all written agreements between physicians and physician assistants to be "filed" with the Board instead of "approved" by the Board.
- 4. Outlining appropriate supervision requirements based on the needs of the physicians, physician assistants, and overall health care system.
- 5. Increased the number of physician assistants that a physician may have primary responsibility over from four to six.

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