



**From:** [Reynolds, Ben](#)  
**To:** [ST, RegulatoryCounsel](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Endorsement of Proposed Rulemaking Reference 16A-4955 (Physician Assistants)  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 10, 2024 5:27:16 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-zl3iphzp.png](#)  
[Outlook-fgb5l3me.png](#)  
[Outlook-cb0vdop0.png](#)  
[LOR for PA rulemaking BRR signed.pdf](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Good afternoon.

Please find UPMC's letter of full-throated endorsement for the proposed rulemaking as referenced in the subject above attached as a PDF.

Please feel free to contact me personally with any questions you may have.

Thank you for this valuable work.

Ben

Benjamin R. Reynolds, MSPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA

*Chief Advanced Practice Officer, UPMC*

Director, UPMC Office of Advanced Practice Providers

Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Pittsburgh Medical School

[reynoldsbr@upmc.edu](mailto:reynoldsbr@upmc.edu)

412-864-1146

200 Lothrop Street, Forbes Tower Suite 9036

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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To: RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov

Subject: Endorsement of Proposed Rulemaking Reference 16A-4955 (Physician Assistants)

Dear Counsel,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Chief Advanced Practice Officer for UPMC, one of the nation's leading health systems, to express our full support for the Proposed Rulemaking Reference 16A-4955 (Physician Assistants). This proposal represents a significant step forward in modernizing the Medical Practice Act for physician assistants (PAs) under the State Board of Medicine, as outlined in Act 79 of 2021.

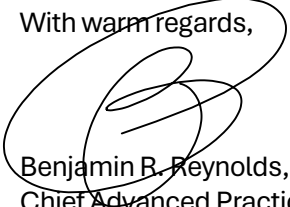
The revisions proposed are the culmination of 18 months of diligent work by the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants (PSPA) Governmental Affairs Committee and the PSPA legal counsel. These changes will undoubtedly have a positive impact on healthcare delivery within Pennsylvania. Key elements of Act 79, such as creating a permanent seat for PAs on the medical board, reducing the countersignature requirement on patient charts, simplifying the written agreement process between physicians and PAs, and increasing the number of PAs a physician can oversee, are all progressive steps towards enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare services.

At UPMC, we have consistently observed the vital role that PAs play in our health system. Easing the current burdens, as proposed, will not only improve the work environment for these professionals but will also lead to more streamlined and effective patient care. The proposed changes align with our mission at UPMC to provide outstanding patient care and foster an environment that encourages innovation and excellence in healthcare practice.

I strongly urge the State Medical Board to consider the positive ramifications these changes will bring about and endorse the proposed language. Moreover, I encourage fellow PA leaders, healthcare workers, administrators, and other stakeholders in our healthcare system to join in expressing their support for this important initiative.

Thank you for considering this endorsement. We are hopeful for a favorable outcome that will continue to enhance the healthcare landscape in Pennsylvania.

With warm regards,



Benjamin B. Reynolds, MSPAS, PA-C  
Chief Advanced Practice Officer, UPMC  
[reynoldsbr@upmc.edu](mailto:reynoldsbr@upmc.edu)