



**Massachusetts
Department of Public Health**

Board of Registration of Physician Assistants *2026 Licensing*





Objectives

- Purpose of the Board
- Licensing Requirements
- Renewal of Licensure
- PAs Scope of Practice
- Board Discipline
- Q&A





Why Do Boards Exist?





Mandate of the PA Board

- **To protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public**
 - Creation of Board
 - [M.G.L. Chapter 13, Section 11C](#)
 - Licensing Provisions
 - [M.G.L. Chapter 112, Sections 9C to 9K](#)





Mandate of the PA Board

- **How does the Board protect the public?**
 - Regulates the profession by setting policies and standards.
 - Ensures that only qualified individuals obtain licensure.
 - Implements and enforces regulations and policies that ensure and promote the safe practice of those we regulate and mitigate risk to public safety.





Licensure Requirements





Becoming a Licensed PA in MA

263 CMR 3.00

3.02: Requirements for Full Licensure

Any person who wishes to commence practice as a physician assistant shall apply for, and obtain, a certificate of registration as a physician assistant from the Board prior to commencing such practice.

- (1) To qualify for an initial licensure as a physician assistant, an applicant must:
 - (a) Be 18 years of age or older;
 - (b) Be of good moral character;
 - (c) Possess a baccalaureate degree or higher from an educational institution on the list of accredited colleges of the United States Office of Education, or any like institution approved by the Board;
 - (d) Have graduated from a physician assistant training program that was an approved program on the date of graduation;
 - (e) Have passed the certifying examination of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA); and
 - (f) Have completed training required pursuant to M.G.L. c. 94C, § 18(e).

- (2) The Board may, in its discretion, grant an applicant credit towards satisfaction of the baccalaureate degree requirement set forth in 263 CMR 3.02(1)(c) for education received at an institution outside of the United States if the applicant submits proof satisfactory to the Board that such foreign education is substantially equivalent to that provided in a baccalaureate degree program in an institution accredited by the United States Office of Education or otherwise approved by the Board.



License Types

- **Full License**
 - Graduate of PA program and passed the NCCPA credentialing examination.
 - No restriction on practice.
 - Full prescriptive privilege.
- **Limited License: Temporary Practice Certificate**
 - Graduate of PA program but have not yet taken and/or passed the NCCPA credentialing examination.
 - Valid for 2 years from date of graduation from PA training program.
 - Restriction on practice.
 - No prescriptive privilege.





Steps to Licensure

(Fees are as of July 2025)

Step 1

- Graduate from an accredited PA program

Step 2

- Pass the PANCE National Exam administered by NCCPA (\$550)

Step 3

- Apply & obtain MA PA licensure
 - PA Full License (**\$225**) Or PA Temporary Practice Certificate (**\$150 biannually**)

Step 4

- Obtain a Massachusetts Controlled Substances Registration (MCSR \$300 biannually)

Step 5

- Obtain a Drug Enforcement Agency license (DEA \$888/ 3 Years)





PA Licensing Web Page

[Home](#) > [Executive Office of Health and Human Services](#) > [Department of Public Health](#) > [Bureau of Health Professions Licensure](#)

Board of Registration of Physician Assistants



[Contact us](#) [Who we serve](#) [I want to...](#) [News](#) [Events](#)

We evaluate the qualifications of applicants for physician assistant licensure, and grant licenses to those who qualify. We also establish rules and regulations to ensure the integrity and competence of licensees.

Contact Us

Online

PhysicianAssistantsBoard@mass.gov

Phone

[\(617\) 624-6189](tel:(617)624-6189)

TTY [\(617\) 973-0988](tel:(617)973-0988)

Fax

(617) 973-0985

Address

250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

[Directions](#) →





License Applications

Available at the Board's website:

<https://healthprofessionlicensing.mass.gov/login-register>

Create an account → Apply for a new license → Physician Assistant License

Welcome Licensee789 User, please select from the following options:



Manage My Licenses and Applications

Click here to renew your license, change your name/address, print a duplicate certificate/wallet card, or submit an unfinished/reopened application. If this is your first time logging into the system, you will be prompted to link your license(s) to your account.



Apply for a New License

Click here to start a new application for licensure with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.



Manage My Record Requests

Click here to view your open, closed, and incomplete record requests with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.



Submit a New Record Request

Click here to start a new record request with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.



- ✓ Read the application instructions carefully.
- ✓ Be sure to submit all required documents.



Fees

- Online payment: credit card, debit card, or ACH payment
- Full license: \$225
- Temporary practice certificate: \$150
- PA bi-annual renewal: \$150
 - March 1 /odd years
- PA bi-annual MCSR renewal: \$300
 - March 1 /odd years
- Other fees
 - Transcripts
 - Exam verification
 - Other license verification (out-of-state)
 - Certified statement of registration
 - Name change
 - Returned payment
 - CORI notarization



Application Tips

- Inform Registrar's office that transcripts must include:
 - Program name
 - mm/dd/yyyy of graduation (date conferred)
 - Registrar can send a letter confirming graduation date.
- Transcripts must be sent **directly** to the Board from your school. Email: physicianassistantsboard@mass.gov
- The Board does not accept transcripts from applicants unless they are received in unopened official school envelopes.





Supervising Physician

- You **DO NOT** need to have a **supervising physician** *to apply for* and receive a license.
 - NOTE: Supervising physician(s) and work setting(s) must be reported to the Board **within 30 days of employment.**
- You **DO** need a **supervising physician** *to practice.*
 - NOTE: Log into your e-licensing account to add/change your **supervising physician.**
- A **temporary practice certificate** holder may **NOT** obtain *prescription practice privileges.*
 - All prescriptions must be signed by a **supervising physician.**





PA Licensing Attestations

Mandatory Registrations and Training

- I am aware and have submitted a thoroughly completed application to be a fully participating provider or non-billing provider and a signed provider contract to MassHealth pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, s. 9(f).
- Once I have obtained my Physician Assistant License and registered for MassPAT, I consent to the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure and the Massachusetts Prescription Monitoring Program to obtain, read, copy and share with each other information regarding my MassPAT enrollment status and professional licensure status.
- I am aware that if I am or become a licensed prescriber, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 94C §24(a), I must utilize MassPAT each time I prescribe a Schedule II-III opioid or benzodiazepines.
- I am a prescriber who is aware of the required training, and I have completed mandatory training for all prescribers in Pain Management pursuant to M.G.L. c. 94C §18(e).
- I am aware of and have completed mandatory training on domestic and sexual violence pursuant to M.G.L.c. 112 §264.
- I have completed a one-time course of training and education in the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients with cognitive impairments, including, but not limited to, Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

Mandatory Training Requirement

Alzheimer's Training Notice

- Pursuant to Chapter 220 of the Acts of 2018, applicants for initial licensure must complete a **one-time course** of training and education in the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with cognitive impairments, including, but not limited to, Alzheimer's disease and dementia.
- All applicants must complete this training.





Your Responsibilities

- **Licenseses and temporary practice certificate holders must:**
 - Notify the Board using the **e-licensing portal** of any of the following events within 30 days of their occurrence:
 - ✓ Change of address.
 - ✓ Change of work setting, or of employment status.
 - ✓ Change in supervising physician or their address.
 - ✓ Your permanent departure from MA.

healthprofessionlicensing.mass.gov/login-register



How Do I Renew?





License Renewal

- **March 1, odd year**
 - Email reminders are sent starting 90 days prior to expiration (December 1).
- **Renewal reminders are sent to the email address on record**
 - It is licensee's responsibility to inform the Board of email or address changes within 30 days of such change. Email and address information can be changed online at <https://healthprofessionlicensing.mass.gov/login-register>.
- **Online renewal**
 - License renewed immediately (real time).
 - Renewal can be verified on the Board's license verification site.
- **Online renewals require:**
 - Microsoft Edge, Firefox, or Chrome
 - Credit card, debit card, or ACH payment (**\$150**)





CMEs for Renewal

- **Documentation of 100 required CMEs:**
 - 40 hours of Category I (AMA or AAPA approved courses).
 - 60 hours Category II.
- **CME period begins March 2 of odd years and ends March 1 of next odd year.**
- **CME cycle is NOT the same as NCCPA cycle.**
- **For PAs with prescriptive privileges, 4 CMEs in pharmacology is required.**





More CME Requirements

- For PAs authorized to perform procedures using fluoroscopy, **4 CMEs** in **radiation** is required.
- Applicants and licensees **MUST** take **domestic and sexual violence training** as a condition for licensure, renewal, or reinstatement.
 - M.G.L. c.112 § 264
- Practitioners who prescribe controlled substances, as a condition for licensure or renewal, **MUST** take training relative to **effective pain management, identification of patients at risk for substance abuse, and counselling patients about the side effects, addictive nature, and proper storage/disposal of medications.**
 - M.G.L. c. 94C § 18(e)





License Renewal Continued

- **Practice on an **expired** license **may** result in disciplinary action by the board.**
- **Reactivation of expired license requires:**
 - Reactivation application and fee
 - Documentation of CMEs
 - Documentation of current NCCPA certification
 - Other (License verifications, CORI, NPDB self-query)



What Is My Scope of Practice?





Scope of Services

- **Under the supervision of a licensed physician, a PA may perform any and all services that are:**
 - (a) Within the PA's competence, as determined by the supervising physician's assessment; and
 - (b) Within the supervising physician's scope of services for which he or she can provide adequate supervision to ensure that accepted standards of medical practice are followed.





Major Invasive Procedures

- **Require specific written protocols that:**
 - Are made available to the Board upon request.
 - Are developed between supervising physician and PA.
 - Specify the level of supervision the service requires.

See Board regulations at 263 CMR 5.04 (4).



Limitation of Practice

- **Scope of practice does not allow a PA to:**
 - Administer general anesthesia.
 - Render a formal medical opinion on procedures involving ionizing radiation.

See Board regulations at 263 CMR 5.03 (3).





A Supervising Physician

- **MUST** be a “full licensee” of the **Massachusetts** Board of Registration in Medicine.
- Is **NOT** required to be present in every situation where a PA provides medical services.
- **IMPORTANT:** PAs can have more than one supervising physician in different work settings.
 - Must register each with the Board online.
- Reviews diagnostic and treatment information, as agreed upon, in a timely manner, consistent with the patient's medical condition.





A Supervising Physician

- Establishes a therapeutic regimen or other written protocol for follow-up care in settings outside the office (e.g., hospital visits, nursing home visits, attending the chronically ill at home) specific to PA checking, recording, and reporting back on the patient's progress.

In an **emergency**, a PA can render emergency medical services necessary to avoid disability or death of an injured person until physician arrives.



Temporary Supervising Physician

- Designated when a supervising physician is unable or unavailable to be the principal medical decision-maker.
- The name and scope of responsibility of the temporary supervising physician must be readily ascertainable from records kept in the ordinary course of business which are available to patients.
- The supervising physician(s) of record is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the PA is properly supervised.



Scope of Privileges

- Full licensees only.
- Must register with DPH's Drug Control Program (mass.gov/dph/dcp) for a MCSR #.
- Written guidelines required; must be reviewed and signed by PA and supervising physician annually.
- DEA number required for Schedule II-V prescribing. (deadiversion.usdoj.gov)





Prescriptive Practice

Guidelines

- Framework for developing guidelines on the Board's website.
- Must identify supervising physician, PA, and work setting.
- All criteria must be included — **even those that are not applicable**. Example: PA does NOT initiate IV solutions.





Prescriptive Practice

MassPAT Guidelines: The Massachusetts Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) launched its online tool in 2016.

Massachusetts Prescription Awareness Tool (MassPAT)

- MassPAT Enrollment: All prescribers are **REQUIRED** to enroll in MassPAT.
- **Effective 10/15/16** all prescribers are **REQUIRED** to check MassPAT when prescribing Schedule II and III opioids and benzodiazepines to a patient for the first time.



What Is the Disciplinary Process?





Investigation of Complaints

- Allegation is filed with the Office of Public Protection (OPP).
- OPP triages the case and assigns an investigator.
- Investigator completes investigation and prepares for Board review.
- Board reviews investigation for decision on matter.
- Board may ask the PA to attend the meeting to discuss complaint and/or obtain additional information.



Grounds for Disciplinary Action

- Providing false information on license application.
- Violation of any laws and/or regulations related to PA practice.
- Practicing without a license or on an expired license.
- Practicing without a supervising physician.
- Gross misconduct in the practice as a PA.
- Fraudulent practice or practicing beyond the authorized scope of practice.





Grounds for Disciplinary Action

- Practicing with gross incompetence or gross negligence on a particular occasion, or with negligence on repeated occasions.
- Practicing while an ability to practice is impaired by alcohol, drugs, physical disability, or mental illness.
- Being habitually intoxicated by, or engaging in the current, unlawful use of alcohol or drugs.
- Conviction of a criminal offense which calls into question fitness or ability to practice.
- Other.





Resolution of Complaints

- **Dismiss complaint**
 - No evidence.
 - Insufficient evidence.
- **Dismiss complaint with Advisory Letter**
 - Matter does not warrant discipline.
 - Licensee advised that required to adhere to rules and regulations and standards of care.





Disciplinary Actions

- Reprimand
- Probation
- License suspension
- License revocation
- Voluntary surrender





Discipline

- **All forms of discipline ARE reportable to:**
 - National Practitioner Databank
 - NCCPA
 - Licensee's supervising physician
 - Any other state or jurisdiction where a license is held
- **NCCPA may take disciplinary action**
 - e.g., reprimand, revocation, etc.





Practice Tips

- Know your state's regulations!
- Notify Board of address, supervising physician, and work setting changes.
- Renew your license on time – practice on an expired license may result in discipline.
- Communicate with your patients.
- Communicate with your supervising physician.
- Document, document, document!





How Do I Contact the Board?





Board Information

Board Web Page:

mass.gov/orgs/board-of-registration-of-physician-assistants
healthprofessionlicensing.mass.gov/login-register

Online services:

- Initial application
- Name change
- Address change
- Update supervising physician
- Renewal
- Reactivation
- Update workplace location
- Verification of Licensure

Address:

250 Washington Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02108

Email:

PhysicianAssistantsBoard@mass.gov

Phone:

(617) 624-6189

Fax:

(617) 973-0985



Questions





Bureau of Health
Professions Licensure

Connect with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health



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mass.gov/dph

