

	<b>MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN</b> <b>COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE</b>		
	<b>NUMBER:</b> 01-85-05	<b>ISSUE DATE:</b> April 22, 1985	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> April 22, 1985
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Physician Assistant Use		<b>BY:</b>   <b>Gerald F. Radke</b> <b>Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs</b>	

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify the use of Physicians' Assistants for services rendered to Medical Assistance recipients.

**SCOPE:**

This bulletin applies to all physicians enrolled in the Medical Assistance Program.

**BACKGROUND:**

The current Medical Assistance Regulation, Chapter 1141.53(f) on Physicians' Services, provides that: "All covered outpatient physicians' services billed to the Department shall be performed by such physician either personally or by a registered nurse, physician's assistant, or midwife under the physician's direct supervision."

**DISCUSSION/PROCEDURE:**

Before hiring a Physician's Assistant to treat Medical Assistance recipients, the supervising physician must verify that the Physician's Assistant is certified and maintains certification by the State Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs to practice in Pennsylvania.

A Physician's Assistant may be used to treat Medical Assistance recipients only within the scope of practice of the regulation of the Department of State. Also, the supervising physician must be registered by the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs to use a Physician's Assistant.

Physicians and Physicians' Assistants are reminded that Section 1101.51(e)(l)(iii) of the Medical Assistance Regulations requires that all care rendered by ancillary personnel shall be recorded and signed by that person and also countersigned by the licensed provider in the medical record.

A physician that uses a Physicians' Assistant to treat Medical Assistance recipients in violation of regulations of the Department of Public Welfare or the Department of State will be subject to enforcement action.

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

Bureau of Provider Relations  
 P.O. Box 8024  
 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at [www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap).