

Supervision of Advanced Practice Providers

Doctors and advanced practice providers (APPs) who work together often share responsibility for patient care as well as liability risks. Yet, doctors who assume supervisory roles of APPs have additional responsibilities. They must ensure that they are delegating appropriate tasks, offering adequate consultation, and providing appropriate oversight of APP practice.

Various legal, regulatory, and organizational considerations will likely play a role in determining requirements and best practices for supervision of APPs at individual healthcare practices. This checklist is intended to help focus these considerations, identify gaps in supervision policies/protocols, and pinpoint areas that could benefit from further clarification.

	Yes	No
Do practice policies related to the supervision of APPs adhere to state regulatory requirements and guidance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do applicable state regulations related to supervision of APPs specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum number of APPs a doctor can supervise? The required geographic proximity between doctor and APP (if offsite supervision is allowed)? The acceptable methods of oversight (in person, electronic, via phone)? Thresholds for chart review (including signature) and timeframes for review? Whether a collaborative agreement and/or written protocols related to supervision are required? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is a designated individual in the practice responsible for monitoring and communicating changes in state regulations related to supervision of APPs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Yes	No
Do supervising doctors in the practice ensure that delegated tasks are within each APP's appropriate scope of practice and training?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do supervising doctors in the practice consistently and routinely validate APPs' competency and clinical skills through review of charts, referrals, documentation, clinical decision-making, and compliance with guidelines and standards of care?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the practice have specific standards and thresholds for chart review beyond those that are required by state law?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do supervising doctors have plans in place for periodic review of controlled substance prescribing and formulary compliance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all supervisory meetings and consultations between doctors and APPs documented, and have documentation requirements been established?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are APPs monitored for compliance with billing standards and other corporate compliance procedures?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is a plan in place that specifies how APPs should handle patients requiring emergency care or urgent care that is outside of an APP's scope of practice? (Note: Emergency protocols are particularly important if APPs and supervising doctors are not always at the same location.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the practice have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contingency plans for supervising APPs in the absence of the designated supervisor (e.g., during vacation, sick leave, etc.)? Do contingency plans comply with state regulations and professional standards for appropriate alternative supervision? 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Do supervising doctors in the practice conduct routine performance evaluations for APPs? Do evaluations offer constructive criticism and opportunities for growth and development?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do APPs participate in the practice's performance and quality improvement initiatives, including periodic reviews of health records and treatment plans?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the organization have a process for collecting practice data specific to APP activities for inclusion in performance and quality improvement initiatives?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Resources

For additional information, see MedPro's article [Supervision of Advanced Practice Providers](#) and [Risk Resources: Advanced Practice Providers](#).

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