

July 28, 2009

Dear Arkansas PA:

The Arkansas Academy of Physician Assistants (ARAPA) is committed to representing every practicing PA in this state. To that end, we'd like to start providing you with the first of many updates on legislative and regulatory action that affects PAs in Arkansas.

As you know, we were successful in 2007 to amend the law to require insurance companies to reimburse PAs for the services they provide regardless of whether or not a supervising physician was on site at the time these services were provided.

While this was an enormous victory for PAs in the state, PAs continue to experience problems with being reimbursed through Medicaid and Medicare. Current language in the Arkansas State Board of Medical Examiners' regulations causes confusion and could potentially lead to actions that violate federal Medicare regulations. Some who read the existing Arkansas reimbursement language believe that it is a violation of state law to bill a service under the PA's name.

We are planning to address these issues with the state board at its meeting in October, and we need your help. If you are currently experiencing problems with getting reimbursed for your services through the state Medicaid program, or through Medicare, **we need to hear your story.**

Getting involved is simple. If you have been denied reimbursement through Medicaid or Medicare, please respond back to this message with a description of the incident, or continued problems. Please also describe your practice, it's location in the state, and identify your supervising physician. We'd like to provide these examples to the board, along with draft regulatory language we believe will clarify the law so that PAs will not be denied reimbursement in the future. If you wish to remain anonymous, just let us know.

Again, thank you in advance for your assistance. We'd also like to invite you to tell us if you are having any other issues with regards to the current state laws or regulations affecting your practice. ARAPA is in the process of outlining it's short-term and long-term legislative and regulatory strategy, and **we need your feedback.**

Stay tuned for further updates; we will be sending out regular updates and invitations to get involved!

Regards,

Sheryl Cash, PA-C

Legislative Chair, ARAPA

This alert is being sent to you via the AAPA Legislative Action Center at the request of your state chapter.

ARAPA and AAPA: Partners in Advocacy