



Virginia Department of Planning and Budget **Economic Impact Analysis**

18 VAC 85-30 – Regulations Governing the Practice of Physician Assistants
Department of Health Professions
April 4, 2014

Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation

Pursuant to Chapter 81 of the 2012 Acts of the Assembly, the Board of Medicine (Board) proposes to amend its Regulations Governing the Practice of Physician Assistants so that physician assistants who have completed specified training may use fluoroscopy¹. This proposed amendment will replace identical language promulgated under emergency regulation provisions that will expire May 11, 2015.

Result of Analysis

Benefits likely outweigh costs for this proposed regulatory change.

Estimated Economic Impact

Prior to a legislative change in 2012, only radiologists and licensed radiological technicians were authorized to use fluoroscopy. In 2012, the General Assembly passed a bill which extended the practice of physician assistants so that they, too, could use fluoroscopy so long as they 1) work under the supervision of a doctor of medicine or osteopathy specializing in the field of radiology, 2) complete Board specified training and 3) successfully complete the fluoroscopy exam administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). The Board proposes to require physician assistants to complete at least 40 hours of education and at least 40 hours of supervised clinical experience.²

¹ Fluoroscopy, according to emedicine.medscape.com, is “a technique that employs x-rays to generate real-time still images or video of a patient's body. It is a commonly used medical technique that helps physicians with a wide variety of diagnostic and interventional procedures”.

² The Board specified in the emergency regulation, and specifies in this action, that physician assistants who wish to expand their scope of practice to include the use of fluoroscopy must complete education and supervised practice as

Physician assistants who choose to pursue expanding their scope of practice to include the use of fluoroscopy will incur costs for completing the required training and for taking the fluoroscopy exam. The fee for the exam is \$175; currently, there does not seem to be an estimate of what training will cost. In any case, physician assistants are unlikely to incur these costs if they do not think the benefits that they expect will accrue to them (in the form of greater job opportunities and/or higher salaries) justify the expense. If a significant number of physician assistants choose to become qualified to use fluoroscopy, the maximum capacity of fluoroscopy services may increase which might, in turn, lower the cost of those services.

Businesses and Entities Affected

Board staff reports that the Board currently licenses 2,774 physician assistants. Board staff does not know how many of these physician assistants currently work for radiologists or how many might choose to become qualified to use fluoroscopy. It is likely that the number of affected entities would be a small subset of the total number of physician assistants.

Localities Particularly Affected

No locality will be particularly affected by this proposed regulatory action.

Projected Impact on Employment

If a significant number of physician assistants choose to become qualified to use fluoroscopy, the maximum capacity of fluoroscopy services may increase which might, in turn, lower the cost of those services. If this happens, the quantity of fluoroscopy services demanded may increase and employment in jobs that use fluoroscopy may increase.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

This regulatory action may increase the value of a physician assistant's license if becoming qualified to use fluoroscopy increases the wage that qualified individuals can command.

Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects

No small businesses will incur costs on account of this regulatory action.

Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact

No small businesses will incur costs on account of this regulatory action.

Real Estate Development Costs

This regulatory action will likely have no effect on real estate development costs in the Commonwealth.

Legal Mandate

General: The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with § 2.2-4007.04 of the Code of Virginia and Executive Order Number 14 (2010). Section 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses determine the public benefits and costs of the proposed amendments. Further the report should include but not be limited to:

- the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the proposed regulation would apply,
- the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected,
- the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected,
- the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and
- the impact on the use and value of private property.

Small Businesses: If the proposed regulation will have an adverse effect on small businesses, § 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses include:

- an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the proposed regulation,
- the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the proposed regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents,
- a statement of the probable effect of the proposed regulation on affected small businesses, and
- a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the proposed regulation.

Additionally, pursuant to § 2.2-4007.1, if there is a finding that a proposed regulation may have an adverse impact on small business, the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules (JCAR) is notified at the time the proposed regulation is submitted to the *Virginia Register of Regulations* for publication. This analysis shall represent DPB's best estimate for the purposes of public review and comment on the proposed regulation.

AMH

Town Hall ID: Action # 3764/Stage # 6883