

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: AB 1070
 AUTHOR: Low
 BILL DATE: April 12, 2023, Amended
 SUBJECT: Physician Assistant: Physician Supervision:
 Exceptions
 SPONSOR: [Signify Health](#)

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION

Allows a physician to supervise an unlimited number of physician assistants (PA) who perform home health evaluations, as defined.

BACKGROUND

[Business and Professions Code \(BPC\) section 3516](#) generally prevents a physician from supervising more than four of PAs at any one time.

ANALYSIS

According to the author's fact sheet:

“In-home health evaluations are an incredibly valuable service provided by clinicians throughout the state. A clinician can spend an average of 50 minutes either sitting face-to-face or via video conferencing with the member to review current and past health conditions, perform diagnostic tests when appropriate, examine the home for safety hazards, and discuss social determinants of health.

The in-home evaluation also allows clinicians an unparalleled line of sight into the member's clinical, social, functional, behavioral, and environmental condition. They can review medications for contraindications or lack of adherence, check for physical safety concerns and determine whether food insecurity exists, or the individual is socially isolated.

Currently California allows a physician to oversee four physician assistants that provide in-home evaluations. Additionally, unnecessary supervision of certain tasks performed by a physician assistant and related clinical chart review requirements create an administrative burden on physicians and ultimately impact the patient needs and treatment.”

The bill language states that the supervision limits do not apply when a physician assistant is doing any of the following when performing a home health evaluation, provided there is no direct patient treatment or prescribing of medication:

- Gathering patient information

- Performing an annual wellness visit
- Advanced assessment
- Health evaluation
- Diagnostic screening

The bill does not define what is involved in these services. This [video](#) and [webpage from the website](#) of the sponsor, however, seems to describe at least some of services that are included within a home health evaluation.

Consideration of a Board Position

Staff are attempting to gather additional information from the author and sponsor that justifies this change in PA supervision requirements and will report on that at the Board meeting. The types of services to be performed during a home health evaluation are not clearly defined in the bill, which could create confusion for consumers, PAs, and physicians about what is allowed under the bill.

Current law generally limits a physician from supervising no more than four PAs at any given time. It is a worthwhile policy discussion to consider raising that amount, but AB 1070, however, provides for no limit.

FISCAL: No anticipated costs.

SUPPORT: California Academy of Physician Assistants

OPPOSITION: None identified.

POSITION: Staff Recommendation: Pending.

ATTACHMENT: [AB 1070, Low - Physician Assistants: Physician Supervision: Exceptions.](#)
Version: 4/12/23 – Amended