

January 31, 1969

Miss Stella Zahn  
Neighborhood Medical Care Demonstration  
3674 Third Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10456

Dear Miss Zahn:

The physician's assistant program is now run by Dr. E. Harvey Estes. I will ask him to answer your letter.

My own views are simple. The ceiling placed on nurses is too low to be intellectually challenging to women seriously interested in a career. Because of the low ceiling, nursing educators have removed most of the nursing content and have replaced it with more conventional college courses.

The ceiling on nursing can be greatly raised by allowing the nurse, under supervision of the doctor, to learn to share to a greater extent in diagnosis and treatment. Only the seriously career-oriented nurse will want to take the additional education and gain the added competence. To make this program work, the doctors have to be brought back into the training of nurses. The recipient of the Master's degree should have knowledge useful in the care of the sick beyond that of the current R.N. She should have the opportunity to use this knowledge, and this should be reflected in greater personal satisfaction in the day's work and in greater income.

Please let me know if you come to Durham. You can stay with the Steads and I will find money for the travel expenses.

Sincerely,

Eugene A. Stead, Jr., M.D.

July 10, 1969

Dr. Charles E. Mengel  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, Missouri

Dear Chuck:

The physician's assistant program has really worked out well. We are over the humps, both in the Medical Center and with the North Carolina Medical Society. Jim Musser, the head of our Regional Medical Program, has some interesting ventures underway, but they all depend on an expansion of this manpower base. He has the money already in hand to put into the program if he can get approval at the national level.

I am particularly interested in getting Mayer knowledgeable about this program because he has the brains and personality to lead any group of which he is a part.

Tell Sally hello for Evelyn and me.

Sincerely,

Eugene A. Stead, Jr., M.D.

Duke University Medical Center

DUKHAM, NORTH CAROLINA  
27706

September 22, 1969

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

TO: Members of the Council of Academic Societies, AAMC  
Officers and Executive Committee, Council of Academic Societies, AAMC

Men selected by doctors, trained by doctors and working with doctors are now being trained as assistants in all areas. The Duke University Medical Center has been training assistants for Medicine and Surgery, and this year will begin training assistants for pathologists and radiologists. These assistants under supervision do many of the things which the doctor has customarily done. They work doctors' hours and are not geographically bound to the hospital, but can function in the office and in the home.

I am enclosing the Duke bulletin on the Physician's Assistant. The enclosed typed pages give details of the clinical training for our current group and the job descriptions of the men who have graduated.

I believe the Council of Academic Societies should examine this program carefully and consider the desirability of setting standards for schools producing these assistants. They are clearly going to be trained. I believe the relevant academic societies should extend a helping hand to these assistants and take an active role in their education and in the social structure in which they work.

A common curriculum could be devised for Year One, with Year Two being supervised by the specialty group involved. For this purpose, I would treat the Academy of General Practice as a specialty group. Common audiovisual material could be developed for Year One and much of Year Two.

Medicine is always too late. This is our opportunity to exert leadership.

I am requesting that this matter be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Academic Council.

*Eugene A. Stead, Jr.*  
Eugene A. Stead, Jr., M.D.

October 2, 1969

Dr. William D. Dolan  
Arlington Hospital  
5129 North 16th Street  
Arlington, Virginia

Dear Dr. Dolan:

Your Dr. Cox wrote me about the licensure problem on the same day he wrote you. I replied to Dr. Cox as follows:

"We do not state in our certificate the areas of competence of each Physician's Assistant. We have a complete record in our files and we give it to the physician who employs him.

"My hope is that the Board of Medical Examiners will set up machinery to license the schools training assistants. These schools will be required to keep appropriate records. If a physician's assistant returns to us for further training at the instigation of his physician-employer, we will give the desired training. We will issue a new certificate indicating the additional months of educational experience and keep in our files a record of the new areas where we will certify that he is trained to work in.

"You could do us a real service by writing Dwight Wilbur, chairman of the Health Manpower Council of the AMA, urging that the AMA set the standards for schools which are training physician's assistants. Unless this is done, this area will become chaotic."

I hope this information will be useful to you.

Sincerely,

Eugene A. Stead, Jr., M.D.

Sept

~~December~~ 18, 1969

Dr. R. M. Cox  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
Board of Medical Examiners  
509 Professional Building  
Portsmouth, Virginia

Dear Dr. Cox:

We do not state in our certificate the areas of competence of each Physician's Assistant. We have a complete record in our files and we give it to the physician who employs him.

My hope is that the Board of Medical Examiners will set up machinery to license the schools training assistants. These schools will be required to keep appropriate records. If a physician's assistant returns to us for further training at the instigation of his physician-employer, we will give the desired training. We will issue a new certificate indicating the additional months of educational experience and keep in our files a record of the new areas where we will certify that he is trained to work in.

You could do us a real service by writing Dwight Wilbur, the chairman of the Health Manpower Council of the AMA, urging that the AMA set the standards for schools which are training physician's assistants. Unless this is done, this area will become chaotic.

Sincerely,

Eugene A. Stead, Jr., M.D.

Enclosures

1. P. A. Bulletin
2. Description of Clin Trng for current grad. class
3. " " job each grad. is now filling.

*Arlington Hospital*

NON PROFIT. NON SECTARIAN



September 25, 1969

Dr. Thomas Kenney  
Duke University  
Department of Pathology  
Durham, North Carolina

Dear Tom:

I would appreciate any information you could give me concerning licensure of a "physician's assistant." I am enclosing a letter from Dr. R. M. Cox, Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Medical Examiners, which explains my interest. Tom, I realize you have plenty of spare time these days. I hope that you can at least refer me to a source for this information.

It was nice to see you in Chicago.

Sincerely,

William D. Dolan, M.D.

WDD:mtg

Enclosure

## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



## BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

509 PROFESSIONAL BUILDING  
PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA 23704

September 16, 1969

Dr. William D. Dolan  
5129 North 16th Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22205

Dear Dr. Dolan:

The State Board of Medical Examiners is faced with making a decision regarding the licensure of a "physician's assistant." As you probably know Duke University graduated a class such as this in June and there are 26 other medical schools who are already engaged in this type of education. I took the matter up with our Council of the State Society last Sunday in Richmond. They are not too impressed with the necessity of these people being licensed and I am not, but some of my Board members are. The Council asked me to arrange for a meeting with the Medical Service Committee of which you are Chairman. I assume that a good time to arrange this meeting would be when the State Society meets in Virginia Beach. I know that some of my Board members will be there and I can easily have representation from my Board get together with your Committee or whatever part of your Committee you think is necessary. I am in the process of getting together all the information I can about the work that these people are to do. I would think that in about 10 days I can have it in proper form to send to you and each member of your Committee or to those designated by you so that you may have better knowledge of what it is all about.

I would be glad to hear from you at your convenience and look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell Cox".

R. M. Cox, M. D.  
Secretary-Treasurer

RMC:jbp

## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



## BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

509 PROFESSIONAL BUILDING

PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA 23704

September 16, 1969

Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr.  
Duke University  
Durham, North Carolina

Dear Dr. Stead:

I have in front of me an editorial which someone was kind enough to send to me. It is titled THE PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT—JOB DESCRIPTION AND LICENSING. I am writing to you for needed information so that I can inform the members of my Board about the physician's assistant. We have to make a decision in Virginia as to whether such a person should be licensed. I hasten to say to you that I personally agree with the thought expressed in your editorial. I brought the matter to the attention of the Council of the Virginia State Medical Society at the meeting in Richmond Sunday, and the general opinion of these doctors representing every district in Virginia seemed to be that we would not for the present license a physician's assistant. On the other hand I know that some of my Board members have an opposite feeling and I need your help.

What I need at this moment is as complete a description as possible of what the physician's assistant that you graduated in June is trained to do. I also note that you referred to amending the P. A. certificate from time to time. Does this mean that the certificate issued to the June graduates specifies what he can do?

Your answer to this inquiry will be a great help to me and I trust that you will be able to find time to give me the answer in the near future.

I cannot end this letter without saying to you that I feel and I think that all of the medical profession should feel a deep gratitude for what you are trying to do.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'RMCox'.

R. M. Cox, M. D.  
Secretary-Treasurer

RMC:jbj



We do not state in our certificate the areas of competence of each physician's assistant. We have a complete record in our files & give it to the physician employing him.

My hope is that the board of medical Examiners will set up machinery to license schools training assistants. These schools will be required to keep appropriate records. If a P.A. returns to us for further training at the instigation of his physician employer we will give the desired training. We will issue a new certificate indicating the additional months of educational experience & keep in our files a record of the new areas where we will certificate that he is trained to work in.

You could do us a real service by writing Wight Wilber, the chairman of the Health Manpower Council of the AMA urging that the ~~AMA~~ <sup>AMA</sup> begin to set the standards for schools training physician's assistants. Unless this is done, this area will become chaotic.