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Memorandum to the Executive Committee of APAP

Paul F. Moson ✓
Donald W. Fisher, Ph.D.
David Lawrence, M.D.

The attached are draft recommendations concerning expanded eligibility criteria for the 1974 NBME examination for assistants to the primary care physician. The eligibility subcommittee of the NBME would appreciate your reactions and comments.

We would also like your thoughts about the best organization to administer the review of applications. The fifty State Boards of Medical Examiners under the coordination of the Federation of State Medical Boards is one alternative. Another is to establish a special national structure to do this job.

Please let me have your thoughts by letter or telephone as soon as possible so we can get on with the job. Telephone number is (609) 452-8701.

AMS:cb

AMS
Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., M.D.

*Send to Oranov
De Vries
Lester Carter.*
December 20, 1973

*John McQuay
file N.B.NE.*

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ELIGIBILITY
OF INFORMALLY TRAINED APPLICANTS
PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT CERTIFYING EXAMINATION

The following recommendations have been approved by the Eligibility Subcommittee and Advisory Committee on Physician's Assistants concerning eligibility requirements for applicants who have not graduated from formal training programs, but who have acquired relevant proficiency through work experience.

In order to be eligible to register for the certifying examination for primary care physician's assistants, an applicant who has not graduated from a formal training program:

1. must have had, within the last five years, a minimum of four years of medical clinical experience under the immediate supervision of a physician who has the authorized responsibility for the professional activities of the physician's assistant and has the legal responsibility for the care of the patients served by the physician's assistant;
2. must have a high school diploma or its equivalent;
3. must complete an application form containing the following information:

a. Current and previous employment

Position held _____
Length of employment _____
Name of physician supervisor _____

b. Formal education and training

High school _____
Military _____
College - university _____
Professional - technical _____

c. Informal training

Type of training _____
Where it was obtained _____
Length of training _____

d. Current work experience

Health care functions performed _____
Frequency with which functions are performed _____

4. An applicant's employment history for the last four years as well as a description of his work experience must be verified by the physician or physicians who have supervised his work.

5. The physician who has supervised the applicant's work experience in the last year will be required to verify the applicant's description of his role and functions within the practice, and to certify that in his judgment the applicant has performed these functions satisfactorily and is prepared to take this certifying examination.
6. The physician who provides this verification of work experience must have supervised the applicant's performance in the medical clinical setting for at least one year.
7. An applicant must be performing all of the following health care functions, and, in the last year, must have performed each function a specified minimum number of times. (These minimum frequencies are listed below.)

<u>REQUIRED HEALTH CARE FUNCTIONS</u>	<u>MINIMUM TIMES PERFORMED IN LAST YEAR</u>
a. take a <u>complete</u> patient history	100
b. perform a <u>full</u> physical examination	100
c. record and organize patient data for presentation to supervising physician	100
d. initiate requests for commonly performed blood, urine, and stool analyses, and cultures	300
e. initiate requests for x-ray studies	100
f. perform a venipuncture	100
g. suture minor lacerations	+
h. apply splints and traction	+
i. review history, physical, and laboratory data to identify normal and abnormal findings	300
j. make patient management and treatment decisions as delegated - initial visit	300
k. make patient management and treatment decisions as delegated - follow up visit	300
l. provide instruction to patient and family regarding common health problems	300
m. provide guidance and counseling to patient and/or family for common health problems	100
n. make management and treatment decisions in emergency and life-threatening situations	+
+ An applicant need not have performed these functions in the last year provided the physician verifies that the P.A. has been trained to perform them.	

REQUIRED
HEALTH CARE FUNCTIONS

MINIMUM TIMES
PERFORMED IN LAST YEAR

D. establish and maintain an airway	+
P. control external hemorrhage	+
Q. perform closed chest cardiac massage	+
R. start and administer I.V. fluids	+

At its meeting on August 29, the Advisory Committee unanimously approved a motion that the National Board staff work toward 1974 as the target date for implementation of these expanded eligibility requirements.

P
A
H
X

+ An applicant need not have performed these functions in the last year provided the physician verifies that the P.A. has been trained to perform them.