

Duke University Medical Center

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

PHYSICIANS ASSISTANT PROGRAM  
P. O. BOX CHS 2914

January 11, 1971

POSTAL CODE 27706  
TELEPHONE 919-684-6134

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. David E. Lewis  
FROM: D. Robert Howard, M.D.  
SUBJECT: Professional Liability Insurance for Graduate Physician's Assistants

On Spetember 25, 1969, the Insurance Rating Board of New York established a Code No. 9711, under which physician's or surgeon's assistants can purchase professional liability insurance. This classification applies to "physician's or surgeon's assistants who have completed an approved course of study leading to university certification and who perform their duties under the direct supervision of a licensed physician or surgeon assisting in the clinical and/or research endeavors of the physician or surgeon". A second Code No. 9710H was established for physicians who employ such physician's assistants and utilize them in carrying out their professional responsibilities.

I do not know exactly how many professional liability carriers are members of the Insurance Rating Board but I do know that the Insurance Company of North America, the Hartford Insurance Group, United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, Aetna Insurance Group, Travelers Insurance and Indemnity Company, and Security Insurance Group of Hartford are all members of the Insurance Rating Board and are subject to the policies of the Board. In addition to these member companies, two other companies, the Saint Paul Insurance Group and the Shelby Mutual Insurance Company have also agreed to provide professional liability insurance for our graduate physician's assistants. To the best of my understanding these companies are providing comparable coverage. They may, in fact, be members of the Insurance Rating Board, but this I do not know for sure.

One company, the Medical Protective Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana, does not provide professional liability insurance for anyone other than medical and dental doctors. If the physician's assistant is joined in a suit with his employer-physician who is covered by the medical protective company, the company has stated that they would carry out his defense along with that of his employer and pay his share of any damages provided the total damages paid would not exceed the stated limits of the policy. They do not require an additional premium for this extension of their defense of the physician's assistant. One exception to that rule is that if the employee is an X-ray technician, an additional premium will be charged to the doctor.

There are, of course, wide variations in premiums from state to state; however, in the State of North Carolina the established annual rates are as follows:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Code 9710H</u>	<u>Code 9711</u>
\$5/15,000	\$10.00	\$13.00
\$25/75,000	\$21.00	\$27.00
\$50/150,000	\$23.00	\$30.00
\$100/300,000	\$26.00	\$34.00

At this time, I am inquiring as to the rates for these two codes in other states and I am also trying to clarify how many of the professional liability carriers are members of the Insurance Rating Board and, further, to find out more specifically what stands the non-member companies have taken in reference to this issue. I hope to have that information available in detail by July 1, 1971.

If you come in contact with people who have any further questions regarding professional liability coverage for the graduate physician's assistant, please have them contact me directly.

D. Robert Howard, M.D., Director  
Physician's Assistant Program

DRH:jah