

HOUSE BILL NO. 737  
INTRODUCED BY MCNUTT

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF A "PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT-CERTIFIED" TO "PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT" AND THE NAME OF A PLAN FOR THE USE OF A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT BY A PHYSICIAN FROM "UTILIZATION PLAN" TO "SUPERVISION AGREEMENT"; REVISING REQUIREMENTS FOR A SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN; PROHIBITING THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE BY A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT WITHOUT A SUPERVISION AGREEMENT; REVISING PROVISIONS FOR RULEMAKING BY THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS; REVISING THE TYPES OF LICENSES ISSUED TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS; REQUIRING A DUTIES AND DELEGATION AGREEMENT AND PROVIDING FOR THE CONTENT OF A SUPERVISION AGREEMENT AND A DUTIES AND DELEGATION AGREEMENT; REVISING AUTHORITY FOR ISSUANCE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSES AND LICENSE RENEWALS; PROVIDING FOR EXEMPTIONS FROM LICENSURE; REVISING THE CRITERIA FOR LICENSURE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS; REVISING THE AUTHORITY FOR THE AGENCY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AND THE ASSISTANT'S SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN; REVISING THE DEGREE OF SUPERVISION REQUIRED OF THE SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN; REVISING THE PRESCRIPTION AND DISPENSING AUTHORITY OF A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT; ~~REMOVING THE PROHIBITION AGAINST A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PERFORMING AN ABORTION;~~ REMOVING THE PROHIBITION AGAINST A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PERFORMING AN ABORTION; PROVIDING FOR THE PRACTICE OF A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AND A SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN DURING A DISASTER OR EMERGENCY; AMENDING SECTIONS 2-15-1731, 33-22-111, 33-22-114, 37-3-103, 37-8-103, 37-20-101, 37-20-103, 37-20-104, 37-20-202, 37-20-203, 37-20-301, 37-20-302, 37-20-303, 37-20-401, 37-20-402, 37-20-403, 37-20-404, 37-20-405, 37-20-406, 39-71-116, 41-1-401, 46-4-114, 50-5-101, 50-5-216, 50-16-201, 50-19-101, 50-20-109, 52-5-108, AND 53-6-101, MCA; AND REPEALING SECTION 37-20-201, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 2-15-1731, MCA, is amended to read:

**"2-15-1731. Board of medical examiners.** (1) There is a Montana state board of medical examiners.

(2) The board consists of 11 members appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate.

Appointments made when the legislature is not in session may be confirmed at the next session.

(3) The members are:

- (a) five members having the degree of doctor of medicine;
- (b) one member having the degree of doctor of osteopathy;
- (c) one member who is a licensed podiatrist;
- (d) one member who is a licensed nutritionist;
- (e) one member who is a licensed physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant; and
- (f) two members of the general public who are not medical practitioners.

(4) The members having the degree of doctor of medicine may not be from the same county. Each member must be a citizen of the United States. Each member, except for public members, must have been licensed and must have practiced medicine or dietetics-nutrition in this state for at least 5 years and must have been a resident of this state for at least 5 years.

(5) Members shall serve staggered 4-year terms. A term commences on September 1 of each year of appointment. A member may, upon notice and hearing, be removed by the governor for neglect of duty, incompetence, or unprofessional or dishonorable conduct.

(6) The board is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121."

**Section 2.** Section 33-22-111, MCA, is amended to read:

**"33-22-111. Policies and certificates to provide for freedom of choice of practitioners -- professional practice not enlarged.** (1) All policies or certificates of disability insurance, including individual, group, and blanket policies or certificates, must provide that the insured has full freedom of choice in the selection of any licensed physician, physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant, dentist, osteopath, chiropractor, optometrist, podiatrist, psychologist, licensed social worker, licensed professional counselor, acupuncturist, naturopathic physician, physical therapist, or advanced practice registered nurse as specifically listed in 37-8-202 for treatment of any illness or injury within the scope and limitations of the person's practice. Whenever the policies or certificates insure against the expense of drugs, the insured has full freedom of choice in the selection of any licensed and registered pharmacist.

(2) This section may not be construed as enlarging the scope and limitations of practice of any of the licensed professions enumerated in subsection (1). This section may not be construed as amending, altering, or repealing any statutes relating to the licensing or use of hospitals."

**Section 3.** Section 33-22-114, MCA, is amended to read:

**"33-22-114. Coverage required for services provided by physician ~~assistants-certified~~ assistants.**

An insurer, a health service corporation, or any employee health and welfare fund that provides accident or health insurance benefits to residents of this state shall provide, in group and individual insurance contracts, coverage for health services provided by a physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant as normally covered by contracts for services supplied by a physician if health care services that the physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant is approved to perform are covered by the contract."

**Section 4.** Section 37-3-103, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-3-103. Exemptions from licensing requirements.** (1) This chapter does not prohibit or require a license with respect to any of the following acts:

- (a) the gratuitous rendering of services in cases of emergency or catastrophe;
- (b) the rendering of services in this state by a physician lawfully practicing medicine in another state or territory. However, if the physician does not limit the services to an occasional case or if the physician has any established or regularly used hospital connections in this state or maintains or is provided with, for the physician's regular use, an office or other place for rendering the services, the physician must possess a license to practice medicine in this state.
- (c) the practice of dentistry under the conditions and limitations defined by the laws of this state;
- (d) the practice of podiatry under the conditions and limitations defined by the laws of this state;
- (e) the practice of optometry under the conditions and limitations defined by the laws of this state;
- (f) the practice of chiropractic under the conditions and limitations defined by the laws of this state;
- (g) the practice of Christian Science, with or without compensation, and ritual circumcisions by rabbis;
- (h) the performance by commissioned medical officers of the United States public health service or of the United States department of veterans affairs of their lawful duties in this state as officers;
- (i) the rendering of nursing services by registered or other nurses in the lawful discharge of their duties as nurses or of midwife services by registered nurse-midwives under the supervision of a licensed physician;
- (j) the rendering of services by interns or resident physicians in a hospital or clinic in which they are training, subject to the conditions and limitations of this chapter. The board may require a resident physician to be licensed if the physician otherwise engages in the practice of medicine in the state of Montana.
- (k) the rendering of services by a physical therapist, technician, medical assistant, as provided in 37-3-104, or other paramedical specialist under the appropriate amount and type of supervision of a person licensed under the laws of this state to practice medicine, but this exemption does not extend the scope of a

paramedical specialist;

(l) the rendering of services by a physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant in accordance with Title 37, chapter 20;

(m) the practice by persons licensed under the laws of this state to practice a limited field of the healing arts, and not specifically designated, under the conditions and limitations defined by law;

(n) the execution of a death sentence pursuant to 46-19-103;

(o) the practice of direct-entry midwifery. For the purpose of this section, the practice of direct-entry midwifery means the advising, attending, or assisting of a woman during pregnancy, labor, natural childbirth, or the postpartum period. Except as authorized in 37-27-302, a direct-entry midwife may not dispense or administer a prescription drug, as those terms are defined in 37-7-101.

(p) the use of an automated external defibrillator pursuant to Title 50, chapter 6, part 5.

(2) Licensees referred to in subsection (1) who are licensed to practice a limited field of healing arts shall confine themselves to the field for which they are licensed or registered and to the scope of their respective licenses and, with the exception of those licensees who hold a medical degree, may not use the title "M.D.", "D.O.", or any word or abbreviation to indicate or to induce others to believe that they are engaged in the diagnosis or treatment of persons afflicted with disease, injury, or defect of body or mind except to the extent and under the conditions expressly provided by the law under which they are licensed."

**Section 5.** Section 37-8-103, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-8-103. Exemptions -- limitations on authority conferred.** (1) This chapter may not be construed as prohibiting:

(a) gratuitous nursing by friends or members of the family;

(b) incidental care of the sick by domestic servants or persons primarily employed as housekeepers;

(c) nursing assistance in the case of an emergency;

(d) the practice of nursing by students enrolled in approved nursing education programs;

(e) the practice of nursing in this state by any legally qualified nurse of another state whose engagement requires the nurse to accompany and care for a patient temporarily residing in this state during the period of one engagement not to exceed 6 months in length, provided that person does not represent to the public that the person is a nurse licensed to practice in this state;

(f) the practice of any legally qualified nurse of another state who is employed by the United States government or any bureau, division, or agency of the United States while in the discharge of that nurse's official

duties;

(g) nursing or care of the sick, with or without compensation, when done in connection with the practice of the religious tenets of any well-established religion or denomination by adherents of the religion or denomination;

(h) nursing or care of a minor who is in the care of a licensed foster parent, to the same extent that the care may be provided by a parent or guardian;

(i) the execution of a death sentence pursuant to 46-19-103;

(j) nursing tasks delegated by licensed nurses to unlicensed persons according to rules adopted by the board; and

(k) the provision of nutrition, inclusive of supplements and medications prescribed by a physician, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant, to be administered to an individual through a gastrostomy or jejunostomy tube by a parent, guardian, foster parent, surrogate parent, other family member, or individual, regardless of compensation, who is authorized and trained by the individual receiving the nutrition, inclusive of supplements and prescribed medications, or who is authorized and trained by a parent, guardian, foster parent, surrogate parent, or other adult family member. The exemption in this subsection (1)(k) does not apply to provision of nutrition, inclusive of supplements and prescribed medications, in a licensed facility that provides skilled nursing care as provided in Title 50, chapter 5.

(2) This chapter may not be construed:

(a) as conferring any authority to practice medicine, surgery, or any combination of medicine or surgery;

(b) to confer any authority to practice any of the healing arts prescribed by law to be practiced in the state of Montana; or

(c) to permit any person to undertake the treatment of disease by any of the methods employed in the healing arts unless the licensee has been qualified under the applicable law or laws licensing the practice of those professions or healing arts in the state of Montana.

(3) (a) This chapter may not be construed to apply to a personal assistant performing health maintenance activities and acting at the direction of a person with a disability.

(b) The following definitions apply to this subsection:

(i) "Health care professional" means an individual licensed pursuant to Title 37 as a physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, registered nurse, or occupational therapist or a medical social worker working as a member of a case management team for the purposes of the home- and community-based services program of the department of public health and human services.

(ii) "Health maintenance activities" includes urinary systems management, bowel treatments, administration of medications, and wound care if the activities in the opinion of the physician or other health care professional for the person with a disability could be performed by the person if the person were physically capable and if the procedure may be safely performed in the home.

(iii) "Physician" means an individual licensed pursuant to Title 37, chapter 3."

**Section 6.** Section 37-20-101, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-20-101. Qualifications of supervising physician and physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant.**

(1) ~~Each~~ The supervising physician named in the ~~utilization plan~~ supervision agreement required by 37-20-301 shall:

(a) possess a current, ~~unrestricted~~ active license to practice medicine in this state; and

~~(b) submit a statement to the Montana state board of medical examiners that, in his opinion, the physician assistant-certified to be employed is of good character and is both mentally and physically able to perform the duties of a physician assistant-certified described in the utilization plan;~~

~~(c)(b) submit a statement to the board that he will exercise supervision over the physician assistant-certified assistant in accordance with any the rules adopted by the board and will retain professional and legal responsibility for the care and treatment of his patients; and by the physician assistant.~~

~~(d) submit detailed information to the board regarding the physician's professional background, medical education, internship and residency, continuing education received, membership in state and national medical associations, hospital and staff privileges, and such other information as the board may require.~~

(2) ~~Each~~ A ~~physician assistant-certified assistant~~ named in the ~~utilization plan~~ supervision agreement required by 37-20-301 ~~shall meet the criteria for approval as a physician assistant-certified as provided in 37-20-402~~ must have a current, active Montana physician assistant license."

**Section 7.** Section 37-20-103, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-20-103. Limitations on authority conferred -- exception.** Except as provided in 37-10-102, nothing in this chapter may be construed to authorize a physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant to perform those functions and duties specifically delegated by law to persons licensed as optometrists, as defined under Title 37, chapter 10. ~~A physician assistant-certified may not perform an abortion.~~ A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT MAY NOT PERFORM AN ABORTION."

**Section 8.** Section 37-20-104, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-20-104. Title and Unlicensed practice -- penalties.** (1) A person who employs a physician ~~assistant-certified assistant~~ or holds out to the public that the person is a physician ~~assistant-certified assistant~~ without the approval of the Montana state board of medical examiners having been issued a Montana physician assistant license is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable as provided in 46-18-212.

(2) Prior to being issued a license and ~~receiving approval of~~ submitting a utilization plan supervision agreement to the board, a physician ~~assistant-certified assistant~~ may not ~~engage in the practice of medicine as~~ a physician assistant in this state, even under the supervision of a licensed physician.

(3) The board may enforce the provisions of this section by the remedy of injunction and the application of other penalties as provided by law."

**Section 9.** Section 37-20-202, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-20-202. Adoption of rules.** The board of medical examiners ~~shall~~ may adopt administrative rules to implement the provisions of this chapter ~~that~~:

- ~~—— (1) address the issues of supervision and direction limitations and requirements;~~
- ~~—— (2) address the issue of protocols for interaction of medical personnel with differing responsibilities;~~
- ~~—— (3) specify that a physician may not utilize more than one physician assistant-certified unless the physician is able to demonstrate to the board the ability to supervise more than one assistant adequately;~~
- ~~—— (4) address other considerations pertinent to the approval of physician assistant-certified utilization plans and locum tenens utilization plans, and the health care needs of the public;~~
- ~~—— (5) address physician assistant training in Montana; and~~
- ~~—— (6) and set forth grounds for disciplinary action."~~

**Section 10.** Section 37-20-203, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-20-203. Licensing of physician assistants-certified assistants.** The Montana state board of medical examiners may issue the following two forms of physician assistants-certified licenses under its seal:

- ~~—— (1) a permanent license, signed by the president and subject to periodic renewal; and~~
- ~~—— (2) a temporary license, signed by any member of the board and subject to specifications and limitations imposed by the board either an active or inactive license to a physician assistant applying for a license or license renewal in Montana."~~

**Section 11.** Section 37-20-301, MCA, is amended to read:

**~~"37-20-301. Utilization plan required -- contents -- approval~~ Requirements for use of physician assistant -- supervision agreement -- duties and delegation agreement -- content -- approval -- filing. (1)**

A physician, office, firm, state institution, or professional service corporation may not employ or make use of the services of a physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant in the practice of medicine, as defined in 37-3-102, and as provided in this chapter and a physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant may not be employed or practice as a physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant unless the physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant:

(a) is supervised by a ~~licensed~~ physician licensed in this state;

(b) is licensed by the ~~Montana state~~ board of medical examiners; and

(c) has ~~received board approval of~~ submitted a physician ~~assistant-certified utilization plan~~ assistant supervision agreement to the board on a form prescribed by the department; and

(d) has paid to the board the applicable fees required by the board.

(2) A physician ~~assistant-certified utilization plan~~ must set forth in detail the following information:

~~—— (a) the name and qualifications of the supervising physician, as provided in 37-20-101, and the name and license number of the physician assistant-certified;~~

~~—— (b) the nature and location of the physician's medical practice;~~

~~—— (c) the scope of practice of the physician assistant-certified and the locations where the physician assistant-certified will practice;~~

~~—— (d) the name and qualifications of a second physician meeting the requirements of 37-20-101 to act as an alternate supervising physician in the absence of the primary supervising physician;~~

~~—— (e) necessary guidelines describing the intended availability of the supervising or alternate physician for consultation by the physician assistant-certified; and~~

~~—— (f) other information the board may consider necessary.~~

~~—— (3) The board shall approve the utilization plan if it finds that the practice of the physician assistant-certified is:~~

~~—— (a) assigned by the supervising physician;~~

~~—— (b) within the scope of the training, knowledge, experience, and practice of the supervisory physician;~~  
and

~~—— (c) within the scope of the training, knowledge, education, and experience of the physician assistant-certified.~~

~~—— (4) A supervising physician and a physician assistant-certified may submit a new or additional utilization~~



plan to the board for approval without reestablishing the criteria set out in 37-20-402, so long as the information requirements of subsection (2) have been met and the appropriate fee provided for in 37-20-302(1) has been paid:

~~———— (5) A utilization plan may provide that a physician assistant-certified be allowed to furnish services on a locum tenens basis at a location other than the physician assistant-certified's primary place of practice. A locum tenens utilization plan may be approved by a single board member.~~

(2) A supervising physician and the supervised physician assistant shall execute a duties and delegation agreement constituting a contract that defines the physician assistant's professional relationship with the supervising physician and the limitations on the physician assistant's practice under the supervision of the supervising physician. The agreement must be kept current, by amendment or substitution, to reflect changes in the duties of each party occurring over time. The board may by rule specify other requirements for the agreement. A physician assistant licensed by the board before October 1, 2005, shall execute a duties and delegation agreement with a supervising physician by October 1, 2006.

(3) A physician assistant and the physician assistant's supervising physician shall keep the supervision agreement and the duties and delegation agreement at their place of work and provide a copy upon request to a health care provider, a health care facility, a state or federal agency, the board, and any other individual who requests one."

**Section 12.** Section 37-20-302, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-20-302. Utilization plan approval fee -- renewal of license -- renewal fee Application for and renewal of license -- fees.** ~~(1) A utilization plan approval fee must be paid in an amount set by the board. Payment must be made when the utilization plan is submitted to the board and is not refundable.~~

~~———— (2) A locum tenens utilization plan approval fee must be paid in an amount set by the board.~~

~~———— (3) A license issued under this part must be renewed for a period and on a date set by the department of labor and industry.~~

~~———— (4) A license renewal fee set by the board must be paid at the time the license is renewed.~~

~~———— (5) The department of labor and industry shall mail a renewal notice prior to the renewal date.~~

~~———— (6) Except as provided in 37-1-138, if the license renewal fee is not paid on or before the renewal date, the board may consider the license lapsed.~~ (1) A person desiring to practice as a physician assistant shall submit an application to the department on a form prescribed by the department and pay all applicable fees to the department. The applicant shall provide the authorization necessary for the release of records or other information

necessary for licensure to the department. The burden of proving that the applicant has complied with all application requirements is on the applicant. However, the department may make an independent investigation to determine whether the applicant possesses the required qualifications and whether the applicant has ever committed unprofessional conduct.

(2) In order to renew a license, a physician assistant shall pay to the department a renewal fee as prescribed by the board. The renewal fee must be paid before the expiration date of the license, as set forth in department rule. The department shall send renewal notices before the renewal is due. Except as provided in 37-1-138, failure to pay a renewal fee results in the expiration of the license.

(7)(3) Fees received by the department of labor and industry must be deposited in the state special revenue fund for use by the board in the administration of this chapter, subject to 37-1-101(6)."

**Section 13.** Section 37-20-303, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-20-303. Exemptions from approval licensure requirement.** ~~This chapter does not require the approval of a physician assistant-certified utilization plan or locum tenens utilization plan with respect to any acts within the professional competence of a person licensed under the provisions of Title 37, chapter 3, 4, 6 through 17, or 31:~~ (1) This chapter does not prohibit or require a license as a physician assistant for the rendering of medical or medically related services if the service rendered is within the applicable scope of practice for any of the following individuals:

- (a) a physician assistant providing services in an emergency or catastrophe, as provided in [section 31];
- (b) a federally employed physician assistant;
- (c) a registered nurse, an advanced practice registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, or a medication aide licensed or authorized pursuant to Title 37, chapter 8;
- (d) a student physician assistant when practicing in a hospital or clinic in which the student is training;
- (e) a physical therapist licensed pursuant to Title 37, chapter 11;
- (f) a medical assistant, as provided in 37-3-104;
- (g) an emergency medical technician licensed pursuant to Title 50, chapter 6; or
- (h) any other medical or paramedical practitioner, specialist, or medical assistant, technician, or aide when licensed or authorized pursuant to laws of this state.

(2) A licensee or other individual referred to in subsection (1) who is not a licensed physician assistant may not use the title "PA" or "PA-C" or any other word or abbreviation to indicate or induce others to believe that the individual is a physician assistant."

**Section 14.** Section 37-20-401, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-20-401. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the Montana state board of medical examiners established in 2-15-1731.

~~(2) "Locum tenens" means the temporary provision of services within the scope of practice of a physician assistant-certified.~~

(2) "Duties and delegation agreement" means a written contract between the supervising physician and the physician assistant that meets the requirements of 37-20-301.

(3) "Physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant" means a member of a health care team, ~~approved~~ licensed by the board, who provides medical services that may include but are not limited to examination, diagnosis, prescription of medications, and treatment, ~~as approved by the board~~, under the supervision of a physician licensed by the board.

~~(4) "Protocol" means the proper relationship between a physician assistant-certified and other health care practitioners and the manner of their interaction.~~

(4) "Supervising physician" means a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy licensed by the board who agrees to a supervision agreement and a duties and delegation agreement.

(5) "Supervision agreement" means a written agreement between a supervising physician and a physician assistant providing for the supervision of the physician assistant."

**Section 15.** Section 37-20-402, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-20-402. Criteria for licensing a physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant.** A person may not be licensed as a physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant in this state unless the person:

(1) is of good moral character;

(2) is a graduate of a physician assistant training program ~~approved by the American medical association's committee on allied health education and accreditation~~ accredited by the accreditation review commission on education for the physician assistant or, if accreditation was granted before 2001, accredited by the American medical association's committee on allied health education and accreditation or the commission on accreditation of allied health education programs;

(3) has taken and ~~successfully~~ passed an examination ~~recognized~~ administered by the national commission on the certification of physician assistants; and

(4) holds a current certificate from the national commission on the certification of physician assistants;  
and

~~(5) has submitted to the board detailed information on the person's history, education, and experience."~~

**Section 16.** Section 37-20-403, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-20-403. Physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant as agent of supervising physician -- degree of supervision required -- scope of practice.** (1) ~~In establishing protocol, a~~ A physician assistant-certified must be assistant is considered the agent of the supervising physician with regard to all duties delegated to the physician ~~assistant-certified under the utilization plan~~ assistant and is professionally and legally responsible for the care and treatment of a patient by a physician assistant licensed in accordance with this chapter. A health care provider shall consider the instructions of a physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant as being the instructions of the supervising physician as long as the instructions concern the duties delegated to the physician ~~assistant-certified under the utilization plan~~ assistant.

(2) ~~The supervising physician and the physician assistant-certified are responsible for making available a copy of the approved utilization plan to all other health care practitioners with whom they reasonably believe they will interact on a regular basis.~~ Onsite or direct supervision of a physician assistant by a supervising physician is not required if the supervising physician has provided a means of communication between the supervising physician and the physician assistant or an alternate means of supervision in the event of the supervising physician's absence.

(3) A physician assistant may diagnose, examine, and treat human conditions, ailments, diseases, injuries, or infirmities, either physical or mental, by any means, method, device, or instrumentality authorized by the supervising physician."

**Section 17.** Section 37-20-404, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-20-404. Prescribing and dispensing authority -- discretion of supervising physician on limitation of authority.** (1) A physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant may prescribe, dispense, and administer drugs to the extent authorized by the ~~board by rule, by the utilization plan, or both. The prescribing, dispensing, and administration of drugs are also subject to the authority of the supervising physician, and the supervising physician may impose additional limitations on the prescribing and dispensing authority granted by the board~~ supervising physician.

(2) All dispensing activities allowed by this section must comply with 37-2-104 and with packaging and labeling guidelines developed by the board of pharmacy under Title 37, chapter 7.

(3) The prescribing and dispensing authority granted a physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant may include

the following:

(a) Prescribing, dispensing, and administration of Schedule III drugs listed in 50-32-226, Schedule IV drugs listed in 50-32-229, and Schedule V drugs listed in 50-32-232 is authorized.

(b) Prescribing, dispensing, and administration of Schedule II drugs listed in 50-32-224 may be authorized for limited periods not to exceed 34 days.

(c) Records on the dispensing and administration of scheduled drugs must be kept.

(d) A physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant shall maintain registration with the federal drug enforcement administration if the physician assistant is authorized by the supervising physician to prescribe controlled substances.

(e) ~~Prescriptions~~ A prescription written by a physician ~~assistants-certified~~ assistant must comply with regulations relating to prescription requirements adopted by the board of pharmacy.

(f) ~~The board shall adopt rules regarding the refilling of prescriptions written by physician assistants-certified."~~

**Section 18.** Section 37-20-405, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-20-405. Billing.** A supervising physician, office, firm, institution, or other entity may bill for a service provided by a supervised physician ~~assistant-certified services~~ assistant."

**Section 19.** Section 37-20-406, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-20-406. Liaison to board.** The Montana academy of physician assistants ~~shall elect~~ may appoint one person to serve as a nonvoting liaison to the board to represent the interests of physician assistants."

**Section 20.** Section 39-71-116, MCA, is amended to read:

**"39-71-116. Definitions.** Unless the context otherwise requires, in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Actual wage loss" means that the wages that a worker earns or is qualified to earn after the worker reaches maximum healing are less than the actual wages the worker received at the time of the injury.

(2) "Administer and pay" includes all actions by the state fund under the Workers' Compensation Act and the Occupational Disease Act of Montana necessary to:

- (a) investigation, review, and settlement of claims;
- (b) payment of benefits;

- (c) setting of reserves;
- (d) furnishing of services and facilities; and
- (e) use of actuarial, audit, accounting, vocational rehabilitation, and legal services.

(3) "Aid or sustenance" means a public or private subsidy made to provide a means of support, maintenance, or subsistence for the recipient.

(4) "Average weekly wage" means the mean weekly earnings of all employees under covered employment, as defined and established annually by the department. It is established at the nearest whole dollar number and must be adopted by the department before July 1 of each year.

(5) "Beneficiary" means:

- (a) a surviving spouse living with or legally entitled to be supported by the deceased at the time of injury;
- (b) an unmarried child under 18 years of age;
- (c) an unmarried child under 22 years of age who is a full-time student in an accredited school or is enrolled in an accredited apprenticeship program;
- (d) an invalid child over 18 years of age who is dependent, as defined in 26 U.S.C. 152, upon the decedent for support at the time of injury;
- (e) a parent who is dependent, as defined in 26 U.S.C. 152, upon the decedent for support at the time of the injury if a beneficiary, as defined in subsections (5)(a) through (5)(d), does not exist; and
- (f) a brother or sister under 18 years of age if dependent, as defined in 26 U.S.C. 152, upon the decedent for support at the time of the injury but only until the age of 18 years and only when a beneficiary, as defined in subsections (5)(a) through (5)(e), does not exist.

(6) "Business partner" means the community, governmental entity, or business organization that provides the premises for work-based learning activities for students.

(7) "Casual employment" means employment not in the usual course of the trade, business, profession, or occupation of the employer.

(8) "Child" includes a posthumous child, a dependent stepchild, and a child legally adopted prior to the injury.

(9) (a) "Construction industry" means the major group of general contractors and operative builders, heavy construction (other than building construction) contractors, and special trade contractors listed in major group 23 in the North American Industry Classification System Manual.

(b) The term does not include office workers, design professionals, salespersons, estimators, or any other related employment that is not directly involved on a regular basis in the provision of physical labor at a

construction or renovation site.

(10) "Days" means calendar days, unless otherwise specified.

(11) "Department" means the department of labor and industry.

(12) "Fiscal year" means the period of time between July 1 and the succeeding June 30.

(13) (a) "Household or domestic employment" means employment of persons other than members of the household for the purpose of tending to the aid and comfort of the employer or members of the employer's family, including but not limited to housecleaning and yard work;

(b) ~~but~~ The term does not include employment beyond the scope of normal household or domestic duties, such as home health care or domiciliary care.

(14) "Insurer" means an employer bound by compensation plan No. 1, an insurance company transacting business under compensation plan No. 2, or the state fund under compensation plan No. 3.

(15) "Invalid" means one who is physically or mentally incapacitated.

(16) "Limited liability company" is as defined in 35-8-102.

(17) "Maintenance care" means treatment designed to provide the optimum state of health while minimizing recurrence of the clinical status.

(18) "Medical stability", "maximum healing", or "maximum medical healing" means a point in the healing process when further material improvement would not be reasonably expected from primary medical treatment.

(19) "Objective medical findings" means medical evidence, including range of motion, atrophy, muscle strength, muscle spasm, or other diagnostic evidence, substantiated by clinical findings.

(20) "Order" means any decision, rule, direction, requirement, or standard of the department or any other determination arrived at or decision made by the department.

(21) "Palliative care" means treatment designed to reduce or ease symptoms without curing the underlying cause of the symptoms.

(22) "Payroll", "annual payroll", or "annual payroll for the preceding year" means the average annual payroll of the employer for the preceding calendar year or, if the employer has not operated a sufficient or any length of time during the calendar year, 12 times the average monthly payroll for the current year. However, an estimate may be made by the department for any employer starting in business if average payrolls are not available. This estimate must be adjusted by additional payment by the employer or refund by the department, as the case may actually be, on December 31 of the current year. An employer's payroll must be computed by calculating all wages, as defined in 39-71-123, that are paid by an employer.

(23) "Permanent partial disability" means a physical condition in which a worker, after reaching maximum

medical healing:

(a) has a permanent impairment established by objective medical findings;

(b) is able to return to work in some capacity but the permanent impairment impairs the worker's ability to work; and

(c) has an actual wage loss as a result of the injury.

(24) "Permanent total disability" means a physical condition resulting from injury as defined in this chapter, after a worker reaches maximum medical healing, in which a worker does not have a reasonable prospect of physically performing regular employment. Regular employment means work on a recurring basis performed for remuneration in a trade, business, profession, or other occupation in this state. Lack of immediate job openings is not a factor to be considered in determining if a worker is permanently totally disabled.

(25) The "plant of the employer" includes the place of business of a third person while the employer has access to or control over the place of business for the purpose of carrying on the employer's usual trade, business, or occupation.

(26) "Primary medical services" means treatment prescribed by a treating physician, for conditions resulting from the injury, necessary for achieving medical stability.

(27) "Public corporation" means the state or a county, municipal corporation, school district, city, city under a commission form of government or special charter, town, or village.

(28) "Reasonably safe place to work" means that the place of employment has been made as free from danger to the life or safety of the employee as the nature of the employment will reasonably permit.

(29) "Reasonably safe tools and appliances" are tools and appliances that are adapted to and that are reasonably safe for use for the particular purpose for which they are furnished.

(30) (a) "Secondary medical services" means those medical services or appliances that are considered not medically necessary for medical stability. The services and appliances include but are not limited to spas or hot tubs, work hardening, physical restoration programs and other restoration programs designed to address disability and not impairment, or equipment offered by individuals, clinics, groups, hospitals, or rehabilitation facilities.

(b) (i) As used in this subsection (30), "disability" means a condition in which a worker's ability to engage in gainful employment is diminished as a result of physical restrictions resulting from an injury. The restrictions may be combined with factors, such as the worker's age, education, work history, and other factors that affect the worker's ability to engage in gainful employment.

(ii) Disability does not mean a purely medical condition.



(31) "Sole proprietor" means the person who has the exclusive legal right or title to or ownership of a business enterprise.

(32) "Temporary partial disability" means a physical condition resulting from an injury, as defined in 39-71-119, in which a worker, prior to maximum healing:

(a) is temporarily unable to return to the position held at the time of injury because of a medically determined physical restriction;

(b) returns to work in a modified or alternative employment; and

(c) suffers a partial wage loss.

(33) "Temporary service contractor" means a person, firm, association, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation conducting business that hires its own employees and assigns them to clients to fill a work assignment with a finite ending date to support or supplement the client's workforce in situations resulting from employee absences, skill shortages, seasonal workloads, and special assignments and projects.

(34) "Temporary total disability" means a physical condition resulting from an injury, as defined in this chapter, that results in total loss of wages and exists until the injured worker reaches maximum medical healing.

(35) "Temporary worker" means a worker whose services are furnished to another on a part-time or temporary basis to fill a work assignment with a finite ending date to support or supplement a workforce in situations resulting from employee absences, skill shortages, seasonal workloads, and special assignments and projects.

(36) "Treating physician" means a person who is primarily responsible for the treatment of a worker's compensable injury and is:

(a) a physician licensed by the state of Montana under Title 37, chapter 3, and has admitting privileges to practice in one or more hospitals, if any, in the area where the physician is located;

(b) a chiropractor licensed by the state of Montana under Title 37, chapter 12;

(c) a physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant licensed by the state of Montana under Title 37, chapter 20, if there is not a treating physician, as provided for in subsection (36)(a), in the area where the physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant is located;

(d) an osteopath licensed by the state of Montana under Title 37, chapter 3;

(e) a dentist licensed by the state of Montana under Title 37, chapter 4;

(f) for a claimant residing out of state or upon approval of the insurer, a treating physician defined in subsections (36)(a) through (36)(e) who is licensed or certified in another state; or

(g) an advanced practice registered nurse licensed by the state of Montana under Title 37, chapter 8,

recognized by the board of nursing as a nurse practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist, and practicing in consultation with a physician licensed under Title 37, chapter 3, if there is not a treating physician, as provided for in subsection (36)(a), in the area in which the advanced practice registered nurse is located.

(37) "Work-based learning activities" means job training and work experience conducted on the premises of a business partner as a component of school-based learning activities authorized by an elementary, secondary, or postsecondary educational institution.

(38) "Year", unless otherwise specified, means calendar year."

**Section 21.** Section 41-1-401, MCA, is amended to read:

**"41-1-401. Definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Emancipated minor" means an individual under 18 years of age who:

- (a) is or has been married;
- (b) is separated from the individual's parent, parents, or legal guardian and is self-supporting; or
- (c) has been granted the right to consent to medical treatment pursuant to an order of limited emancipation granted by a court pursuant to 41-3-438.

(2) "Health care facility" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101.

(3) "Health professional" includes only those persons licensed in Montana as physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, advanced practice registered nurses, dentists, physician ~~assistants-certified~~ assistants, professional counselors, or social workers."

**Section 22.** Section 46-4-114, MCA, is amended to read:

**"46-4-114. Reporting fetal deaths.** A licensed nurse, a midwife, a physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant, an emergency medical technician, a birthing assistant, or any other person who assists in the delivery that occurs outside a licensed medical facility of a fetus that is believed or declared to be dead shall report the death by the earliest means available to the coroner of the county in which the death occurred."

**Section 23.** Section 50-5-101, MCA, is amended to read:

**"50-5-101. Definitions.** As used in parts 1 through 3 of this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Accreditation" means a designation of approval.

(2) "Accreditation association for ambulatory health care" means the organization nationally recognized

by that name that surveys ambulatory surgical centers upon their requests and grants accreditation status to the ambulatory surgical centers that it finds meet its standards and requirements.

(3) "Activities of daily living" means tasks usually performed in the course of a normal day in a resident's life that include eating, walking, mobility, dressing, grooming, bathing, toileting, and transferring.

(4) "Adult day-care center" means a facility, freestanding or connected to another health care facility, that provides adults, on a regularly scheduled basis, with the care necessary to meet the needs of daily living but that does not provide overnight care.

(5) (a) "Adult foster care home" means a private home or other facility that offers, except as provided in 50-5-216, only light personal care or custodial care to four or fewer disabled adults or aged persons who are not related to the owner or manager of the home by blood, marriage, or adoption or who are not under the full guardianship of the owner or manager.

(b) As used in this subsection (5), the following definitions apply:

(i) "Aged person" means a person as defined by department rule as aged.

(ii) "Custodial care" means providing a sheltered, family-type setting for an aged person or disabled adult so as to provide for the person's basic needs of food and shelter and to ensure that a specific person is available to meet those basic needs.

(iii) "Disabled adult" means a person who is 18 years of age or older and who is defined by department rule as disabled.

(iv) (A) "Light personal care" means assisting the aged person or disabled adult in accomplishing such personal hygiene tasks as bathing, dressing, and hair grooming and supervision of prescriptive medicine administration.

(B) The term does not include the administration of prescriptive medications.

(6) "Affected person" means an applicant for a certificate of need, a health care facility located in the geographic area affected by the application, an agency that establishes rates for health care facilities, or a third-party payer who reimburses health care facilities in the area affected by the proposal.

(7) "Assisted living facility" means a congregate residential setting that provides or coordinates personal care, 24-hour supervision and assistance, both scheduled and unscheduled, and activities and health-related services.

(8) "Capital expenditure" means:

(a) an expenditure made by or on behalf of a health care facility that, under generally accepted accounting principles, is not properly chargeable as an expense of operation and maintenance; or

(b) a lease, donation, or comparable arrangement that would be a capital expenditure if money or any other property of value had changed hands.

(9) "Certificate of need" means a written authorization by the department for a person to proceed with a proposal subject to 50-5-301.

(10) "Chemical dependency facility" means a facility whose function is the treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention of the use of any chemical substance, including alcohol, that creates behavioral or health problems and endangers the health, interpersonal relationships, or economic function of an individual or the public health, welfare, or safety.

(11) "Clinical laboratory" means a facility for the microbiological, serological, chemical, hematological, radiobioassay, cytological, immunohematological, pathological, or other examination of materials derived from the human body for the purpose of providing information for the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of a disease or assessment of a medical condition.

(12) "College of American pathologists" means the organization nationally recognized by that name that surveys clinical laboratories upon their requests and accredits clinical laboratories that it finds meet its standards and requirements.

(13) "Commission on accreditation of rehabilitation facilities" means the organization nationally recognized by that name that surveys rehabilitation facilities upon their requests and grants accreditation status to a rehabilitation facility that it finds meets its standards and requirements.

(14) "Comparative review" means a joint review of two or more certificate of need applications that are determined by the department to be competitive in that the granting of a certificate of need to one of the applicants would substantially prejudice the department's review of the other applications.

(15) "Congregate" means the provision of group services designed especially for elderly or disabled persons who require supportive services and housing.

(16) "Construction" means the physical erection of a health care facility and any stage of the physical erection, including groundbreaking, or remodeling, replacement, or renovation of an existing health care facility.

(17) "Council on accreditation" means the organization nationally recognized by that name that surveys behavioral treatment programs, chemical dependency treatment programs, residential treatment facilities, and mental health centers upon their requests and grants accreditation status to programs and facilities that it finds meet its standards and requirements.

(18) "Critical access hospital" means a facility that is located in a rural area, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(2)(D), and that has been designated by the department as a critical access hospital pursuant to

50-5-233.

(19) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(20) "End-stage renal dialysis facility" means a facility that specializes in the treatment of kidney diseases and includes freestanding hemodialysis units.

(21) "Federal acts" means federal statutes for the construction of health care facilities.

(22) "Governmental unit" means the state, a state agency, a county, municipality, or political subdivision of the state, or an agency of a political subdivision.

(23) (a) "Health care facility" or "facility" means all or a portion of an institution, building, or agency, private or public, excluding federal facilities, whether organized for profit or not, that is used, operated, or designed to provide health services, medical treatment, or nursing, rehabilitative, or preventive care to any individual. The term includes chemical dependency facilities, critical access hospitals, end-stage renal dialysis facilities, home health agencies, home infusion therapy agencies, hospices, hospitals, infirmaries, long-term care facilities, intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled, medical assistance facilities, mental health centers, outpatient centers for primary care, outpatient centers for surgical services, rehabilitation facilities, residential care facilities, and residential treatment facilities.

(b) The term does not include offices of private physicians, dentists, or other physical or mental health care workers regulated under Title 37, including licensed addiction counselors.

(24) "Home health agency" means a public agency or private organization or subdivision of the agency or organization that is engaged in providing home health services to individuals in the places where they live. Home health services must include the services of a licensed registered nurse and at least one other therapeutic service and may include additional support services.

(25) "Home infusion therapy agency" means a health care facility that provides home infusion therapy services.

(26) "Home infusion therapy services" means the preparation, administration, or furnishing of parenteral medications or parenteral or enteral nutritional services to an individual in that individual's residence. The services include an educational component for the patient, the patient's caregiver, or the patient's family member.

(27) "Hospice" means a coordinated program of home and inpatient health care that provides or coordinates palliative and supportive care to meet the needs of a terminally ill patient and the patient's family arising out of physical, psychological, spiritual, social, and economic stresses experienced during the final stages of illness and dying and that includes formal bereavement programs as an essential component. The term includes:

(a) an inpatient hospice facility, which is a facility managed directly by a medicare-certified hospice that meets all medicare certification regulations for freestanding inpatient hospice facilities; and

(b) a residential hospice facility, which is a facility managed directly by a licensed hospice program that can house three or more hospice patients.

(28) (a) "Hospital" means a facility providing, by or under the supervision of licensed physicians, services for medical diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and care of injured, disabled, or sick individuals. Services provided may or may not include obstetrical care, emergency care, or any other service allowed by state licensing authority. A hospital has an organized medical staff that is on call and available within 20 minutes, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and provides 24-hour nursing care by licensed registered nurses. The term includes hospitals specializing in providing health services for psychiatric, developmentally disabled, and tubercular patients.

(b) The term does not include critical access hospitals.

(29) "Infirmiry" means a facility located in a university, college, government institution, or industry for the treatment of the sick or injured, with the following subdefinitions:

(a) an "infirmiry--A" provides outpatient and inpatient care;

(b) an "infirmiry--B" provides outpatient care only.

(30) (a) "Intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled" means a facility or part of a facility that provides intermediate developmental disability care for two or more persons.

(b) The term does not include community homes for persons with developmental disabilities that are licensed under 53-20-305 or community homes for persons with severe disabilities that are licensed under 52-4-203.

(31) "Intermediate developmental disability care" means the provision of intermediate nursing care services, health-related services, and social services for persons with a developmental disability, as defined in 53-20-102, or for persons with related problems.

(32) "Intermediate nursing care" means the provision of nursing care services, health-related services, and social services under the supervision of a licensed nurse to patients not requiring 24-hour nursing care.

(33) "Joint commission on accreditation of healthcare organizations" means the organization nationally recognized by that name that surveys health care facilities upon their requests and grants accreditation status to a health care facility that it finds meets its standards and requirements.

(34) "Licensed health care professional" means a licensed physician, physician ~~assistant-certified assistant~~, advanced practice registered nurse, or registered nurse who is practicing within the scope of the license issued by the department of labor and industry.

(35) (a) "Long-term care facility" means a facility or part of a facility that provides skilled nursing care, residential care, intermediate nursing care, or intermediate developmental disability care to a total of two or more individuals or that provides personal care.

(b) The term does not include community homes for persons with developmental disabilities licensed under 53-20-305; community homes for persons with severe disabilities, licensed under 52-4-203; youth care facilities, licensed under 52-2-622; hotels, motels, boardinghouses, roominghouses, or similar accommodations providing for transients, students, or individuals who do not require institutional health care; or juvenile and adult correctional facilities operating under the authority of the department of corrections.

(36) "Medical assistance facility" means a facility that meets both of the following:

(a) provides inpatient care to ill or injured individuals before their transportation to a hospital or that provides inpatient medical care to individuals needing that care for a period of no longer than 96 hours unless a longer period is required because transfer to a hospital is precluded because of inclement weather or emergency conditions. The department or its designee may, upon request, waive the 96-hour restriction retroactively and on a case-by-case basis if the individual's attending physician, physician ~~assistant-certified assistant~~, or nurse practitioner determines that the transfer is medically inappropriate and would jeopardize the health and safety of the individual.

(b) either is located in a county with fewer than six residents a square mile or is located more than 35 road miles from the nearest hospital.

(37) "Mental health center" means a facility providing services for the prevention or diagnosis of mental illness, the care and treatment of mentally ill patients, the rehabilitation of mentally ill individuals, or any combination of these services.

(38) "Nonprofit health care facility" means a health care facility owned or operated by one or more nonprofit corporations or associations.

(39) "Offer" means the representation by a health care facility that it can provide specific health services.

(40) (a) "Outdoor behavioral program" means a program that provides treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention for behavioral problems that endanger the health, interpersonal relationships, or educational functions of a youth and that:

- (i) serves either adjudicated or nonadjudicated youth;
- (ii) charges a fee for its services; and
- (iii) provides all or part of its services in the outdoors.

(b) "Outdoor behavioral program" does not include recreational programs such as boy scouts, girl scouts,

4-H clubs, or other similar organizations.

(41) "Outpatient center for primary care" means a facility that provides, under the direction of a licensed physician, either diagnosis or treatment, or both, to ambulatory patients and that is not an outpatient center for surgical services.

(42) "Outpatient center for surgical services" means a clinic, infirmary, or other institution or organization that is specifically designed and operated to provide surgical services to patients not requiring hospitalization and that may include recovery care beds.

(43) "Patient" means an individual obtaining services, including skilled nursing care, from a health care facility.

(44) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, association, organization, agency, institution, corporation, trust, estate, or governmental unit, whether organized for profit or not.

(45) "Personal care" means the provision of services and care for residents who need some assistance in performing the activities of daily living.

(46) "Practitioner" means an individual licensed by the department of labor and industry who has assessment, admission, and prescription authority.

(47) "Recovery care bed" means, except as provided in 50-5-235, a bed occupied for less than 24 hours by a patient recovering from surgery or other treatment.

(48) "Rehabilitation facility" means a facility that is operated for the primary purpose of assisting in the rehabilitation of disabled individuals by providing comprehensive medical evaluations and services, psychological and social services, or vocational evaluation and training or any combination of these services and in which the major portion of the services is furnished within the facility.

(49) "Resident" means an individual who is in a long-term care facility or in a residential care facility.

(50) "Residential care facility" means an adult day-care center, an adult foster care home, an assisted living facility, or a retirement home.

(51) "Residential psychiatric care" means active psychiatric treatment provided in a residential treatment facility to psychiatrically impaired individuals with persistent patterns of emotional, psychological, or behavioral dysfunction of such severity as to require 24-hour supervised care to adequately treat or remedy the individual's condition. Residential psychiatric care must be individualized and designed to achieve the patient's discharge to less restrictive levels of care at the earliest possible time.

(52) "Residential treatment facility" means a facility operated for the primary purpose of providing residential psychiatric care to individuals under 21 years of age.



(53) "Retirement home" means a building or buildings in which separate living accommodations are rented or leased to individuals who use those accommodations as their primary residence.

(54) "Skilled nursing care" means the provision of nursing care services, health-related services, and social services under the supervision of a licensed registered nurse on a 24-hour basis.

(55) "State health care facilities plan" means the plan prepared by the department to project the need for health care facilities within Montana and approved by the governor and a statewide health coordinating council appointed by the director of the department.

(56) "Swing bed" means a bed approved pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395tt to be used to provide either acute care or extended skilled nursing care to a patient."

**Section 24.** Section 50-5-216, MCA, is amended to read:

**"50-5-216. Limitation on care provided in adult foster care home.** (1) Except as provided in this section, the types of care offered by adult foster care homes are limited to light personal care or custodial care and may not include skilled nursing care.

(2) An adult foster care home may be licensed to provide care for an adult receiving state-funded services through the developmental disabilities program of the department or for an adult who resided in the home before reaching 18 years of age, even though the adult is:

- (a) in need of skilled nursing care;
- (b) in need of medical, physical, or chemical restraint;
- (c) nonambulatory or bedridden;
- (d) incontinent to the extent that bowel or bladder control is absent; or
- (e) unable to self-administer medications.

(3) An adult foster care home that applies for a license under subsection (2) shall provide the department with a copy of the statement required in subsection (4).

(4) A resident of an adult foster care home licensed under subsection (2) must have a certification in the form of a signed statement, renewed on an annual basis, from a physician, a physician ~~assistant-certified assistant~~, a nurse practitioner, or a registered nurse, whose work is unrelated to the operation of the home and who has actually visited the home within the year covered by the statement and certifies that:

(a) the services available to the resident in the home or in the community, or services that may be brought into the home from the community, including nursing services or therapies, are appropriate for meeting the health care or other needs of the resident; and

(b) the health care status of the resident does not necessitate placing the resident in a more intensive residential service setting.

(5) As used in this section, "skilled nursing care" means 24-hour care supervised by a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse under the orders of an attending physician."

**Section 25.** Section 50-16-201, MCA, is amended to read:

**"50-16-201. Definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Data" means written reports, notes, or records or oral reports or proceedings created by or at the request of a utilization review, peer review, medical ethics review, quality assurance, or quality improvement committee of a health care facility that are used exclusively in connection with quality assessment or improvement activities, including the professional training, supervision, or discipline of a medical practitioner by a health care facility.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) incident reports or occurrence reports; or

(ii) health care information that is used in whole or in part to make decisions about an individual who is the subject of the health care information.

(2) "Health care facility" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101.

(3) (a) "Incident reports" or "occurrence reports" means a written business record of a health care facility, created in response to an untoward event, such as a patient injury, adverse outcome, or interventional error, in order to ensure a prompt evaluation of the event.

(b) The terms do not include any subsequent evaluation of the event in response to an incident report or occurrence report by a utilization review, peer review, medical ethics review, quality assurance, or quality improvement committee.

(4) "Medical practitioner" means an individual licensed by the state of Montana to engage in the practice of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, optometry, or a nursing specialty described in 37-8-202(5) or licensed as a physician ~~assistant-certified assistant~~ pursuant to 37-20-203."

**Section 26.** Section 50-19-101, MCA, is amended to read:

**"50-19-101. Definitions.** (1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Health care provider" means a licensed physician, a physician ~~assistant-certified assistant~~, a

registered nurse, an advanced practice registered nurse, a naturopathic physician, or a direct-entry midwife practicing within the scope of the provider's professional license.

(3) "Standard serological test" means a test for syphilis, rubella immunity, and blood group, including ABO (Landsteiner blood type designation--O, A, B, AB) and RH (Dd) type, and a screening for hepatitis B surface antigen, approved by the department."

**Section 27.** Section 50-20-109, MCA, is amended to read:

**"50-20-109. Control of practice of abortion.** (1) Except as provided in 50-20-401, an abortion may not be performed within the state of Montana:

(a) except by a licensed physician ~~or physician assistant~~ OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT;

(b) after viability of the fetus, except as provided in subsection (2).

(2) An abortion under subsection (1)(b) may be performed only to preserve the life or health of the mother and only if:

(a) the judgment of the physician who is to perform the abortion is first certified in writing by the physician, setting forth in detail the facts relied upon in making the judgment; and

(b) two other licensed physicians have first examined the patient and concurred in writing with the judgment. The certification and concurrence in this subsection (2)(b) are not required if a licensed physician certifies that the abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the mother.

(3) The timing and procedure used in performing an abortion under subsection (1)(b) must be such that the viability of the fetus is not intentionally or negligently endangered, as the term "negligently" is defined in 45-2-101. The fetus may be intentionally endangered or destroyed only if necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother.

(4) For purposes of this section, "health" means the prevention of a risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function.

(5) The ~~utilization plan~~ supervision agreement of a physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant may not ~~NOT~~ provide for performing abortions.

(6) Violation of subsections (1) through (3) ~~and (5)~~ is a felony."

**Section 28.** Section 52-5-108, MCA, is amended to read:

**"52-5-108. Medical examination before admission -- records required to accompany youth committed.** (1) Before a youth is admitted for any purpose or for any length of time to the Pine Hills youth

correctional facility or another facility under an order of commitment to the department of corrections, the youth must be examined by a licensed physician ~~assistant-certified~~ assistant, by an advanced practice registered nurse, or by a licensed physician. A youth committed to the Pine Hills youth correctional facility or the department must be accompanied by the order of commitment, a medical examination report, an adequate social history, and any school records.

(2) The medical examination required under this section must be a current, complete physical examination of the youth."

**Section 29.** Section 53-6-101, MCA, is amended to read:

**"53-6-101. Montana medicaid program -- authorization of services.** (1) There is a Montana medicaid program established for the purpose of providing necessary medical services to eligible persons who have need for medical assistance. The Montana medicaid program is a joint federal-state program administered under this chapter and in accordance with Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq., as may be amended. The department of public health and human services shall administer the Montana medicaid program.

(2) Medical assistance provided by the Montana medicaid program includes the following services:

- (a) inpatient hospital services;
- (b) outpatient hospital services;
- (c) other laboratory and x-ray services, including minimum mammography examination as defined in 33-22-132;
- (d) skilled nursing services in long-term care facilities;
- (e) physicians' services;
- (f) nurse specialist services;
- (g) early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment services for persons under 21 years of age;
- (h) ambulatory prenatal care for pregnant women during a presumptive eligibility period, as provided in 42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(47) and 42 U.S.C. 1396r-1;
- (i) targeted case management services, as authorized in 42 U.S.C. 1396n(g), for high-risk pregnant women;
- (j) services that are provided by physician ~~assistants-certified~~ assistants within the scope of their practice and that are otherwise directly reimbursed as allowed under department rule to an existing provider;
- (k) health services provided under a physician's orders by a public health department; and
- (l) federally qualified health center services, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2).

(3) Medical assistance provided by the Montana medicaid program may, as provided by department rule, also include the following services:

(a) medical care or any other type of remedial care recognized under state law, furnished by licensed practitioners within the scope of their practice as defined by state law;

(b) home health care services;

(c) private-duty nursing services;

(d) dental services;

(e) physical therapy services;

(f) mental health center services administered and funded under a state mental health program authorized under Title 53, chapter 21, part 10;

(g) clinical social worker services;

(h) prescribed drugs, dentures, and prosthetic devices;

(i) prescribed eyeglasses;

(j) other diagnostic, screening, preventive, rehabilitative, chiropractic, and osteopathic services;

(k) inpatient psychiatric hospital services for persons under 21 years of age;

(l) services of professional counselors licensed under Title 37, chapter 23;

(m) hospice care, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1396d(o);

(n) case management services as provided in 42 U.S.C. 1396d(a) and 1396n(g), including targeted case management services for the mentally ill;

(o) services of psychologists licensed under Title 37, chapter 17;

(p) inpatient psychiatric services for persons under 21 years of age, as provided in 42 U.S.C. 1396d(h), in a residential treatment facility, as defined in 50-5-101, that is licensed in accordance with 50-5-201; and

(q) any additional medical service or aid allowable under or provided by the federal Social Security Act.

(4) Services for persons qualifying for medicaid under the medically needy category of assistance as described in 53-6-131 may be more limited in amount, scope, and duration than services provided to others qualifying for assistance under the Montana medicaid program. The department is not required to provide all of the services listed in subsections (2) and (3) to persons qualifying for medicaid under the medically needy category of assistance.

(5) In accordance with federal law or waivers of federal law that are granted by the secretary of the U.S. department of health and human services, the department of public health and human services may implement limited medicaid benefits, to be known as basic medicaid, for adult recipients who are eligible because they are

receiving financial assistance, as defined in 53-4-201, as the specified caretaker relative of a dependent child under the FAIM project and for all adult recipients of medical assistance only who are covered under a group related to a program providing financial assistance, as defined in 53-4-201. Basic medicaid benefits consist of all mandatory services listed in subsections (2)(a) through (2)(l) but may include those optional services listed in subsections (3)(a) through (3)(q) that the department in its discretion specifies by rule. The department, in exercising its discretion, may consider the amount of funds appropriated by the legislature, whether approval has been received as provided in 53-1-612, and whether the provision of a particular service is commonly covered by private health insurance plans. However, a recipient who is pregnant, meets the criteria for disability provided in Title II of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 416, et seq., or is less than 21 years of age is entitled to full medicaid coverage.

(6) The department may implement, as provided for in Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq., as may be amended, a program under medicaid for payment of medicare premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance for persons not otherwise eligible for medicaid.

(7) The department may set rates for medical and other services provided to recipients of medicaid and may enter into contracts for delivery of services to individual recipients or groups of recipients.

(8) The services provided under this part may be only those that are medically necessary and that are the most efficient and cost-effective.

(9) The amount, scope, and duration of services provided under this part must be determined by the department in accordance with Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq., as may be amended.

(10) Services, procedures, and items of an experimental or cosmetic nature may not be provided.

(11) If available funds are not sufficient to provide medical assistance for all eligible persons, the department may set priorities to limit, reduce, or otherwise curtail the amount, scope, or duration of the medical services made available under the Montana medicaid program.

(12) Community-based medicaid services, as provided for in part 4 of this chapter, must be provided in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter.

(13) Medicaid payment for assisted living facilities may not be made unless the department certifies to the director of the governor's office of budget and program planning that payment to this type of provider would, in the aggregate, be a cost-effective alternative to services otherwise provided."

**NEW SECTION. Section 30. Unlawful acts.** A person who performs acts constituting the practice of medicine in this state acts unlawfully if the person:

(1) has not been issued a license pursuant to this chapter and is not exempt from the licensing requirement of this chapter; or

(2) has received a license pursuant to this chapter but has not completed a duties and delegation agreement or a supervision agreement.

**NEW SECTION. Section 31. Participation in disaster and emergency care -- liability of physician assistant and supervising physician.** (1) A physician assistant licensed in this state, licensed or authorized to practice in another state, territory, or possession of the United States, or credentialed as a physician assistant by a federal employer who provides medical care in response to an emergency or a federal, state, or local disaster may provide that care either without supervision as required by this chapter or with whatever supervision is available. The provision of care allowed by this subsection is limited to the duration of the emergency or disaster.

(2) A physician who supervises a physician assistant providing medical care in response to an emergency or disaster as described in subsection (1) need not comply with the requirements of this chapter applicable to supervising physicians.

(3) A physician assistant referred to in subsection (1) who voluntarily, gratuitously, and other than in the ordinary course of employment or practice renders emergency medical care during an emergency or disaster described in subsection (1) is not liable for civil damages for a personal injury resulting from an act or omission in providing that care if the injury is caused by simple or ordinary negligence and if the care is provided somewhere other than in a health care facility as defined in 50-5-101 or a physician's office where those services are normally provided.

(4) A physician who supervises a physician assistant voluntarily and gratuitously providing emergency care at an emergency or disaster described in subsection (1) is not liable for civil damages for a personal injury resulting from an act or omission in supervising the physician assistant if the injury is caused by simple or ordinary negligence on the part of the physician assistant providing the care or on the part of the supervising physician.

**NEW SECTION. Section 32. Repealer.** Section 37-20-201, MCA, is repealed.

**NEW SECTION. Section 33. Name change -- directions to code commissioner.** (1) Wherever a reference to physician assistant-certified appears in legislation enacted by the 2005 legislature, the code commissioner is directed to change it to an appropriate reference to physician assistant.

(2) Wherever a reference to utilization plan, meaning a plan as required by 37-20-301 for the utilization of a physician assistant, appears in legislation enacted by the 2005 legislature, the code commissioner is directed to change it to an appropriate reference to supervision agreement.

NEW SECTION. **Section 34. Codification instruction.** [Sections 30 and 31] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 37, chapter 20, part 4, and the provisions of Title 37, chapter 20, part 4, apply to [sections 30 and 31].

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