	<b>POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b>
<b>Policy #: HS 3.57</b>	<b>Lead Department: Health Services</b>
<b>Title: Physician Assistant</b>	
<b>Original Date: May 1996</b>	<b>Last Revision Date: July 2006</b>
<b>Approved by: Barbara Flynn, RN</b>	
<b>Applies to: All Lines of Business</b>	

***Policy Objective:***


To delineate the guidelines for practice of Physician Assistants within the scope of services provided by Central California Alliance For Health

***I. DEFINITIONS***

- A. A Physician Assistant, by definition shall be currently licensed as a Physician Assistant in the State of California as described in Title 16 of the Administrative Code.

***II. PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT GUIDELINES***

- A. The Physician Assistant is authorized to do the following patient-related activities within the scope of practice defined by Title 16:
  1. Take a patient's medical history and perform a physical examination for any presenting problem.
  2. Diagnose and treat common primary care medical problems
  3. Whenever necessary, perform life-sustaining emergency measures.
  4. Order specific laboratory studies and x-rays, and other studies as appropriate for that patient.
  5. Collect specimens as indicated for additional tests.
  6. Perform pertinent laboratory tests.
  7. Perform any other procedure for which they have applied for privileges and which have been granted or approved with proctoring.
  8. Counsel patients and their families on health promotion, diagnoses and management alternatives.
  9. Keep medical records of patient care.
  10. The Physician Assistant does not have direct privileges for furnishing drugs and devices. He/she may transmit in writing a prescription from the supervising physician; the physician must sign each prescription for patients under his/her direct or supervised care. The physician's prescription, transmitted by the Physician Assistant, shall be based on criteria for the use of a specific drug or device and any contraindications. The Physician Assistant may not provide a drug or transmit a prescription without a patient-specific order from the supervising physician or a written protocol. The Physician Assistant may, under the direction of a supervising physician, hand to a patient of the physician a properly labeled

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prescription drug pre-packaged by the physician, a manufacturer as defined in the Pharmacy Law, or a pharmacist.

- B. The patient must be informed that the provider is a mid-level clinician, and be given the opportunity to request care by a physician should the patient desire it.
- C. The Physician Assistant will seek physician consultation in a timely manner for the following situations, and any others that he/she deems appropriate:
  - 1. Any conditions which have failed to respond to appropriate management or do not follow classical diagnostic patterns.
  - 2. Before performing any invasive procedures.
  - 3. All emergency situations after initial care has been started.
  - 4. Any patient who desires physician consultation.
- D. The supervising physician shall be a physician licensed by the State of California. This physician will review the findings of the patient's history and physical examination and supervise the Physician Assistant performing approved tasks or procedures. The Physician Assistant will be responsible to communicate with the supervising physician regarding patient management and seek assistance or additional instructions in patient management. The supervising physician will be available for consultation or assistance at all times, either by physical presence or electronic communications. One supervising physician will be available for every two mid-level practitioners working in an area at the same time.

<b>Review Date</b>	<b>Revised Date</b>	<b>Approved By</b>
<b>December 1998</b>		<b>Barbara Flynn, RN</b>
<b>July 2000</b>		<b>Barbara Flynn, RN</b>
<b>July 2002</b>		<b>Barbara Flynn, RN</b>
<b>July 2006</b>		<b>Barbara Flynn, RN</b>