

SUPPORT

HB 135: Modified Prescriptive Authority for Physician Assistants

During the 2020 Legislative Session, the Kentucky Academy of Physician Assistants is pursuing modified Prescriptive Authority legislation to allow physician assistants in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to prescribe Schedule II-V substances if delegated by their Supervising Physician.

Proposed Legislation Highlights:

- The proposed legislation will allow physician assistants to prescribe Schedule II-V controlled substances
 - Schedule II narcotic substances are limited to a three day supply with no refill
 - Schedule II and III non-narcotic substances, as defined by KRS 218A.060 & 218A.080 are limited to a thirty day supply with no refill
 - Schedules IV and V are limited to the original prescription and refills are not to exceed a 6 month supply
 - Prescriptions for Benzodiazepines and Carisoprodol are limited to 30-day supply without refills
 - As a result of feedback from the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure (KBML) updates have been made to PA disciplinary statutes to make them more consistent with other providers.
 - Physician Assistants must first have practiced a minimum of 1 year prior to seeking controlled substances prescribing privileges
- A physician assistant must renew his or her license with the KBML every two years. In that two years' time, a minimum of ten hours of continuing education (CE) in best prescribing of controlled substances must be completed in order to prescribe Schedule II, III, IV or V controlled substances.
- Under our proposal to prescribe controlled substances, a supervising physician and PA would be required to submit an application for approval through the KBML
- PAs would also be required to register with the federal DEA and state KASPER system, and any other applicable state-controlled substance regulatory authority
- Physician assistants not seeking controlled substance prescriptive privileges *will not* be required to submit an additional application
- Furthermore, supervising physicians who do not want their physician assistant(s) to have prescriptive authority *will not* be required to submit or approve an application for PA prescriptive privileges
- The supervising physician will only be able to delegate prescriptive authority that falls under their scope, and may restrict PA prescriptive authority to the degree which they deem appropriate



KENTUCKY ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

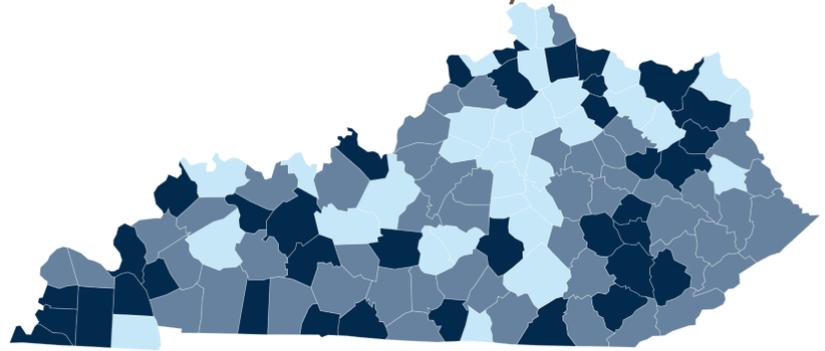
PA's: Filling the Health Care Gap

Many PAs act as primary providers and having the ability to prescribe directly allows better access to care and less regulatory burden on the health care system.

PA's & Rural Health Care Facts

- Approximately 1800 licensed PAs in KY
- Kentucky has 202 Health Professional Shortage Areas with a population of 1,348,604 residents.
- 27.6% of PAs serve in rural areas
- UK Morehead Campus & the University of Cumberland's PA programs focus on rural healthcare

Health Professional Shortage Areas: Primary Care, by County
2017 - Kentucky



None of county is shortage area Part of county is shortage area Whole county is shortage area

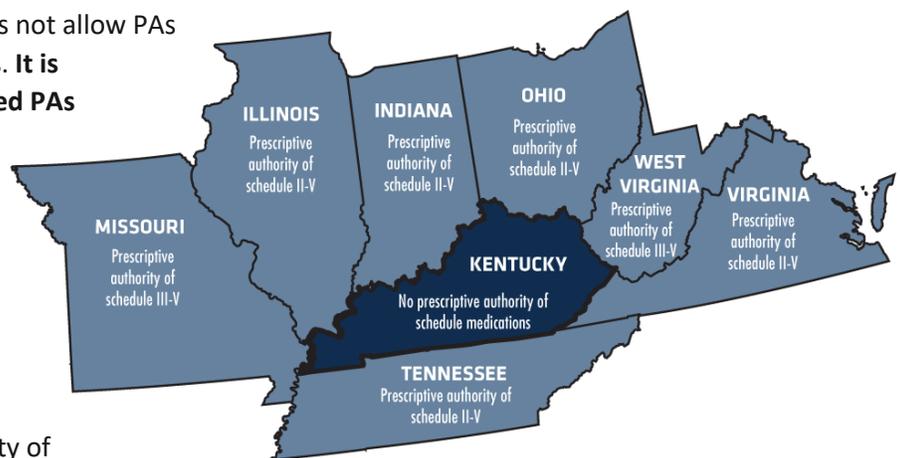
Source: data.HRSA.gov, 2017.
<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/charts/5?state=KY>

PA's as Prescribers

Kentucky is the only state in the nation that does not allow PAs to prescribe some level of controlled substances. **It is important to note that NO state that has granted PAs prescriptive authority has ever revoked or lessened PA prescriptive authority.**

PA's also, on average, complete more clinical and classroom hours than Nurse Practitioners.

Nurse Practitioners (APRNs) in Kentucky, who receive comparable schooling and physician oversight, were granted full prescriptive authority of Schedule II-V drugs (including opioids), and **APRNs have been allowed to prescribe controlled substances in since 2006.**



Why Prescriptive Authority for Kentucky PA's:

I have been a commissioned officer in the United States Coast Guard Reserves for nearly twenty years, I have deployed as a PA in support of combat operations in Kuwait and Iraq. As a credentialed medical officer, I am required to maintain a Federal DEA certificate. Kentucky is the only state that does not allow controlled substance prescribing by PAs. For me to continue to serve my country I was forced to obtain and maintain an additional PA medical license from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Kentucky PAs have the same education and graduate degree training as PAs from any other state and should not be penalized for wanting to live and work here.

--- CDR Michael Stanley, US Coast Guard Reserve Medical Officer

For More Info Contact

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