

Resolution 2026-01

Submitted For Consideration to the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association House of Delegates

SUBJECT: Resolution for Medical Assistant Supervision

SUBMITTED BY: Michelle Eyler, DO

Check one:

Resolution is intended for Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association

Resolution is intended to be submitted by the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association for consideration of the American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates

Resolution is intended for both the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association and for consideration of the American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates

- 1 WHEREAS, phlebotomists in Arizona collect venous blood at free standing labs throughout
2 the state without the direct supervision of a physician.
- 3 WHEREAS, medical assistants receive more hours of first aid training than phlebotomists.
- 4 WHEREAS, as a result of the 2020 pandemic, telecommunications have become an
5 acceptable form of medical communication between the physician and patient, and
6 between medical professionals.
- 7 WHEREAS, MAs receive phlebotomy instruction to achieve proficiency as part of their
8 curriculum.
- 9 WHEREAS, an MA with 100 clinical hours or 6 month of direct supervision performing
10 venipuncture in the office setting, have achieved a level of proficiency usually exceeding
11 their supervising physician.
- 12 WHEREAS, physicians defined as supervising their employees, inherently are required to
13 accept the medical liability for the privilege.
- 14 WHEREAS, venous blood collection in the outpatient setting as it pertains here, refers to
15 the superficial veins of the upper and lower extremities.
- 16 WHEREAS, the collection of bodily fluids in an outpatient setting, such as venous blood,
17 sputum and urine, inherently possess very little risk to the patient when done by an
18 experienced medical assistant (MA).

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19 WHEREAS, it is accepted knowledge that MAs should only perform the collection of body
20 fluids when ordered by a supervising physician, the act of collection is not directly
21 supervised by a physician in other outpatient settings, such a free standing labs in Arizona.

22 WHEREAS, the current definitions of “supervision” in the medical setting is three tiered.
23 “Personal Supervision”, which requires a physician to be in the same room. “Direct
24 Supervision”, which requires a physician to be in the same building. “Supervision”, which
25 requires a physician to be available via various other means.

26 WHEREAS, phlebotomists perform venipuncture while under “supervision”, medical
27 assistants are required by Arizona to be under “direct supervision”.

28 RESOLVED, that the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association change the Medical
29 Assistant’s current requirement for “direct supervision” be changed to “supervision” as it
30 relates to the collection of bodily fluids - specifically sputum, venous blood, and urine in
31 the outpatient setting, as long as the supervising physician accepts the medical
32 responsibly for their proficiency.

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Fiscal impact: