



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech


SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment of §29.2 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and Addition of §52.48, 79-20.4 and 79-20.5 to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Licensing of Licensed Pathologists' Assistants

DATE: March 1, 2018

AUTHORIZATION(S):  

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents adopt the proposed amendment of §29.2 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and addition of §52.48, 79-20.4 and 79-20.5 to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to the licensure of licensed pathologists' assistants?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute (Chapter 497 of the Laws of 2016).

Proposed Handling

The proposed amendment will be presented to the Full Board for permanent adoption at the March 2018 Regents meeting. Supporting materials for the proposed rule are available upon request from the Secretary to the Board of Regents.

Procedural History

The proposed amendment of §29.2 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and addition of §54.8, 79-20.4 and 79-20.5 to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education were presented to the Professional Practice Committee for recommendation

and to the Full Board for adoption as an emergency action at the November 2017 meeting of the Board of Regents, effective November 28, 2017. A Notice of Proposed Rule Making was published in the State Register on November 29, 2017 for the entire rulemaking, which included the proposed amendment of §29.2 and addition of §54.8 and 79-20.4 and 79-20.5, as well as three additional provisions in Subpart 79-20 (79-20.1 through 79-20.3), which do not become effective until November 28, 2018.

Because the November emergency rule was set to expire on February 25, 2018, a second emergency action was presented to the Full Board for adoption at the January 2018 meeting. The second emergency action was necessary to ensure that the emergency rule remains continuously in effect until it could be adopted at the March 12-13, 2018 Regents meeting and take effect as a permanent rule on March 28, 2018. Following the 60-day public comment period, the Department received no comments on the proposed amendment. Therefore, an Assessment of Public Comment is not required and no changes to the proposed amendment are needed. A copy of the proposed rule is attached.

Background Information

Pathologists' assistants provide services under the direction and supervision of a licensed physician who practices anatomic pathology. These services include, but are not limited to, preparing gross tissue sections for pathology analysis, which includes, but is not limited to, cutting, staining as required, describing gross anatomic features, dissecting surgical specimens, and submitting tissues for bio-banking, histologic processing, or other analyses; and performing human postmortem examinations, which include, but are not limited to, selection of tissues and fluids for further examination, external examination, dissection, and gathering and recording information for autopsy reports.

Pathologists' assistants do not diagnose or provide a medical opinion and their services must be performed in a laboratory or other site authorized under law to perform such services.

Chapter 497 of the Laws of 2016 ("Chapter 497") amended the Education Law by adding Article 168, which establishes and defines the practice of the profession of licensed pathologists' assistants, effective, except for one provision, November 28, 2017.¹ Prior to Chapter 497, pathologists' assistants were neither licensed as a profession nor defined in Education Law. Thus, in order to practice, many pathologists' assistants practiced under the limited license authority for clinical laboratory technologists and certified histological technicians pursuant to Chapter 336 of the Laws of 2013 as amended by Chapter 194 of the Laws of 2016. In accordance with Chapter 194 of the Laws of 2016, these limited licenses and registrations will expire on September 1, 2018. Chapter 497 remedies this situation by establishing a new licensure category for pathologists' assistants in the Education Law. However, it is imperative for pathologists' assistants to become licensed in accordance with Article 168 of the Education Law before the expiration of their respective limited licenses.

¹ Education Law §8852 becomes effective November 28, 2018.

Chapter 497 establishes the education, examination, age, moral character and fee requirements for applicants seeking licensure as a licensed pathologists' assistant. It also provides a grandparenting pathway for individuals who meet the requirements for a license as a pathologists' assistant, except for examination and education, and who have been performing the duties of a pathologists' assistant for two of the five years prior to the effective date of Article 168 of the Education Law, if they submit an application to the Department prior to November 28, 2019, and provided their supervising physician, who must practice anatomic pathology, attests to their experience and competence. Although this pathway will expire, the licenses issued under it will not.

The proposed amendment to subdivision (a) of §29.2 of the Rules of the Board of Regents adds the profession of licensed pathologists' assistants to the list of health care professions that are subject to its unprofessional conduct provisions.

The proposed addition of §52.48 to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education establishes the program registration requirements for professional education programs. These requirements include registration and curriculum requirements for programs offered in New York State that lead to licensure as a licensed pathologists' assistant. The proposed amendment requires professional licensed pathologists' assistants' education programs to be a program in licensed pathologists' assistant or a substantially equivalent program as determined by the Department leading to a bachelor's or higher degree; and which must include course content in each of the following subjects or their equivalent as determined by the Department: (1) practices in anatomic pathology; (2) anatomy and basic microanatomy; (3) human physiology; (4) anatomic pathology, which includes surgical techniques, autopsy techniques, histological methods and techniques, and other related competencies; and (5) application of laboratory safety governmental regulations and standards as applied to anatomic pathology. The proposed amendment requires licensure qualifying programs to provide that learning experiences (e.g., courses, practica and/or other activities) are properly sequenced and include necessary content and activities to enable students to achieve entry level competence in each of the required course content disciplines.

The proposed §52.48 was drafted in recognition of the current curriculum standards used the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences ("NAACLS") to accredit or approve most programs for pathologists' assistants to enable most of those practicing in the State to meet our education requirements at the outset of licensure. When determining whether programs may be deemed to be substantially equivalent to programs registered with the Department, it will ensure that those that currently have NAACLS accreditation or approval may be accepted at this time, as determined by the Department. The education curricular standards that are accepted for accreditation by NAACLS may change in the future, and the Department will determine if such accredited programs may be accepted at that time.

Additionally, the proposed addition of Subpart 79-20 to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education establishes the requirements for licensure as a licensed pathologists' assistant, which include, but are not limited to, education, examination, fee and limited permit requirements, as well as the requirements for the grandparenting licensure pathway.

Related Regents Items

November 2017: Proposed Amendment of §29.2 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and Addition of §52.48 and Subpart 79-20 to the Commissioner's Regulations Relating to the Licensing of Licensed Pathologists' Assistants:

[November 2017: Proposed Amendment of §29.2](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1117ppca1.pdf)

(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1117ppca1.pdf>)

January 2018: Proposed Amendment of §29.2 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and Addition of §52.48 and Subpart 79-20 to the Commissioner's Regulations Relating to the Licensing of Licensed Pathologists' Assistants:

[January 2018: Proposed Amendment of §29.2](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/118brca9.pdf)

(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/118brca9.pdf>)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That subdivision (a) of §29.2 of the Rules of the Board of Regents be amended and §52.48, 79-20.4 and 79-20.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education be added, as submitted, effective March 28, 2018, and that §79-2.1, 79-20.2 and 79-20.3 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education be added, as submitted, effective November 28, 2018.

Timetable for Implementation

If adopted at the March 2018 Regents meeting, the proposed amendment of subdivision (a) of §29.2 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and addition of §52.48, 79-20.4 and 79-20.5 to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education would become effective on March 8, 2018 and the proposed additions of §79-2.1, 79-20.2 and 79-20.3 to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education would become effective November 28, 2018.

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS AND THE
REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to sections 207, 212, 6504, 6507, 6509, 8850, 8851, 8852, 8853, 8854, 8855, and 8856 of the Education Law and Chapter 497 of the Laws of 2016

1. Subdivision (a) of section 29.2 of the Rules of the Board of Regents is amended, as follows:

(a) Unprofessional conduct shall also include, in the professions of: acupuncture, athletic training, audiology, certified behavior analyst assistant, certified dental assisting, chiropractic, creative arts therapy, dental hygiene, dentistry, dietetics/nutrition, licensed behavior analyst, licensed pathologists' assistants, licensed perfusionist, licensed practical nursing, marriage and family therapy, massage therapy, medicine, mental health counseling, midwifery, occupational therapy, occupational therapy assistant, ophthalmic dispensing, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapist assistant, physical therapy, physician assistant, podiatry, psychoanalysis, psychology, registered professional nursing, respiratory therapy, respiratory therapy technician, social work, specialist assistant, speech-language pathology (except for cases involving those professions licensed, certified or registered pursuant to the provisions of article 131 or 131-B of the Education Law in which a statement of charges of professional misconduct was not served on or before July 26, 1991, the effective date of chapter 606 of the Laws of 1991):

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2. Section 52.48 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is added, as follows:

§52.48 Licensed Pathologists' Assistants

In addition to meeting all the applicable provisions of this Part, to be registered as a program recognized as leading to licensure as a pathologists' assistant, which meets the requirements of section 79-20.1 of this Title, the program shall:

(a) be a pathologists' assistant program or a substantially equivalent program as determined by the department, which leads to a bachelor's or higher degree;

(b) include courses in each of the following subjects or their equivalent as determined by the department:

(1) practices in anatomic pathology, which shall encompass surgical and autopsy pathology, including, but not limited to:

(i) principles and methodologies;

(ii) performance of procedures;

- (iii) correlation of clinical information and gross pathology with proper technique;
- (iv) problem solving;
- (v) troubleshooting techniques;
- (vi) principles and practices of quality assurance/quality improvement; and
- (vii) laboratory management;
- (2) anatomy and basic microanatomy;
- (3) human physiology;
- (4) anatomic pathology, including, but not limited to:
 - (i) surgical pathology techniques:
 - (a) adult; and
 - (b) pediatric;
 - (ii) autopsy techniques:
 - (a) medical autopsy techniques:
 - (1) adult; and
 - (2) pediatric;
 - (b) forensic autopsy techniques:
 - (1) adult;
 - (2) pediatric; and
 - (3) toxicology collection techniques;
 - (iii) histological methods and techniques:
 - (a) concepts of immunohistochemistry;
 - (iv) concepts of molecular diagnostics;
 - (v) microbiology/immunology;
 - (vi) clinical pathology;

(vii) embryology;

(viii) laboratory safety;

(ix) laboratory information systems;

(x) laboratory management;

(xi) medical ethics;

(xii) medical terminology; and

(xiii) biomedical photography;

(5) application of laboratory safety governmental regulations and standards as applied to anatomic pathology, including, but not limited to:

(i) principles and practices of professional conduct;

(ii) principles of interpersonal and interdisciplinary communication and team-building skills;

(iii) principles and practices of administration and supervision as applied to clinical laboratory science; and

(iv) educational methodologies;

(6) learning experiences, including, but not limited to courses, practica and/or other required activities, must be properly sequenced and include necessary content and activities to enable students to achieve entry level competencies in each of the major disciplines listed in this section.

SUBPART 79-20

LICENSED PATHOLOGISTS' ASSISTANTS

§79-20.4 Limited permits.

As authorized in section 8855 of the Education Law, the department may issue a limited permit to practice as a licensed pathologists' assistant in accordance with the requirements of this section.

(a) An applicant for a limited permit to practice as a licensed pathologists' assistant shall:

(1) file an application with the department on a form prescribed by the department together with a fee of \$105 for the limited permit;

(2) meet all the requirements for licensure as a licensed pathologists' assistant, except the examination requirement; and

(3) practice as a pathologists' assistant only under the direction and supervision of a licensed physician who practices anatomic pathology and pursuant to the order and direction of that licensed physician.

(b) The limited permit in pathologists' assistant shall be valid for a period of not more than 12 months, provided that a limited permit may be extended for an additional 12 months at the discretion of the department for good cause as determined by the department. The time authorized by such limited permit and subsequent extension shall not exceed 24 months in total.

§79-20.5 Special provisions.

An individual who meets the requirements for a license as a licensed pathologists' assistant except for examination and education and who has been performing the duties of a pathologists' assistant for two of the past five years prior to November 28, 2017 may be licensed without meeting additional requirements, provided that such individual submits an application to the department on or before November 27, 2019. As part of the application, the applicant's supervising physician or physicians,

who practice anatomic pathology, must attest to the applicant's experience and competence.