

HEALTH SERVICES POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

North Carolina Department Of Correction
Division Of Prisons

SECTION: Personnel

POLICY # P-4

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SUBJECT: Use of Physician Extenders

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 2009

SUPERCEDES DATE: May 2002

PURPOSE

To define and describe the practice of physician extenders.

POLICY

1. Physician Extenders employed by the State of North Carolina are physician assistants or family nurse practitioners who perform medical acts under the supervision and licenses of a responsible physician or group of physicians. Physician Extenders are formally trained health professionals approved to practice by the North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners.
2. Physician Extenders are required to practice pursuant to written and approved medical protocols.
3. All medical treatment by Physician Extenders must be recorded in the inmate health record.
4. The supervising physician will counter-sign these entries.
5. The relationship between the physician extenders and the responsible physician will be as outlined in 21NCAC 32S.0010, et. seq.
6. Physician extenders who are responsible health authorities at facilities with licensed nursing staff may supervise the administrative elements of the operation.
7. Only Physician Extenders who are licensed as a nurse may supervise clinical functions of licensed nurses.



8/13/09

Paula Y. Smith, MD, Director of Health Services

Date

SOR: Deputy Medical Director