

MEMORANDUM

DATE	February 7, 2022
TO	Physician Assistant Board
FROM	Julie Caldwell, Lead Licensing Analyst Rozana Khan, Executive Officer
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 11. Discussion and Possible Action to Discontinue Printed Pocket License

The Physician Assistant Board (PAB) is proposing to make license verification more effective for its consumers and licensees. PAB would like to take the necessary steps to eliminate the issuance of pocket licenses upon initial licensure or renewal for the reasons discussed hereafter.

Consumer Protection

Initially, the primary reason for issuing a pocket license was to provide a means to verify the status of a physician assistant's license at any given time. At one point in time, this was the only way to verify the status of a license, aside from calling the PAB. When online verification began in 2005, the PAB continued to issue pocket licenses as online verification was not as widely accepted as an official record. The pocket license was considered the primary and most reliable source of license verification. However, online services have become a standard, cost-saving, environmentally friendly, and reliable method of doing business.

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) License Search is updated in real-time as a license is renewed, or any time the status is changed. An easy access "[License Search](#)" button is available on the home page of the PAB website. Consumers, employers, or any interested party can verify the license status online 24 hours a day, seven days a week. License status can change at any time during a two-year licensing period. The status can change from Active to Inactive, Inactive to Active, Retired, and licensees can be disciplined which could have an immediate effect on their license status. If PAB staff updates the status of a license in the BreZE system, it is reflected immediately online, and the pocket license becomes invalid. For these reasons, the online license verification system has become the optimal license verification source for consumer protection.

MISSION: To protect and serve consumers through licensing, education, and objective enforcement of the Physician Assistant laws and regulations.

Environmentally Friendly

The California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) and the Physical Therapy Board of California (PTBC) no longer provide pocket licenses citing the following reasons: 1) Facilitating access to accurate license information; 2) operating with environmental awareness by eliminating paper; and 3) significant cost savings in printing, paper, and postage. The elimination of the pocket license would abolish the Board's need to purchase the printing and mailing services of pocket licenses through a third-party. This would significantly reduce the use of plastic, paper, and postage required to create and deliver pocket licenses, which would lessen our impact on the environment.

Cost Savings

In addition to the environmental benefits of eliminating pocket cards, there are significant cost savings for the Board as well. The cost of issuing pocket cards for fiscal year 2021-2022 was an estimated \$17,467.00. The Board would no longer need to contract with a third-party company to create and mail the pocket licenses, which would result in the Board saving these costs each year.

Conclusion

Pocket licenses may not reflect a licensee's current status as it may change within the two-year license period, and they do not display enforcement action taken against a license, if any. The online license verification system is a real-time and accurate depiction of a licensee's physician assistant license status. Moreover, eliminating the printing and delivery of pocket licenses will benefit the environment as we find more ways to reduce our environmental footprint. Finally, the Board will benefit by cutting costs associated with the issuance of pocket licenses.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff is recommending the Board vote to eliminate the pocket license and adopt paperless licensing for the following reasons:

1. Immediate access to real-time and accurate licensing information
2. Environmentally friendly
3. Significant cost savings

Attachment: 1. Sample PAB pocket license
 2. Sample PAB online license status

MISSION: To protect and serve consumers through licensing, education, and objective enforcement of the Physician Assistant laws and regulations.



Remove your new Pocket License
from the receipt portion and carry it
with you at all times.

(Please cut along the dotted lines)

Physician Assistant Board
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 2250
Sacramento, CA 95815-5400
(916) 561-8780
www.pab.ca.gov

SAMPLE 1

I M P O R T A N T

1. Please include your license number on any correspondence to this office.
2. Notify the Board of any name or address change in writing.
3. Report any loss immediately in writing to the Board.
4. Please sign and carry the pocket license with you.

License No.	Expiration Date	Receipt No.
PA11111	02/29/2024	12345
JOHN DOE		

This is your RECEIPT. Please save for your records.

9501.CERT2.081720

Physician Assistant Board

2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 2250
Sacramento, CA 95815-5400
(916) 561-8780



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

License No.
PA11111

Expiration
02/29/2024

JOHN DOE
329 MARSH DR N
RIVER GATE, CA 90011-9153

Receipt No.
12345

Signature _____

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT BOARD

SAMPLE 2

LICENSING DETAILS FOR: 80201

NAME: DOE, JANE

LICENSE TYPE: PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

PRIMARY STATUS: LICENSE RENEWED & CURRENT



SCHOOL NAME: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (KECK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE)

GRADUATION YEAR: 1999

ADDRESS OF RECORD

PO BOX 123

SAMPLE 2, CA 92539-0984

ISSUANCE DATE

JANUARY 28, 2000

EXPIRATION DATE

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

CURRENT DATE / TIME

JANUARY 27, 2022

1:41:16 PM

PUBLIC RECORD ACTIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS (NO RECORDS)

COURT ORDER (NO RECORDS)

MISDEMEANOR CONVICTION (NO RECORDS)

FELONY CONVICTION (NO RECORDS)

MALPRACTICE JUDGMENT (NO RECORDS)

PROBATIONARY LICENSE (NO RECORDS)

HOSPITAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION (NO RECORDS)

LICENSE ISSUED WITH PUBLIC LETTER OF REPRIMAND (NO RECORDS)

ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION ISSUED (NO RECORDS)

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TAKEN BY OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (NO RECORDS)

ARBITRATION AWARD (NO RECORDS)

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENTS (NO RECORDS)

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT BOARD

LICENSING DETAILS FOR: 80156

NAME: DOE, JOHN

LICENSE TYPE: PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

PRIMARY STATUS: LICENSE RENEWED & CURRENT



SECONDARY STATUS: ACCUSATION FILED ♦ PENAL CODE SECTION 23 ORDER ♦ LIMITS ON PRACTICE



SCHOOL NAME: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

GRADUATION YEAR: 2001

ADDRESS OF RECORD

1000 SAMPLE STREET

LONG VIEW, CA 95811-0780

ISSUANCE DATE

MAY 14, 2002

EXPIRATION DATE

MARCH 31, 2022

CURRENT DATE / TIME

JANUARY 27, 2022

2:00:06 PM

PUBLIC RECORD ACTIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS (1)

COURT ORDER (1)

MISDEMEANOR CONVICTION (NO RECORDS)

ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION ISSUED (NO RECORDS)

FELONY CONVICTION (NO RECORDS)

MALPRACTICE JUDGMENT (NO RECORDS)

PROBATIONARY LICENSE (NO RECORDS)

HOSPITAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION (NO RECORDS)

LICENSE ISSUED WITH PUBLIC LETTER OF REPRIMAND (NO RECORDS)

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TAKEN BY OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (NO RECORDS)

ARBITRATION AWARD (NO RECORDS)

PUBLIC RECORD DOCUMENTS

ACCUSATION (1)

SUSPENSION/RESTRICTION ORDER (1)