

APA-3  
Revised 1/2018

**CERTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES  
FILED WITH THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OTHNI LATHRAM, DIRECTOR**

(Pursuant to Code of Alabama 1975, §41-22-6, as amended).

I certify that the attached is/are correct copy/copies of rule/s as promulgated and adopted on the **19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018**, and filed with the agency secretary on the **19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018**.

AGENCY NAME: **Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners**

  X   Amendment        New        Repeal (Mark appropriate space)

Rule No. **540-X-8-.08(4)**

(If amended rule, give specific paragraph, subparagraphs, etc., being amended)

Rule Title: **Requirements for Collaborative Practice by Physicians and Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners**

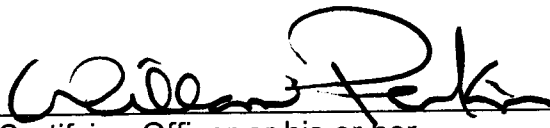
ACTION TAKEN: State whether the rule was adopted with or without changes from the proposal due to written or oral comments:

**Rule adopted without changes from the proposal. No comments received.**

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION PUBLISHED IN VOLUME XXXVI, ISSUE NO. 9, AAM, DATED **JUNE 29, 2018**.

Statutory Rulemaking Authority: **Ala. Code §§ 34-24-53 and 34-21-85**

(Date Filed)  
(For LRS Use Only)

  
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Certifying Officer or his or her  
Deputy

REC'D & FILED

2018 SEP 20 AM 10: 26

NOTE: In accordance with §41 22 6(b), as amended, a proposed rule is required to be certified within 90 days after completion of the notice.

LEGISLATIVE SVC AGENCY

540-X-8-.08 Requirements for Collaborative Practice by Physicians and Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners.

- (1) The collaborating physician shall:
  - (a) Provide professional medical oversight and direction to the certified registered nurse practitioner.
  - (b) Be readily available for direct communication or by radio, telephone or telecommunications.
  - (c) Be readily available for consultation or referrals of patients from the certified registered nurse practitioner.
- (2) In the event the collaborating physician is not readily available, provisions shall be made for medical coverage by a physician who is pre-approved by the Board of Medical Examiners and is familiar with these rules.
- (3) In the event of an unanticipated, permanent absence of a collaborating physician, a previously approved covering physician may be designated as a temporary collaborating physician for a period of up to sixty (60) days. During the sixty (60) day time period, a new "Notice of Commencement" designating a new collaborating physician should be submitted for approval.
- (4) The certified registered nurse practitioner's scheduled hours in patient homes, facilities licensed by the Alabama Department of Public Health, facilities certified by the Alabama Department of Mental Health, and when practicing under specified limited protocols, are not subject to the required minimum hours for physician presence.
- (5) The Collaborating Physician shall:
  - (a) Have no additional requirement for documentation of on-site collaboration

when working in the same facility with the Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP).

(b) Be present for not less than ten percent (10%) of the CRNP's scheduled hours in an approved practice site with a CRNP who has less than two (2) years (4,000 hours) of collaborative practice experience:

1. Since initial certification; or
  2. In the collaborating physician's practice specialty.
- (c) Visit remote practice sites no less than twice annually.

(d) Meet no less than quarterly with the CRNP who has more than two (2) years (4,000 hours) of collaborative practice experience.

(e) Allow a pre-approved covering physician to be present in lieu of the collaborating physician.

(6) The collaborating physician shall provide notice in writing to the State Board of Medical Examiners of the commencement or termination of a collaborative practice agreement as required by Rule 540-X-8-.04.

(7) The Joint Committee may, at its discretion, waive the requirements of written verification of physician availability upon documentation of exceptional circumstances. Employees of state and county health departments are exempt from the requirements of written verification of physician availability.

(8) A written standard protocol specific to the specialty practice area of the certified registered nurse practitioner and the specialty practice area of the collaborating physician, approved and signed by both the collaborating physician and the certified registered nurse practitioner shall:

- (a) Identify all sites where the certified registered nurse practitioner will practice within the collaboration protocol.
- (b) Identify the physician's principal practice site.
- (c) Be maintained at each practice site.
- (d) Include a formulary of drugs, devices, medical treatments, tests and procedures that may be prescribed, ordered, and implemented by the certified registered nurse practitioner consistent with these rules and which are appropriate for the collaborative practice setting.
- (e) Include a pre-determined plan for emergency services.
- (f) Specify the process by which the certified registered nurse practitioner shall refer a patient to a physician other than the collaborating physician.
- (g) Specify a plan for quality assurance management with defined quality outcome measures for evaluation of the clinical practice of the certified registered nurse practitioner and include review of a meaningful sample of medical records plus all adverse outcomes. The term "medical records" includes, but is not limited to, electronic medical records. Documentation of quality assurance review shall be readily retrievable, identify records that were selected for review, include a summary of findings, conclusions, and, if indicated, recommendations for change. Quality assurance monitoring may be performed by designated personnel, with final results presented to the physician and certified registered nurse practitioner for review.

**Author:** Alabama Board of Medical Examiners.

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, §§ 34-24-53 and 34-21-85.

**History:** This new Chapter 8 - Advanced Practice Nurses: Collaborative Practice replaces Chapter 8 - Nurse Midwives. This chapter is being filed as a joint effort by the Alabama Board of Nursing and the Alabama Board of Medical

Examiners. Amended/Approved For Publication: March 20, 1996.  
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