

California Law No Longer Mandates Chart Reviews or Requires Chart Co-signature

By PA Bob Miller; Chair, Professional Practice Committee

In 2019, SB 697 (Caballero) was passed by the California Senate and Assembly and was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on October 9, 2019. The bill went through Senate and Assembly committees and floor votes with zero “no” votes. Supporters of this bill recognized the need to make the changes in our PA Practice Act to reflect the quality of healthcare delivery by PAs in our state and to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens imposed by outdated statutes. There will be a paradigm shift for PAs practicing in California with the new laws going into effect on January 1, 2020.

Among other changes the law will no longer require medical chart reviews or co-signatures by a supervising physician (SP). Before SB 697 there were somewhat confusing requirements for chart review, dating and co-signing of medical records by the SP – some within 30 days, others within 7 days. These laws and regulations led to unclear interpretations and layers of administrative challenges to try to remain in compliance.

The PA Board (PAB) also may, as a condition of enforcement or reinstatement of a license, require the review or countersignature of medical records for a specified duration.