

**MARYLAND BOARD OF PHYSICIANS
BOARD
OPEN MEETING MINUTES
4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD
Room 100
August 27, 2025**

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) met Wednesday, August 27, 2025 with the following members present:

Panel B

Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D., Board Chair
Julie Caffrey, D.O.
Ingrid Connerney, Consumer Member
Vinu Ganti, M.D.
Michael Hann, M.D.
Dallas Lea, II, M.D.
Tara Mahan, P.A.
Supneet Saluja, M.D.
Martha Schaerr, Consumer Member

Panel A

Ifeyinwa A. Stitt, M.D.
TraShawn N. Thornton-Davis, M.D.
Dina El Metwally, M.D.
Djinge Lindsay, M.D.
Alden Littlewood, M.D.
Lydia McCargo-Redd, Consumer Member
Esteban Schabelman, M.D.
Richard T. Scholz, M.D.
Charles W. Simmons, M.D.
Judith Singletary, Consumer Member
Scott G. Slater, Consumer Member

ABSENT: Tyler Cymet, D.O.; Maxine E. Turnipseed, Consumer Member

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL STAFF PRESENT: Stacey Darin, Assistant Attorney General; David Finkler, Assistant Attorney General; David Wagner, Assistant Attorney General

STAFF PRESENT: Christine Farrelly, Executive Director; Doreen Noppinger, Compliance Manager; Augustine Chen, Compliance Analyst Associate; Rhonda Deans, Lead AH Analyst; Madeline Delgreco, Health Policy Analyst; Madelyn Estrella, Compliance Analyst Associate; Shawneka Freeman, AH Licensure Analyst Associate; Angela Gaither, Management Associate; Margaret Ellis-Jury, Lead AH Analyst; Michael Muriithi, Web Content Specialist; Eunice Onwuchekwa, Intake Manager; Michael Sachse, Licensure Analyst Associate; Jalon Shell, Compliance Analyst Associate; Michael Tran, Health Policy Analyst; Brooks Whigham, Probation Supervisor; Felicia Wright, Allied Health Manager

STAFF PRESENT VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Ellen Douglas Smith, Deputy Director; Oriell Harris, Health Policy Analyst

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Ajrawat, Board Chair called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

HOUSEKEEPING RULES - FYI for Board members

BOARD CHAIR REPORT:

Dr. Ajrawat stressed to all Board members the importance of attending all meetings and responding to meeting reminder requests from Board staff.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board went into closed board session to get Advice of Counsel concerning a matter.

VOTE TO CLOSE SESSION

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Maryland General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(7), on a motion made by Dr. Hann, and seconded by Dr. Ganti, the Board unanimously voted to close its meeting on August 27, 2025 at 9:02 a.m., in room 100, to comply with the statutory requirement under Health Occ. §1-401 that prevents public disclosure of medical review committee proceedings. Dr. Schabelman recused.

SUMMARY OF CLOSED SESSION:

The Board convened to the closed session pursuant to General Provisions §3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

The Board returned back to open session at 9:18 a.m.

Physician Assistant Advanced Duties Addendums for Approval

The Physician Assistant Advisory Committee (PAAC) determined that the physician assistant does not meet the criteria for advanced duties established in statute and regulations, and voted to recommend disapproval of the addendum to the Board.

*On a motion made by Dr. Ganti, and seconded by Ms. Schaerr, the Board voted to **DISAPPROVE** the advanced duties addendum request to perform x-rays of extremities for Esteban Schabelman, M.D. and Melissa Emory Koczman, PA-C. (Attachment 1)*

The Physician Assistant Advisory Committee (PAAC) determined that the physician assistant meets the criteria for advanced duties established in statute and regulations, and voted to recommend approval of the addendum to the Board.

*On a motion made by Dr. Hann, and seconded by Dr. Ganti, the Board voted to **APPROVE** the advanced duties addendum request to perform psychiatric duties for Ian Rutkofsky, M.D. and Stefie Tokpah, PA-C. Ms. Schaerr and Dr. Lea opposed. (Attachment 1)*

On a motion made by Ms. Schaerr, and seconded by Dr. Ganti, the Board voted that the statute prohibits PA's from performing chest x-rays. (Attachment 1)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- July 23, 2025

*On a motion made by Dr. Ganti, and seconded by Dr. Saluja, the Board voted to unanimously **APPROVE** the full Board and Panel minutes.*

OTHER BUSINESS – FYI ONLY

- Physician Assistant Advisory Committee Open Meeting Minutes - July 2, 2025
- Athletic Trainer Evaluation and Treatment Protocols without Specializes Tasks
- Athletic Trainer Evaluation and Treatment Protocols with Previously Approved Specialized Tasks and or Dry Needling Specialized Tasks
- Radiation Therapy, Radiography, Nuclear Medicine Technology, and Radiology Assistance Advisory Committee Open Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2025

VOTE TO CLOSE SESSION

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Maryland General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(13), on a motion made by Dr. Caffrey, and seconded by Dr. Hann, Panel B unanimously voted to close its meeting on August 27, 2025 at 9:30 a.m., in room 100, to comply with the statutory requirement under Health Occ. §1-401 that prevents public disclosure of medical review committee proceedings. Panel A was dismissed.

Panel B consulted with counsel in its closed session pursuant to General Provisions §3-305(b)(13) to review confidential licensure and investigative application information.

CONVENE TO CLOSE

Submitted by,

Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D.
Panel B Chair



Board of Physicians

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D., Chair

TO: The Board
FROM: Rhonda Deanes, Allied Health Lead Analyst
DATE: August 27, 2025
SUBJECT: Physician Assistant Advanced Duties Addendums for Board Approval

This is to confirm that the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee (PAAC) has reviewed the attached Collaboration Agreement Addendums and is recommending the following actions.

The Committee determined that the following physician assistants meet the criteria for advanced duties established in Health Occupations Article, §15-302, COMAR 10.32.03.06 Collaboration Agreements – Approval, COMAR 10.32.09 Delegation and Assignment of Performance of Cosmetic Medical Procedures and Use of Cosmetic Medical Devices, and other criteria established by the Board.

Previously Board Approved Procedures RECOMMENDED for DISAPPROVAL:

Physician Assistant		Supervising Physician	Requested Procedure(s)	Approval Date of DA/Notification of CA
1.	Melissa Emory Koczman , PA-C	Esteban Schabelman, M.D.	1. Xrays of the extremities* <i>*The Committee is recommending the DISAPPROVAL of the performance of the requested advanced duties due to Ms. Koczman and Dr. Schabelman's failure to provide evidence of Ms. Koczman's completion of a course on non-fluoroscopic X-Ray procedures using a mini c-arm or similar low-level radiation machine, including the requirements specified in COMAR 10.32.03.05 (F)(1) and (2)</i>	NCA received on 03/20/2025

Previously Board Approved Procedures RECOMMENDED for APPROVAL:

Physician Assistant		Supervising Physician	Requested Procedure(s)	Approval Date of DA/Notification of CA
1.	Stefie Tokpah, PA-C	Ian Rutkofsky, M.D.	1. Advanced Psychopharmacologic Treatment 2. Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy 3. Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation 4. Supportive Psychotherapy	NCA received on 12/27/2024