

# Frequently Asked Questions – Hospitals

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Q. Must a physician be consulted when the Physician Assistant (PA) orders a restraint?

A. Yes

- The standard at 482.13(e)(7)[A-0170] states that the physician must be consulted as soon as possible if the physician does not order the restraint.
- Idaho: the Board of Medicine does not recognize PA's as independent practitioners.
- CMS expects that the physician must be consulted as soon as possible just as would happen, for example, if a registered nurse initiated restraints.

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Q. May a Physician Assistant (PA) order restraints (physical and/or chemical) in a hospital?

A. Yes, if the following conditions are met:

- The PA's Delegation of Service agreement, with the supervising physician, states that the PA may order restraints.
- The hospital bylaws allow PA's to order restraints.
- The PA has training in the use of restraints.
- The hospital credentialing and privileging of PA's includes ordering of restraints.
- A copy of the PA's delegation of service agreement is on file with the hospital.
- The hospital's policies and procedures address PA's ordering restraints.

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Q. May paramedics serve as Qualified Medical Personnel (QMP) and perform medical screening examinations in Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) if they are evaluated and approved by the medical staff to do so?

A. The CAH regulations at 42 CFR 485.618 (d)(2) (i-ii) (CoP: Emergency Services) state the following:

*(2) A registered nurse with training and experience in emergency care can be utilized to conduct specific medical screening examinations only if-*

*(i)The registered nurse is on site and immediately available at the CAH when a patient requests medical care; and*

*(ii)The nature of the patient's request for medical care is within the scope of practice of a registered nurse and consistent with applicable State laws and the CAH's bylaws or rules and regulations.*

Therefore, according to these regulations, a paramedic cannot be a QMP.

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