GUIDELINES FOR PHYSICIAN EXTENDER PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY

Purpose:
To establish rules governing the writing of prescriptions by Physician Extenders (physician assistants and nurse practitioners) at LSUHSC-S. Prescriptive authority for Physician Extenders (PE) shall be limited to writing prescriptions for patients who will obtain their medications through pharmaceutical agencies not affiliated with LSUHSC-S. Prescriptive authority, as defined by this policy, does not allow for the ordering of medications, procedures, tests or services of any kind for inpatients.

Policy:

1. The physician extender must maintain a valid license with the State of Louisiana and be credentialed to practice by the Clinical Board within their defined scope of practice as delineated by LSUHSC-S.

2. The physician extender must meet the qualifications for, and apply for and obtain, prescriptive authority from their respective state board.

3. The physician extender must be approved by their supervising physicians to use their prescriptive authority under these guidelines.

4. The physician extender shall only write prescriptions for patients registered into the LSUHSCS service area in which the PE normally functions. The PE shall write prescriptions only during those times when they are on duty and working and only within their assigned service area.

5. The physician extender shall document in the patient’s medical record all medications for which a prescription was written and the name and credentials of the individual signing the prescription.

6. The physician extender shall only write prescriptions for medications with appropriately justified indications and for those medications listed on the formulary that has been approved by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee for use in the department/service in which the PE works.
7. The physician extender shall not prescribe controlled substances.

8. Departmental Formulary Guidelines will be developed by the department chair or designee and maintained specific to the service area in which the physician extender is working.

9. The Departmental Formulary Guidelines will be reviewed periodically by a committee composed of supervising physicians and physician extenders within the department. Any proposed additions to the formulary or changes to the guidelines will be submitted to the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee for approval.

10. The department/service may impose stricter limitations on prescribing than those presented in these general guidelines.

11. Each department shall develop and present for approval to the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee a mechanism for monitoring individual physician extender’s prescribing practices to ensure compliance with Hospital and departmental guidelines. The results of monitoring shall be included in the PE’s bi-annual evaluation of performance in the credentialing and reappointment process by their respective Department Chair.

12. Failure to adhere to this policy will subject the physician extender and supervising physician to the peer review process and possible loss of prescriptive privileges for the physician extender.

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