



Physician Assistant (PA) Frequent Questions

Once I apply, how long does it take to get a license?

The average processing time for a license application is approximately four to six weeks. This time is spent waiting for the verification documents to reach us from the various entities from which you would have requested information. For information on review and approval times, see next question.

Once I have my license, can I go ahead and practice?

No, you must have a Delegation Agreement approved by the Commission prior to being able to commence practice. ([RCW 18.71A.030](#) and [.040](#)) You can get the [practice plan forms](#) on the [Applications and Forms](#) page.

What exactly is a remote site setting?

A remote site is either a setting physically separate from the physician's primary place for meeting patients OR a setting where the physician will be present less than 25 percent of the physician assistant's practice time. Whether a physician assistant is utilized across town or next door, if it is physically separate, it's a remote site. In addition, if a physician assistant is employed full time at 40 hours per week but the physician is on site less than 10 of those hours, it becomes a remote site. ([WAC 246-918-120](#))

What should I do if I want to quit working for a physician?

Physician assistants and their supervising or sponsoring physician are each required to submit a letter notifying us that their working relationship has been terminated. This can be [emailed to us](#) or faxed to 360-236-4927. Until we have received such notification, the Delegation Agreement remains in effect. ([WAC 246-918-110](#))

I haven't passed the NCCPA initial examination yet. Do you have some type of permit?

We do have an interim permit, however you should carefully consider the time period for requesting the interim permit. You should allow enough time so that you have 2 opportunities for taking the examination. In addition, once issued it will be valid for one year only and cannot be renewed. If you have not passed the NCCPA by the time it expires, you CANNOT practice after the expiration date. Please note: without NCCPA certification, you will not be approved for a remote site setting.



I want to work with an Osteopath physician. Do I still apply through you?

No. Physician assistants who want an Osteopath physician their primary physician must apply through the Osteopathic Board.

I did not receive my renewal notice. What do I do?

It is the responsibility of the licensee to renew their license, whether the notice has been received or not. ([WAC 246-12-030](#)) The license is expired if it is not renewed on or before the expiration date. Any renewal received by the department that is postmarked or presented after midnight on the expiration date is late and the licensee is required to pay the late fee. There is no grace period for renewal of a license.

How do I have my license verified to another state board?

To have a written verification of your license sent to another state, you must submit the request in writing. Your request should include your name, license number, and the name and address of the state board where the verification should be sent. This can be sent via [email](#), faxed or mailed. These requests are processed within five business days of having received the request.