CMS Physician/Non-Physician Collaborative Practice Plan Guidelines

The CMS believes that the following guidelines can help to facilitate collaborative practice between physicians and non-physician providers (NPPs).

Physicians and NPPs should file collaborative practice plans upon entering into a collaborative practice agreement. These plans should be filed with and approved by the board of medical examiners (BME) and should include:

1. the name of the physician with whom the NPP is collaborating, (the designated physician's scope of practice should include the entire scope of practice of the NPP);
2. protocols describing the recognition, diagnosis and treatment of specified medical conditions;
3. protocols for NPP prescriptive authority should be restricted to the NPP's scope of practice;
4. prescriptive privilege may be extended to include controlled substances;
5. a signed agreement regarding the availability of the collaborating physician or a covering physician who agrees to accept the collaborative practice plan;
6. a quality assurance plan, which shall include components such as:
   a) routine, periodic chart review and case conferences;
   b) credentials review which includes educational accomplishments, certifications, additional competence requirements;
   c) annually updated scope of practice descriptions, which describe the duties of the NPP;
   d) office based continuous quality improvement program;
   e) team review of audits by outside (third party) agencies;
   f) NPP peer review;
   g) risk management education and protocols;
   h) patient satisfaction ratings;

7. an emergency treatment plan.
8. physicians shall collaborate with no more than four off site NPPs unless it can be proven to the Board of Medical Examiners that quality patient care can be maintained with a different ratio.