

# Physician Assistants - Supervising Physicians Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

**Remember:** successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## Questions

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- 1. Which form should be used to notify the board of changes to the primary location in the PA's written agreement?**
  - A. Email notification.**
  - B. Phone call.**
  - C. Written agreement change form.**
  - D. No notification required.**
  
- 2. For applicants living, working, or completing training in California, Arizona, or Ohio, what is included in the FBI and State Police Background Check?**
  - A. The Board accepts CHRCs from those states for upload to the Board.**
  - B. The Board is not an eligible recipient of CHRCs from those states; obtain FBI Identity History Summary Check.**
  - C. No background checks are required.**
  - D. Only a state CHRC is needed.**
  
- 3. What does PSPA stand for?**
  - A. Pennsylvania Society of Physician Associates**
  - B. Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants**
  - C. Pennsylvania Professional Society of Associates**
  - D. Pennsylvania Association of Physicians Assistants**
  
- 4. Which states are specified where CHRCs will not be issued to the Board for upload?**
  - A. California, Arizona, and Ohio**
  - B. New York, Texas, and Florida**
  - C. Pennsylvania, Delaware**
  - D. Illinois, Michigan**
  
- 5. How is satellite location approval completed in SBOM?**
  - A. Must outline provision for direct communication between PA and physician**
  - B. PA must work in primary DO's office for two years**
  - C. Distance must be at least 50 miles**
  - D. Satellite must have its own license**

- 6. What needs to be included in FBI and State Police background checks?**
- A. Only FBI background check**
  - B. A CHRC from the state police for every state lived in during past ten years**
  - C. No background checks required**
  - D. A fingerprint-only check**
- 7. Which statement best describes the supervisory plan required for the physician assistant's practice?**
- A. The physician will provide supervision and monitoring appropriate to the difficulty of the case, the PA's skill, and the risk to the patient.**
  - B. The supervisor will monitor only when the patient is in critical condition.**
  - C. Supervision is optional for routine cases.**
  - D. The PA can practice independently without any supervision.**
- 8. When are written agreements effective?**
- A. After formal board approval**
  - B. Upon submission**
  - C. Only after a signed hard copy is received**
  - D. After a 30-day waiting period**
- 9. What form is used when supervising physicians report a change to an existing written agreement?**
- A. PA Renewal Form**
  - B. Written Agreement Change Form**
  - C. Change of Name Form**
  - D. Practice Update Form**
- 10. Under SBOM, satellite location is defined as which of the following?**
- A. A location other than the primary place at which the supervising physician and PA provide medical care**
  - B. A location within the main office building**
  - C. A location outside the state**
  - D. A virtual telemedicine site only**

## Answers

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1. C
2. B
3. A
4. A
5. A
6. B
7. A
8. B
9. B
10. A

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which form should be used to notify the board of changes to the primary location in the PA's written agreement?**

- A. Email notification.**
- B. Phone call.**
- C. Written agreement change form.**
- D. No notification required.**

Changing the primary location is a material update to the PA's written agreement with the supervising physician, so it requires an official record with the board. Using the written agreement change form provides a formal mechanism to document the new location, include the effective date, and capture signatures from the PA and supervising physician. This creates an auditable record and ensures the board's files accurately reflect the current supervision arrangement and practice site. Informal methods like email or a phone call don't create a sanctioned amendment and may not satisfy regulatory reporting requirements, and saying no notification is needed undermines supervision accountability and patient safety.

**2. For applicants living, working, or completing training in California, Arizona, or Ohio, what is included in the FBI and State Police Background Check?**

- A. The Board accepts CHRCs from those states for upload to the Board.**
- B. The Board is not an eligible recipient of CHRCs from those states; obtain FBI Identity History Summary Check.**
- C. No background checks are required.**
- D. Only a state CHRC is needed.**

The situation tests what background check the board requires for applicants in California, Arizona, or Ohio. For these states, the board does not accept a state Criminal History Record Check (CHRC) as a complete background check. Instead, applicants must obtain an FBI Identity History Summary Check. This FBI check is fingerprint-based and combines FBI data with state records, providing a more uniform and comprehensive background verification that the board requires. Because the board isn't an eligible recipient of CHRCs from those states, relying on a state CHRC isn't sufficient, and the FBI Identity History Summary Check is the correct route. The other options aren't accurate because they either claim the board accepts state CHRCs from those states, or that no background check is required, or that only a state CHRC is needed.

### 3. What does PSPA stand for?

- A. Pennsylvania Society of Physician Associates**
- B. Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants**
- C. Pennsylvania Professional Society of Associates**
- D. Pennsylvania Association of Physicians Assistants**

This tests how acronyms are formed from an organization's name by pulling out the main nouns and ignoring small connectors like "of." PSPA comes from Pennsylvania, Society, Physician, Associates. The official name of the organization is Pennsylvania Society of Physician Associates, so the expansion that matches those key words is the correct one. While many people know the profession as Physician Assistants, the organization itself uses Associates in its title, which is why that full form best fits PSPA.

### 4. Which states are specified where CHRCs will not be issued to the Board for upload?

- A. California, Arizona, and Ohio**
- B. New York, Texas, and Florida**
- C. Pennsylvania, Delaware**
- D. Illinois, Michigan**

Different states have different rules about how criminal history background checks are sent to licensing boards. Some states don't allow the board to receive a CHRC through the usual upload process and require the applicant to arrange or directly transmit the report to the board. In this item, the states where CHRCs will not be issued to the Board for upload are California, Arizona, and Ohio. That means, for licensure purposes, those states do not provide a CHRC that can be automatically uploaded to the board via the standard submission channel. Plans should account for an alternative submission path, such as having the CHRC sent directly to the board by the issuing agency or providing an official report yourself, per that state's requirements. This distinction is important because it affects how you gather and submit your background documentation and can influence timelines for licensure.

## 5. How is satellite location approval completed in SBOM?

- A. Must outline provision for direct communication between PA and physician**
- B. PA must work in primary DO's office for two years**
- C. Distance must be at least 50 miles**
- D. Satellite must have its own license**

The main idea is securing proper supervision at satellite practice sites by detailing how the PA and supervising physician stay in direct contact. When a PA works away from the main office, the supervising physician must be able to provide real-time guidance and oversight to ensure safe, appropriate patient care. The approval typically requires a documented plan that outlines how direct communication will occur—such as real-time phone calls, secure messaging, or telemedicine—so the physician can review and authorize orders, discuss cases, and intervene as needed. This clarity helps define who is responsible for decisions, how quickly the physician can be reached, and how care updates are communicated, which is essential for regulatory compliance and patient safety. Other options aren't generally the basis for satellite approval. A requirement to work two years in a DO's office isn't a standard supervisory condition, nor is a fixed distance like 50 miles a universal rule. Requiring the satellite to have its own separate license isn't typically necessary when the PA operates under the supervising physician's license with an explicit supervision plan.

## 6. What needs to be included in FBI and State Police background checks?

- A. Only FBI background check**
- B. A CHRC from the state police for every state lived in during past ten years**
- C. No background checks required**
- D. A fingerprint-only check**

Criminal history must be gathered from all jurisdictions where you have lived. The FBI check provides nationwide data based on fingerprints, but it doesn't automatically include every state's records. To ensure a complete background view, you request a Criminal History Record Check from the state police for each state you have lived in during the past ten years. This approach captures state-level arrests, charges, and dispositions that may not appear on the FBI file alone. A fingerprint-only check won't replace the need for these state checks, and some records are only accessible through the state repositories, not via a fingerprint search.

7. Which statement best describes the supervisory plan required for the physician assistant's practice?
- A. The physician will provide supervision and monitoring appropriate to the difficulty of the case, the PA's skill, and the risk to the patient.**
  - B. The supervisor will monitor only when the patient is in critical condition.**
  - C. Supervision is optional for routine cases.**
  - D. The PA can practice independently without any supervision.**

Supervision plans for physician assistants are designed to be flexible and match the actual clinical needs. The statement that the physician will provide supervision and monitoring appropriate to the difficulty of the case, the PA's skill, and the risk to the patient is the best description because it captures how oversight should scale with complexity, proficiency, and potential harm. This approach protects patient safety, ensures quality of care, and complies with typical licensing and practice expectations by avoiding a one-size-fits-all level of supervision. Supervision isn't only needed for emergencies or the most complex situations; routine cases still require appropriate oversight to ensure correct diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up. Supervision is not optional for routine care, and PAs do not practice independently without supervision in standard PA practice models. The concept is to tailor the supervisory plan so that it provides enough guidance and monitoring to keep care safe, while also allowing the PA to work within their demonstrated competence.

8. When are written agreements effective?
- A. After formal board approval**
  - B. Upon submission**
  - C. Only after a signed hard copy is received**
  - D. After a 30-day waiting period**

The main idea is that a written agreement becomes effective when it is submitted for consideration, because submission marks the intentional start of the agreement and triggers its enforceability in the workflow. When a document is submitted, all parties know there is a proposal to be used, and the terms can begin to apply once accepted and processed. While board approval, a signed hard copy, or a waiting period may be part of the formalization or governance surrounding the agreement, they do not by themselves establish the moment the agreement actually becomes binding. Board approval is a governance step that may come after submission, a signed hard copy is a traditional means of evidencing assent but modern practice can rely on submission or electronic execution, and a waiting period is an arbitrary delay not typically how the effective date is determined. Therefore, the act of submission is the best indicator of when the written agreement becomes effective.

**9. What form is used when supervising physicians report a change to an existing written agreement?**

- A. PA Renewal Form**
- B. Written Agreement Change Form**
- C. Change of Name Form**
- D. Practice Update Form**

When a supervising physician's written agreement with a PA is updated, there is a specific form designed to report those amendments. This is called the Written Agreement Change Form. It exists to keep the regulatory body informed of changes to the supervision arrangement—such as shifts in supervision level, scope of practice, or terms of the agreement—and to ensure the records reflect the current agreement, maintaining lawful and compliant practice. Other forms serve different purposes: a PA Renewal Form handles license or permit renewals, a Change of Name Form covers name changes, and a Practice Update Form is generally for broader practice updates but not the formal amendment to the written supervisory agreement.

**10. Under SBOM, satellite location is defined as which of the following?**

- A. A location other than the primary place at which the supervising physician and PA provide medical care**
- B. A location within the main office building**
- C. A location outside the state**
- D. A virtual telemedicine site only**

The main concept is that a satellite location is any site where care is provided that is not the supervising physician's primary practice location. This means the supervising physician and the PA can deliver care at off-site clinics, hospitals, or other facilities and still be considered part of the same supervisory arrangement. Why this fits best: the defining feature is being off the primary office, not being within the same building, outside the state, or limited to telemedicine. A location within the main office isn't a satellite, and being outside the state is not the core criterion. A satellite isn't restricted to virtual telemedicine; it can involve in-person care at different sites as well.

## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://pasupervisingphysicians.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**

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