



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

State Committee for Pathologists' Assistants
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**New York State Committee for Pathologists' Assistants
August 27, 2026
2:00 pm
1411 Broadway
10th floor
NYC**

Call to Order/Introductions: Meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm

Committee Members Present: Charles Fernandez-Perez, Nancy Halleck, Mohammad Zuber Nakadar, Dr. Bernard Ng, Dr. Maria Plummer, Adam Tegnander (remote)

Committee Members Absent:

Staff Members Present: Stephen Boese, Lee Fitzgerald, Michelle Pawlowski

Invited Guests: Casey Schenk, Executive secretary to the Nursing and CLT Boards; Renee Gecsed, Associate of Nursing Education; Dennis Strenk, CLT Board Member; Dr. Nader Okby, CLT Board Member; Arianna Rubinetti, AAPA Legislative Committee Co-Chair; Ashley Olson, AAPA Legislative Committee Co-Chair

Review of Minutes: Minutes from June 11, 2026, were reviewed and approved.

Update from the Office of Professions:

Terms for the majority of the Board members will be expiring next year. Adam Tegnander will be the only member whose term is not ending. The Board will need two pathologists' Assistants, a physician, and a public member. The members will need to live in New York as well as being licensed in New York. Members can serve for two five-year terms for a total of ten years.

Scope of Practice:

Performing macroscopic examination and clinical laboratory personnel

Focus of discussion is patient protection. The Board will look at the statutory language when proceeding with discussion on scope of practice for pathologists' assistants. Legislature is responsible for the statutory language, and this is difficult to change. The Board is prohibited from lobbying the legislature but they can offer advice if requested by a member of the Legislature. There is a pathway to change regulatory language if need be and this would have to go through the Board of Regents.

In addition to patient protection there is also disruption to the field that the Board will need to consider during the discussion.

Closing the scope loophole presentation by AAPA co-chairs. Ashley Olsen and Arianna Rubinetti.

The current regulatory framework does not distinguish between the levels of gross complexity between licensed PAs and Histotechns. Histotechns are reportedly being trained and permitted to gross complex pathology specimens which usually falls within the education and scope of practice of PAs. This can cause an increased risk of misdiagnosis, inadequate staging, inappropriate treatment as well as repeat procedures and increase health care costs for the patient.

The presentation compared Histotechnology and Pathologists' Assistants training and scope of practices. The current Histotech scope of practice does not include gross examination or dissection of surgical specimens but in contrast, gross examination is explicitly included in the PAs scope of practice. New York State curriculum requirements for Histotechns include gross examination but there is not an actual corresponding provision that authorizes Histotechns to perform independently and gross anything up to complex assessment.

AAPA co-chair commented that New York State's histotechnician FAQ states that the grossing personnel must be licensed or otherwise authorized by statute or regulation to perform gross examination. This creates ambiguity about who may perform gross exams and provides no clear limits for non-PA professionals.

This creates a regulatory loophole where trained to gross can be interpreted as authorized to gross, without clearly defining what level of specimen complexity can be grossed and the competency and training required around the people who are doing the grossing.

When grossing specimens beyond a person's authorized scope of practice or without the appropriate pathology specific training, the risk of missed diseases, inadequate

staging, misdiagnosis, inappropriate treatment and costly repeat procedures may increase.

Grossing responsibilities should match the complexity of the specimen with the practitioner's education, training, and demonstrated competency with patient safety as priority.

The AAPA supports non-PA grossing personnel grossing small, routine, and low complexity specimens.

We need to ensure that all professions who gross are educated to do so rather than separating the fields with levels of grossing. Especially with the lack of these professions in NYS.

The AACP has clear instructions about the grossing technicians' education. They require a bachelor's degree for any non-pathologists assistant person who can gross under the supervision of a pathologist.

Required Education for each profession:

Histotechnicians-Associates degree

Histotechnologists-Bachelor's degree or higher

Pathologists' Assistants-Bachelor's degree or higher

Each profession needs general guidelines. Each profession needs boundaries even though there is some blurring.

Create broad categories (easy, gray, hard cases) and have the Medical Directors oversee it and decide if the gray areas can be grossed by Histotechs or Path As.

It is in the curriculum for Histotechs for basic grossing, but institutions may not expose students to this.

The Board finds it important to re-evaluate the lines between Histotechs and PathAs. The needs of the hospitals are going to be different so we can't be too restrictive, but we need to protect the patients.

The CLT Board will meet to discuss before moving forward with this discussion and defining guidance, but it would be helpful to get this done before Path A member terms expire in 2027.

The Board recommends having workgroup meetings in the future.

Adam volunteered to facilitate the workgroup because he serves on both the Pathologists' Assistant Board and the Clinical Lab Technology Board.

Next Steps/ Next Meeting:

CLT Board will meet to discuss

A workgroup will be made consisting of members from CLT and Path A Boards.

Dr. Plummer will present an overview of the Path A Board meeting discussion to the Medicine Board meeting in September.

The next Pathologists' Committee meeting was not scheduled. A meeting will be scheduled after the CLT Board meeting, and the Path A workgroup meeting has met.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm

Draft respectfully submitted,

Michelle Pawlsowski
Education Credential Specialist 2