



**TENNESSEE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS’
COMMITTEE ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**

August 29, 2016

MINUTES

A meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners’ Committee on Physician Assistants’ (“the Committee”) “Reentry Taskforce” (“the taskforce”) was held in the Poplar Conference Room at 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee on August 29, 2016 at 9:00 am (Central).

Members Present: Bret Reeves, PA-C
Omar Nava, PA-C, Chairman
James Montag, PA-C

Staff Present: Rene Saunders, MD, Medical Consultant
Mary Katherine Bratton, Assistant General Counsel
Maegan Martin, Executive Director

The purpose of the meeting was to consider revising the Committee’s reentry policy. The Committee has a policy in place; however, it has been impossible to enforce since the ARC-PA’s position on remediation has changed. The Committee considered the Board of Medical Examiners’ recent work on physician reentry as well as additional resources which were circulated to the group in advance of the meeting.

The taskforce was asked to consider the trigger for application of its reentry policy. The taskforce ultimately determined that clinical inactivity for a period of two or more years would trigger application of the reentry policy. Once an applicant for licensure has been identified as a reentry candidate it is necessary to determine whether the applicant is in fact, competent and thus safe to return to practice. The taskforce discussed the possibility of allowing an applicant to take a standardized examination, such as the PANRE to rebut the presumption of incompetency, but decided that a formal assessment by a Post Licensure Assessment System (PLAS) program would be required. The taskforce acknowledged that this assessment would be an expense for the applicant; however, the taskforce members emphasized that its responsibility is to protect the public, and extended periods of clinical inactivity put the public at risk that cannot be properly mitigated unless the Committee has a reliable means of evaluating a PA’s current skills and knowledge.

Once an applicant has undergone an assessment and an evaluation of his or her skills has been conducted, any deficiencies identified and recommendations made, the PA applicant will be asked to cure any deficiencies either through enrollment in a PLAS remediation program, or through a Committee approved preceptorship.

The taskforce's conclusions will be reduced to writing in a policy document and presented to the entire Committee for consideration of adoption.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.