

**MARYLAND BOARD OF PHYSICIANS
POLYSOMNOGRAPHY PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, April 23, 2015, 4:00 p.m., Conference Room 1

PRESENT: Susheel Patil, M.D., Chair, Norman Schubert, RPSG, Theresa Banks, RRT, RPSGT, Angela Dawson, RPSGT, Helene Emsellem, M.D., Katherine W. Buki, M.D.

STAFF PRESENT: David Finkler, Staff Counsel, Phyllis Washington, Allied Health Analyst, Mark Woodard, Policy Analyst

ABSENT: Brenda McKinley, Consumer Member, Ellen Douglas Smith, Deputy Director

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Patil called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. Schubert and seconded by Ms. Dawson, the Committee approved the February 26, 2015 Open Meeting Minutes.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Woodard stated that the criminal history check bill passed was signed by the Governor. The bill will become effective July 1, 2015. The Polysomnographic Technologist regulations will be published on May 1, 2015 in the Maryland Register and become effective May 11, 2015.

Acceptable AAST Core Competencies

The Committee reviewed the list of AAST core competencies to be used as part of the initial licensure process and accepted the following:

- Polysomnography
- Scoring Sleep Stages and Clinical Events in Polysomnographic Technology
- Pap Titration in Sleep Technology
- Supplemental Low Flow Oxygen and Titration
- Monitoring Pulse Oximetry
- Maintenance, Cleaning and Safety Precautions in Polysomnography Technology

On a motion made by Dr. Patil and second by Mr. Schubert, the Committee approved the above listed core competencies.

A-STEP Introductory Course – Recommendation Follow-up

Review Current BRPT Recommendations for A-STEP Requirements and Recommended Hours

At the February 26, 2015 meeting, the Committee discussed the A-STEP program requirements. The Committee determined that polysomnographic technologists who are new to the field and pursue the A-STEP pathway to licensure are required to take both the A-STEP introductory course and the A-STEP self-study modules. Technologists who have their RPSGT registry and have been practicing polysomnography are only required to take the A-STEP Self-Study Modules.

Dr. Patil reviewed the BRPT's RPSGT educational requirements to sit for the RPSGT exam. His thought would be to follow the BRPT educational guidelines, since they are the body determining if someone is eligible to sit for the exam, in terms of what educational requirements have to be completed. He asked the Committee to review the BRPT's 6 exam eligibility pathways and revisit their February decision to determine if the requirements need to be revised.

Dr. Emsellem stated that the Committee tried to emulate the BRPT's requirements. If a technologist is new to the field, they would have to take the 80 hours introductory course.

Dr. Patil feels that if the Committee were to agree to follow the BRPT's requirements, this would provide the Board staff guidance to determine if an applicant needs to do the introductory course and 23 modules or just the 23 modules.

The Committee proposed that the A-STEP requirements for licensure should be the same as the A-STEP requirements to sit for the RPSGT exam. Dr. Buki summarized by stating that the Committee previously decided that if an applicant were new to the field, they had to take the introductory course. If a technologist is not new to the field and finds that in the BRPT's 6 pathways there are certain pathways that do not require they take the introductory course and still be eligible to sit for the exam, the Board would not insist that they take the introductory course. At the last meeting the Committee determined that the introductory course would not be required for experienced technologists. For inexperienced practitioners, if you meet one of the 6 pathways that do not require the introductory course, but, has other requirements to sit for the exam, the Board would say that the lack of an introductory course would not impede their ability to be licensed in Maryland.

The Committee reviewed the BRPT's 6 pathways and determined that the following pathways should be incorporated into the educational requirement for an applicant who takes the A-STEP pathway to licensure.

- RPSGT Pathway 1: Clinical Experience. For candidates with a minimum of 1,638 hours of experience in the field and who have completed a STAR-designated Self-Study educational program. (e.g. AASM A-STEP Self-Study Modules)
- RPSGT Pathway 4: Focused Training. For candidates with a minimum of 819 hours of experience in the field and who have also completed STAR-designated Focused education, or a combination of Self-Study and Focused 2 education. (i.e. AASM A-STEP Self-Study Modules and AASM A-STEP Introductory Course)

Mr. Finkler stated that he thinks that the Committee is not proposing adding new regulations. However, the Committee is suggesting that this is how they interpret the regulations. Mr. Finkler will check to see if the Committee's interpretation will need Board approval.

Dr. Buki asked what determines whether an individual is an experienced technologist. Dr. Patil answered if the technologist has their RPSGT and proof of meeting 546 hours of clinical experience in the 3 years preceding licensure application.

Attestation Letter for Completion of Clinical Hours from a Physician

The Committee asked that a correction be made to the attestation letter for completion of clinical hours from a physician. Board staff will make the correction and incorporate the attestation letter with the application packet.

Determining Board Eligibility of Sleep Medicine Physician

Dr. Emsellem stated that if a physician completed a fellowship, they are Board eligible. Dr. Patil suggested contacting the American Board of Internal Medicine to ask them how they determine Board eligibility.

Amending Regulations to Accept Physicians Board Certified by the American Osteopathic Association in Sleep Medicine

The Committee discussed amending regulations to accept physicians who are Board certified by the American Osteopathic Association in sleep medicine. The Committee will revisit this item.

Portable Apnea Reports

Dr. Emsellem stated that she is seeing portable apnea reports that are signed by cardiologists. There are individuals signing off on sleep study reports that are generated by a computer and she is not sure that they have the skill set to review the study or to make decisions about its validity. Dr. Emsellem would like to revisit this item at a later date.

Mr. Finkler stated that the Committee does not regulate physicians. However, the subject can be discussed with the Board.

Stand-Alone Sleep Center - Inquiry

Pankaj Merchia, M.D., asked for details/definition of a stand-alone sleep center. The Committee determined that a stand-alone sleep center is one that is not affiliated with any hospital or it is not located in any regulated hospital space.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Submitted by:

Phyllis Washington

Phyllis Washington
Allied Health Analyst