

Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners Committee on Physician Assistants



Newsletter



A regulatory agency of the State of Tennessee

Cordell Hull Building, First Floor, 425 Fifth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37247-1010

• www.TennesseeAnytime.org

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMITTEE ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Committee Members

Don Black, PA, Committee Chairman
David Lennon, PA, Committee Secretary
Stephen Bean, OPA, Committee Member
David Head, Public Member
Roger Jones, PA, Committee Member
Nancy Kirschman, PA, Committee Member
Rory O'More, PA, Committee Member

STATUTORY CHANGES Prescription Monitoring

On July 3, 2002, the Governor signed into law, Public Chapter 840, Senate Bill 2534, the Controlled Substance Monitoring Act. Under the Act, an advisory committee will be created for the express purpose of creating a database to assist in research, statistical analysis and the education of health care practitioners concerning patients who, by virtue of their conduct in acquiring controlled substances, may require counseling or intervention for substance abuse, by collecting and maintaining data regarding all controlled substances in Schedules II, III and IV dispensed in the state. The data will be submitted to the committee by any practitioner, pharmacist, or pharmacy who dispenses a controlled substance contained in Schedules II, III and IV.

Currently, some 18 states utilize this tracking and monitoring system to eliminate "doctor shopping" by patients who are seeking controlled substances for self-medication or for diversionary purposes (use by family member or friend, or for resale on the street). At its July meeting, the Committee nominated David Lennon to represent the Committee on the Advisory Committee.

Statutory changes may be accessed by using the Committee's website, or by contacting the Committee's office to receive a copy.

2002 COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

October 4

2003 COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

January 10

April 7

July 11

October 10

All meetings begin at 9:00 a.m., Central Time at the Cordell Hull Building, 425 Fifth Avenue North, Nashville, TN.

Committee meetings are held at the Committee's office and are open to the public. Dates are subject to change, but are listed on the Committee's website. [In the event of an electronic meeting, a conference room is made available to the public and is the location from which the electronic meeting is conducted.]

REFERENCE NUMBERS FOR THE COMMITTEE

Phone Number: 1-888-310-4650, ext. 24384

Fax Number: 615-253-4484

Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Central Time

LICENSURE STATISTICS

New Licensees Issued January through June 2002

Physician Assistants 35

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AMENDED PRESCRIPTIVE PRACTICES

Public Chapter 527 was signed into law by Governor Don Sundquist in March 2002. Public Chapter 527 amends TCA §63-19-107(B) which had provided that any prescription written and signed and/or any drug issued by a physician assistant was deemed to be that of the physician under whose supervision and control the physician assistant is prescribing. The physician assistant was required to **sign both the supervising physician's name as well as his/her own.** Under Public Chapter 527, "the physician assistant shall **sign his or her name on each prescription** so written. Where the preprinted prescription pad contains the names of more than one physician, the physician assistant shall indicate on the prescription which of those physicians is his or her primary supervising physician by placing a checkmark beside or a circle around the name of that physician." [emphasis added.]

COMMITTEE ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS LICENSING ONLINE

Renewing Your Professional License Just Got a Bit Easier at

www.TennesseeAnytime.org/HLRS/

Beginning in December 2001, renewing your professional health license got a bit easier. The Department of Health has implemented an online process that allows all health professionals and facilities to renew their licenses online and/or update their information. The process is quick, simple, secure, and convenient – and even allows you to pay for your renewal with a credit card.

Okay, So How Do I Renew Online? In just four quick steps you'll be there...

- **Step One – Log in.** As a professional, you'll need to select your board, profession and enter your profession license number, your date of birth and social security number or your transaction number from your renewal notice.
- **Step Two – Update your information.** Here you'll have the opportunity to update your home address, your work address and even your billing address. Once you've completed entering that information, you're halfway done!
- **Step Three – Enter your Renewal Information.** At this step you'll answer all necessary questions and provide information on licenses from other states. You'll have the ability to update your education information and list your principal place of employment.
- **Step Four – Payment.** Here's where it all comes together. By entering your credit card through the secure site and choosing "submit," you will have completed the online renewal application. **Only choose submit one time!**

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Your renewal information will be posted to the Department of Health's licensing system and once you have met all of the criteria for your profession, you will be mailed your renewal certificate.

That's it – you're done!

So, come check it out and renew online, or just update your information. We'll see you at www.TennesseeAnytime.org/hlrs/

MAKING THE RENEWAL PROCESS WORK Common Pitfalls to Avoid

If you choose not to renew online, you can ensure that the renewal process will work...and work the first time, every time for you. There are common pitfalls that are shared by persons in each profession. Recognizing these common errors may assist you in avoiding them and ensure trouble-free renewals. Here's how:

Sign your renewal - All applications must bear the licensee's signature.

Return the renewal form intact - Don't separate the one-page renewal form. While it looks like you could, and perhaps should, separate your renewal application, return the original form in ONE PIECE.

Keep your address current – Mail (including your renewal form) is generated using a computer program, which downloads the address the Committee's Office has on file for you. If the Committee's Office has an incorrect address, the incorrect address will be used for your renewal.

File your PPQ (or update) – By statute, we cannot renew your license UNLESS you have a Practitioner Profile Questionnaire on file. (If you need to update your PPQ, simply copy from the one on the internet, make changes in red, and send it to the Committee's Office.)

If answering "YES" to any one of the three questions on the back of your renewal, provide an explanation - The Committee's Office cannot process your renewal until we have written documentation [letter from your physician, court/disciplinary board order(s), etc.] and your written explanation of the events which made you answer "Yes" on your renewal.

Mail the appropriate fee with your renewal application – Some renewals are received without the fees, or fees are sent separately from renewals, or fees are sent in the wrong amounts.

If any of these errors are made, the renewal application will not be smoothly processed, if at all. Remember, failure to renew by the end of the month following your renewal month will subject the license/registration to administrative revocation for which reinstatement will be required.

PROPOSED BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS RULE CHANGES

Treatment of Chlamydia Trachomatis

The Board of Medical Examiners has adopted a rule amending Rule 0880-2-.14 **Specifically Regulated Areas and Aspects of Medical Practice.** When the rule is signed by the Attorney General and becomes effective, physicians and **those over whom they exercise responsibility and control**, will be able to treat partners of patients infected with Chlamydia Trachomatis ("CT").

Under the amended rule, a physician must first have a fully documented medical record for a patient before he/she may provide partner treatment. Full documentation includes:

1. A laboratory-confirmed Ct infection without evidence of co-infection with gonorrhea or other complications suggestive of a relationship to Ct infection; and
2. Provision of treatment of the patient for Ct; and
3. An attempt to persuade the infected patient to have all partners evaluated and treated and the patient indicated that partners would not comply; and
4. Provision of a copy of reproducible, department-provided Ct educational fact sheet or substantially similar Ct-related literature available from other professional sources to the patient with copies for all partners; and
5. Counseling the patient on sexual abstinence until seven days after treatment and until seven days after partners have been treated; and

Thereafter, physicians or **those who provide medical services under their responsibility and control** may either:

1. Provide to the treated patient non-named signed prescriptions for, or dispense to the patient, the appropriate quantity and strength of azithromycin sufficient to provide curative treatment for the total number of unnamed "partners" as defined in subparagraph (b) and indicated by the patient.
2. Provide to the treated patient signed, name-specific prescriptions for, or dispense to the patient, the appropriate quantity and strength of azithromycin sufficient to provide curative treatment for the total number of known partners as defined in subparagraph (b) and named by the patient.

NOTE: This rule has not yet taken effect. The rule will become effective 75 days after the Attorney General signs it.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Must be reported (in writing or by web) to the Committee's Office within 30 days!

- Your name and license number;
- Your profession;
- Your old address and phone number;
- Your new address and phone number, e-mail address, and/or your fax number; and
- Your SIGNATURE!

Committee's Fax Number: 615-253-4484 or on the Committee's Website at www.tennesseeanytime.org.

ADDRESS CHANGES RESPONSIBILITY OF LICENSEE

The Committee's administrative office mails renewal forms to licensees at the last known address of the licensee. The last known address is the address on the most recent renewal application a licensee submits to the Committee's administrative office (or the address on the licensee's initial application if the licensee has practiced less than two years).

It is the responsibility of the practitioner to notify the Committee's administrative office if he/she has changed addresses. TCA §63-1-108(c) provides that "if any registrant changes addresses during the year for which any certificate of registration has been issued by the division, such registrant, within thirty (30) days thereafter, shall notify the division of such change . . ." The practitioners' cooperation will assure that renewal forms reach the appropriate destination in a timely manner.

PEER ASSISTANCE SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR ALL LICENSEES AND APPLICANTS

The Board of Medical Examiners' Committee on Physician Assistants has contracted with the Professional Assistance Program to assist in safeguarding health care consumers in Tennessee by providing a consultation, referral, and monitoring program for physician assistant practitioners whose practice is impaired or potentially could be impaired due to the use of alcohol or drugs, or a psychological or physiological condition.

Licensed Physician Assistants and licensure applicants as referred by the Committee on Physician Assistants are eligible.

To Make a Referral

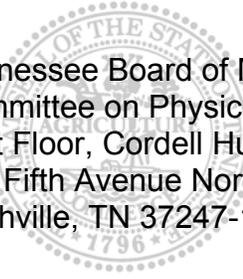
- CALL 615-726-4001
- A referral to the Professional Assistance Program can be made confidentially by an employer, employee assistance program professional, a co-worker, practice partner, family member, friend, or the practitioner him/herself.
- It is helpful (but not required) if the person making the referral has a list of objective information including times, dates, and incidents that support the allegation of impairment.
- If the practitioner is willing to undergo a thorough evaluation to determine the extent of the problem and any treatment needed, in most cases all information can be kept confidential from the *Tennessee Committee on Physician Assistants*.

Contact the Tennessee Professional Assistance Program to:

- Obtain more information about the program
- Ask general questions about impaired health care professionals
- Consult with program staff about a specific professional with a suspected problem
- Report a health care professional with a suspected or identified problem
- Schedule an educational presentation about health care professionals and chemical dependency

Tennessee Professional Assistance Program
545 Mainstream Drive
Suite 414
Nashville, Tennessee 37228-1201
Phone 615-726-4001 or 1-888-776-0786
Fax 615-726-4003
E-mail www.tnpap.com

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