



**Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners  
Development Committee  
Monday March 15, 2021**

**MINUTES**

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The Development Committee meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners was called to order at 4:20 p.m. in the Poplar Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Dr. Stephen Loyd, Committee Chair.

Committee members present     Stephen Loyd, MD, Committee Chair  
  Melanie Blake, MD  
  W. Reeves Johnson, MD  
  Neal Beckford, MD  
  Deborah Christiansen, MD  
  Mr. Robert Ellis, Consumer Member

Staff present:   Rene Saunders, MD, Medical Consultant, BME  
  Angela Lawrence, BME Executive Director  
  Francine Baca-Chavez, Deputy General Counsel

Ms. Lawrence made opening remarks to the Committee and provided an overview of the requirements for a meeting by teleconference. All the requirements were satisfied. The electronic meeting was scheduled for the purpose of considering time sensitive matters considering the covid-19 pandemic in which the Center for Disease Control recommends limiting the number of attendees at meetings for the next eight weeks. The Committee motioned and voted on approval to conduct the meeting for this purpose. The teleconference was then turned over to the Chair, Dr. Stephen Lloyd.

The first agenda item was to discuss and act regarding FAQ's for CME's. Ms. Baca-Chavez presented a draft of suggested changes from Dr. Johnson. The FAQ will be updated with proposed revision language concerning the controlled substance prescribing CME and removing the question and answer of accepting satisfactory participating in a Maintenance of Certification (MOC) for CME credit. The reason for this change is due to some ABMS specialties only require CME every 10 years, and this does not meet the intent of the rule requirement. The Board will take licensees on a case by case bases for those that still submit MOC when audited. Dr. Beckford made a motion to accept the draft as presented. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote and will be presented to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Beckford also asked if an email blast could be sent out notifying licensees of this change. The Committee agreed and administrative staff will arrange for the email blast to go out to licensees.

The second agenda item was to discuss and act regarding the rule of telemedicine practice. The Committee reviewed an email received by Dr. Rene Saunders as well as two previous Advisory Opinion request as reference concerning the rule of telemedicine practice. The point of discussion was concerning the requirement of the 30-day site visit by the supervising physician in the age of telehealth and are there any exceptions? Dr. Blake opened the discussion suggesting the rules have been well known for a number of years and trying to coordinate the pace of technology and the way to conduct patient care would take a great deal of time to establish a method to fit all collaborating professions. The process of an Advisory Opinion may be the best course of action in her opinion. Dr. Johnson asked about the possibility of a policy change. Ms. Baca-Chavez reminded Dr. Johnson and the Committee of the statutory change requiring new policies having to go before Government Operations for consideration and they would consider if the policy should be a rule. Ms. Baca-Chaves advise against the creation of a new policy and agreed with Dr. Blakes opinion concerning this issue. After a lengthy discussion the Committee decided to make no change at this time to the current rule and to consider the development of a taskforce to see what this issue really looks like. Dr. Loyd asked Dr. Christiansen to head the taskforce based on her experience. Dr. Blake suggested the development of the taskforce be tabled until the next meeting to allow the current legislative session to end which would allow for a better idea of what current bills passed. The Committee agreed that tabling would allow time for research on what other states are currently doing with telemedicine. As well as considering what does a site visit mean? Reimagine what supervision look like? A suggestion was made to invite the payors or insurance representative to participate in the discussion to get their perspective. Mr. Ellis made a motion to table the issue until the next meeting allowing for an information gathering process to disseminate to the full Board, leading to further action depending upon legislation or other information concerning telemedicine as the pandemic winddowns. Dr. Beckford seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.

There was no public comment and the meeting adjourned at 5:24 pm.