Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners
Office-Based Surgery Committee

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

MINUTES

The Office Base Surgery Committee meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners was called to order at 7:30 am in the Poplar Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243.

Committee members present:	Todd Tillmanns, MD Keith Anderson, MD John Hale, MD Otis Rickman, DO Penny Judd Michael Bernui, DO
Staff present:	Stacy Tarr, Executive Director Brandi Allocco, Administrative Director Kavita Vankineni, MD Medical Board Consultant Francine Baca-Chavez, Deputy General Counsel

The Committee started the meeting by approving the board meeting minutes from March 6, 2024.

The Committee began discussing the revision of the office-based surgery rules and regulations. At that time, Ms. Francine Baca-Chavez provided an overview of other states' rules and regulations for office-based surgery for the members to review and compare to the state's current rules. An update was provided regarding the site surveys of office-based surgical suites. It was shared with the Committee that Office of Investigations and Healthcare Facilities Commission staff will be meeting on November 22, 2025, to discuss the possibility of training so that investigators with the Office of Investigations can begin conducting the surveys. The Committee then discussed adopting the ambulatory surgical treatment center's ("ASTC") rules for building standards. After much discussion and review by the Committee, Dr. John Hale motioned to request that a formal notice be sent to the staff of any changes and the reason for the changes to the ASTC's rules. Dr. Otis Rickman then seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Committee then reviewed a draft of amended rules from 2022 regarding office-based surgical suites. At that time, representatives from Health Facilities Commission came forward to discuss differences in office-based surgery suites and ASTC. Mr. Craig Parisher, the Facilities Construction Director, Healthcare Facilities Commission, introduced himself to the committee. Mr. Parisher also introduced Mr. Daniel Pace, Plans Review Manager, Mr. Colby Henson, Fire Safety Manager, and Mr. Donald Milam, Supervisor for Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Centers. Mr. Parisher explained to the committee the application and site survey process for ASTCs. He discussed the mechanical and engineering differences between an ASTC and an Office-Based Surgical Suite. Mr. Milam was asked about the difference between ASTC and Office-Based Surgical Suites when it comes to patient care. A lengthy discussion regarding building codes ensued. Dr. Keith Anderson then expressed the need to take action on the office-based surgery rule changes and made a motion to accept the rule amendments as presented. Dr. Todd Tillmanns seconded. The motion passed. Ms. Baca-Chavez then pointed the committee to a section of the rules that no longer seemed relevant, as they were provisions to transition surgical suites that were operating prior to the office-based rules becoming effective. Dr. Anderson made a motion to remove section 4 – Transition Provisions with all its subsets from the rules. Dr. Tillmanns seconded. The motion passed. Dr. Rickman expressed concerns regarding patient safety and the lack of expertise for the surveying of Office-Based Surgical Suites now that Healthcare Facilities is no longer with Health-Related Boards. At that time, Ms. Caroline Tippens, Director of Healthcare Facilities Commission, provided the history on how the Health Facilities Commission came to be and is now no longer with Health-Related Boards. Ms. Tippens stated they are willing to help with plan reviews and are also willing to train investigators to complete the surveys.

Agenda items for the next meeting to include:

- Review amended rules
- Discussion on Level II unanticipated events

The next meeting will be held at 7:30 a.m. on March 26, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.