



## TENNESSEE BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

January 31, 2025

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### MINUTES

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A meeting of the Tennessee Board of Physician Assistants (“the Board”) “PC1042 Taskforce” (“the taskforce”) was held in the Iris Conference Room at 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee on January 31, 2025, at 12:00 pm (Central).

**Members Present:** Greg Cain, PA-C  
Marie Patterson, PA-C, Chairman  
Seth Weathersby, PA-C  
Christopher Frazier, DPM  
Todd Tillman, MD

**Staff Present:** Kavita Vankini, MD, Medical Consultant  
Stacy Tarr, Executive Director  
Dexter Hawkins, PA Board Administrator  
Brandi Allocco, Administrative Director  
Tracy Alcock – Advisory Attorney  
Ashley Fine - Advisory Attorney  
Fran Baca-Chavez – Advisory Attorney  
Michael Varnell - Advisory Attorney

**Agenda:**

1. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting held on December 13, 2024.
2. Review and discussion of the proposed uniform rules governing collaboration between physician assistants and physicians.
3. Address public comments and feedback regarding the proposed rules.
4. Next steps and timeline for implementation of the rules.

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**Meeting Proceedings:**

**1. Opening Remarks:**

- The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Marie Patterson at 12:05 PM. She welcomed all attendees and noted that several members were running late. Mrs. Patterson mentioned that Dr. Tillman had joined the meeting virtually and would participate in discussions despite not being physically present.

## 2. Establishment of Quorum:

- Mrs. Patterson confirmed that a quorum was achieved with four members present in person and one attending virtually. This allowed the meeting to proceed without any delays.

## 3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Mrs. Patterson introduced the minutes from the last meeting held on December 13, 2024, highlighting key actions taken during that session.
- **Motion to Approve:** Mrs. Marie Patterson moved to accept the minutes as presented.
- **Seconded By:** Mr. Seth Weathersby.
- A roll call vote was conducted:
  - Dr. Frazier: Yes
  - Mr. Cain: Yes
  - Mrs. Patterson: Yes
  - Mr. Weathersby: Yes
  - Dr. Tillmans (virtual): Yes
- **Outcome:** The motion carried unanimously. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved without amendments.

## 4. Review of Proposed Rules:

- The discussion transitioned to the proposed uniform rules governing the collaboration of physician assistants (PAs) with physicians. Mrs. Patterson introduced the topic, emphasizing the necessity for clear guidelines to ensure effective collaboration and patient care.

### Key Topics Discussed:

- **Collaborative Agreements:**
  - The task force members examined the requirements for collaborative agreements, which would outline the responsibilities of both PAs and physicians. There was a consensus on the need for these agreements to be clearly defined to avoid any ambiguities in responsibilities.
- **Patient Chart Review Process:**
  - The group discussed the proposal that all patient charts reviewed by the collaborating physician must be documented within a 30-day period, especially when prescriptions for controlled substances are issued. This timeline is intended to ensure timely oversight and maintain a high standard of care.
  - Members raised questions regarding how this timeline would be enforced and whether there would be flexibility in certain circumstances. The idea of documenting exceptions to standard timelines was proposed.
- **Standard of Care:**
  - A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to discussing the standard of care that both PAs and collaborating physicians must uphold. It was highlighted that both parties share responsibility in ensuring that patient care meets established medical standards.
  - Concerns were expressed regarding the potential liabilities involved if either party failed to meet these standards. The members agreed that clear documentation of care and

communication between PAs and collaborating physicians is critical to mitigating risks.

- **Communication Methods:**

- Methods for effective communication between PAs and collaborating physicians were also discussed. Members suggested that the collaborative agreement should specify preferred methods of communication, including both written and verbal forms, to facilitate better coordination and timely decision-making regarding patient care.

- **Motion to Approve:** Mr. Cain moved to accept the minutes as presented.

- **Seconded By:** Mr. Seth Weathersby.

- A roll call vote was conducted:

- Dr. Frazier: Yes
- Mrs. Patterson: Yes
- Mr. Weathersby: Yes
- Dr. Tillmans (virtual): Yes
- Mr. Cain: Yes

## 5. **Public Comments:**

- The floor was opened for public comments, allowing stakeholders and interested parties to share their thoughts on the proposed rules.
- Attendees expressed the importance of maintaining flexibility in collaborative agreements to accommodate various practice settings. Suggestions included the option for PAs to consult with specialists as needed, emphasizing that collaboration should be a dynamic process tailored to individual patient needs.
- It was noted that ensuring public safety and quality of care should remain the top priority as the task force finalizes the rules.

## 6. **Next Steps:**

- Following the discussions and feedback, Ms. Alcock outlined the next steps in the process. The finalized rules are to be submitted for review by the Secretary of State and other relevant authorities in accordance with state regulations.
- A timeline for the implementation of the rules was proposed, indicating that the task force would aim to complete the final review and submit the rules within the next few months.

## 7. **Closing Remarks and Adjournment:**

- Ms. Alcock thanked all participants for their valuable contributions to the discussions. She reiterated the importance of collaboration and effective communication in the healthcare environment and expressed confidence that the finalized rules would enhance the collaboration between PAs and physicians.
- **Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Weathersby moved to adjourn the meeting.
- **Seconded By:** Mr. Cain.

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.
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**Action Items:**

- Finalize and submit the proposed uniform rules for review.
  - Schedule the next meeting to discuss feedback from the Secretary of State and other authorities.
  - Prepare for a rulemaking hearing to discuss the implications of the proposed rules with the public.
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