

January 28, 2010

Ms. Diane Atkinson  
Georgia Composite Medical Board  
2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 36<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3465

**RE: ASM Comments to the Georgia Medical Board on  
Polysomnographic Technologists**

Dear Ms. Atkinson,

As President of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), a national organization with over 9,000 sleep professionals and more than 1,900 accredited sleep facilities, I would like to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed regulations for polysomnographic technologists. The AASM supports the proposed regulations (*Rule 360-3-.OS Medical Assistants, Polysomnography Technologists, and Radiology Technologists*) which will protect the scope of practice for polysomnographic (sleep) technologists while continuing to allow physicians to delegate duties such as performing diagnostic sleep testing procedures or other tasks such as treating, managing, or educating patient with sleep or wake disorders to the sleep technologist.

The proposal will allow the sleep technologist to continue to work as part of a team under the supervision of a licensed physician. The sleep technologist is directly involved in providing complex health care services. He or she must be able to identify significant sleep apnea and oxygen loss when it occurs and to then start positive airway pressure (continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) or Bi-level positive airway pressure) therapy on an expeditious basis pursuant to the physician established protocols. The technologist recognizes serious heart rhythm abnormalities and seizures as they occur and must be able to initiate emergency protocols.

Again, thank you for allowing the AASM to provide comments on this important proposal. If you have any additional questions or would like to discuss these issues further, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Clete A. Kushida, MD, PhD, RPSGT  
President  
American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM)