



Georgia Association of Sleep Professionals

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

RE: Comments to the Georgia Medical Board on Polysomnographic Technologists

Dear Ms. Atkinson,

As President of the Georgia Association of Sleep Professionals (GASP), the primary representative body for all sleep professionals and accredited sleep medicine facilities in the state, I would like to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed regulations for polysomnographic technologists. GASP supports the proposed regulations (Rule 360-3-.05 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 proposed amendment to the Composite Board's regulations acknowledges the unique and essential functions that sleep technologists provide for patients with sleep and wake disorders. By allowing sleep technologists to continue their work as part of a team under the supervision of a licensed physician, the Board has effectively maintained diagnostic and treatment options for tens-of-thousands of Georgians. Since sleep technologists are involved in providing complex health care services they must be able to identify significant sleep apnea and oxygen loss when it occurs and provide positive airway pressure (continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP), Bi-level positive airway pressure or Adaptive Servo-Ventilation) therapy on an expeditious basis pursuant to the physician established protocols. Technologists must recognize serious heart rhythm abnormalities and seizures as they occur and be able to initiate emergency protocols, as well as be able to differentiate these events from other routine sleep-related activity such as movement disorders and parasomnias.

Again, thank you for allowing GASP to provide comments on this important proposal. As the statewide professional organization for Sleep Medicine, we welcome any additional questions or discussion on these issues. Please feel free to contact me or any member of the GASP Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Durmer, MD, PhD, F.ABSM, D.ABP&N
President
Georgia Association of Sleep Professionals (GASP)