



**Georgia Association of Sleep Professionals**

**6134 Poplar Bluff Circle, Suite 101, Norcross, Georgia 30092  
tel 770-613-0932, fax 305-422-3327, www.gasleep.org**

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Composite State Board of Medical Examiners  
c/o Diane Atkinson  
2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 36th Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3465  
Tel (404) 656-3913  
Fax (404) 656-9723

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for allowing the Georgia Association of Sleep Professionals (GASP) the opportunity to address the Board regarding the proposed adoption of amendments to Rule 360-3-.05 Medical Assistants, Polysomnography Technologists and Radiology Technologists. In terms of the proposed rule changes to the Polysomnography (PSG) Technologist section, GASP feels that the adoption of exemption status for PSG Technologists rather than the establishment of a license will result in no specification of training or practice standards for this acknowledged and unique health care profession. The current unregulated state of affairs regarding PSG Technologists encourages minimal training, no continuing education standards or common practice standards in the state. The result is the delivery of dramatically variable sleep diagnostic and treatment services across the state, and the reduction of reliable quality health care to Georgians.

Currently, PSG Technologists are acknowledged as a specific health care profession in the proposed Rules of the GA Composite Medical Board and in the 2009 revision of the GA Healthcare Practice Act. GASP requests that the Composite Medical Board not only support the protection of PSG technology through licensure exemption, but also aid in the establishment of standards for this practice in the state. The GASP Board of Directors urges the GA Composite Medical Board to convene a committee of collaborating sleep medicine and technical specialists charged with the task of suggesting training and practice standards for Polysomnographic Technologists in the state. The development of such recommendations and/or guidelines may serve as a framework for potential licensure and at a minimum will enhance the level of health care for the people of Georgia.

As the state organization backed by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, the American Association of Sleep Technologists and the Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine, GASP has developed a strong presence on the local and national stage as an advocate for excellence in the field of Sleep Medicine. GASP represents hundreds of technologists, physicians, as well as other medical, dental, research and technical specialists engaged in Sleep Medicine. Since its inception in 2008, GASP has hosted continuing education meetings and conferences for technologists and medical practitioners in and around our state. As part of our mission to advocate for sleep medicine excellence, GASP favors the adoption of national standards for training, certification and the practice of sleep medicine. Just as physicians, nurses, respiratory technologists and physician assistants are required to maintain a valid state license to practice we feel that PSG Technologists should also undergo a licensing process to promote excellence in the field.

Once again, GASP applauds the GA Composite Medical Board for its acknowledgment of Polysomnographic Technologists with the proposed amendments to Rule 360-3-.05. We appreciate the effect that licensure exemption will have on maintaining our current ability to deliver sleep medicine care in GA. In addition, we hope that the Board appreciates our pursuit of licensure for Polysomnographic Technologists in order to ensure the highest possible standards for this very specialized technical field.

Respectfully yours,

Jeffrey S. Durmer, MD, PhD  
President, Georgia Association of Sleep Professionals

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D.ABSM**

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**Maryann McGrail  
mbmcgrail@gasleep.org  
404-310-5866**