

**Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners  
Physician Assistant's Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Minutes**

**April 25, 2023**

**I. Call to Order**

Dr. Gregory Ayers called to order the regular meeting of the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee at 4:01 p.m. on April 25, 2023.

**II. Roll Call**

The following committee members were present: Paul Harrelson, P.A., Bradley Cantley, P.A., Amelia Davis, P.A., Heather Neighbors, P.A., Gregory Ayers, M.D., and Ronald Roan, M.D., and William Jay Suggs, M.D.

The following staff members were present: Kimie Buley, Suzanne Powell, Winston Jordan, Sandi Kirkland, Tonya Vice, and Karen Silas

The following staff members were present electronically: Carla Kruger, Wilson Hunter

Others present: Katherine Hunt, M.D. (ADS)

**III. Committee Minutes**

The committee approved the minutes from the Tuesday, January 17, 2023, meeting without objection.

**IV. Old Business**

**a. Carpal Tunnel Injections**

At its January meeting, the committee discussed, at the request of a member of the committee, the additional skill, carpal tunnel injections and the current orthopedic specialty protocol which excludes the performance of wrist or hand injections by physician assistants. The committee, at its January meeting, recommended no action be taken; however, staff of the BME should monitor any future requests for this skill.

**b. PA Licensure Compact**

At its January meeting, the committee discussed the American Academy of Physician Assistants' release of the PA Licensure Compact model legislation. The committee recommended staff of the Board of Medical Examiners provide feedback to a representative of AAPA regarding any concerns with the currently proposed model of the PA licensure compact.

Staff of the Board notified the committee that a letter was sent to Stephanie Radix, JD, Senior Director/ State Advocacy & Outreach of AAPA.

c. **540-X-12 Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Registration Certificate (QACSC)**

At its January meeting, the committee discussed, at the request of a member of the committee, Administrative Rule, 540-X-12-.03, regarding the qualifications for obtaining a QACSC. The committee recommended creating a work group within the PA Advisory Committee tasked with proposing requirements for requesting an exemption of the requirement of 12 months of clinical practice in Alabama before obtaining a QACSC. Therefore, the item was deferred by the committee until its April meeting.

Proposed requirements for requesting an exemption of the requirement of 12 months of clinical practice were reviewed by the committee.

The committee recommended the proposed requirements be prepared by Board staff and presented to the Board for consideration at a later date.

d. **2024 CME Requirements**

At its January meeting, the committee discussed and recommended approval of the modifications to the rules regarding the newly effective continuing medical education requirement for physician assistants and supervising physicians.

**The committee further discussed the 2024 CME requirements and recommended the Board extend the effective date to January 1, 2025, instead of January 1, 2024.**

e. **Central Venous Line Removal**

At its January meeting, the committee discussed, at the request of a member of the committee, central venous line removal which is currently listed as an additional skill within the critical care specialty protocol. The committee recommended the skill, removal of percutaneous central venous line, be added to the physician assistant core duties and scope of practice and therefore remove this skill from the critical care specialty protocol for physician assistants.

The Board, at its January 2023 meeting, approved the committee's recommendation.

V. **New Business**

a. CME Requirements for PA Licensure

At its August 16, 2022, meeting, the Board approved the recommendation of the committee to amend rules regarding physician assistant continuing medical education to allow physician assistants to complete 50 hours of AMA Category 1 CME every two years rather than requiring 25 hours annually.

The amended rules were provided to the committee for review.

The committee discussed, at length, the procedure to obtain 50 hours of continuing medical education and how that would affect the process of annual audits conducted by the Board.

The committee recommended the item be deferred and modifications be made to 540-X-7, Appendix E, to include whether the physician assistant is currently certified by NCCPA.

b. DEA one-time, eight-hour training requirement for all DEA registered practitioners on the treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders.

The committee discussed, at the request of a member of the committee, the new one-time, eight-hour training requirement for all DEA registered practitioners on the treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders.

Adjournment

Dr. Gregory Ayers adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Kimie Buley, Assistant Director of Advanced Practice Providers

Minutes approved by: Dr. Gregory Ayers

  
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Gregory Ayers, M.D.