

Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners

Physician Assistant's Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

August 18, 2026

I. Call to Order

Dr. Gregory Ayers called to order the regular meeting of the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee at 4:04 p.m. on August 18, 2026, at the office of the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners in Birmingham, Alabama.

II. Roll Call

The following Advisory Committee members were present: Gregory Ayers, MD, Lora-Emily Banks, PA, Tonya Bradley, MD (Virtual), Sharon Pelekanos, PA, Ronald Roan, MD (Virtual), Joshua Smith, MD, and Lauren Worley, PA.

The following staff members were present: Suzanne Powell, Jaime Friday, Sandi Kirkland, Tonya Vice, Leslie Roberts, Alicia Harrison, Wilson Hunter, Winston Jordan, Matt Hart, and Hannah Paulk (Virtual).

The following public guests were present: Eileen Meyer, NP, Heather Neighbors, PA, Bellamy Davis, PA, Vincent Bivins, MD, Thomas Chi, MD, Kelly Parker, Stephanie Ives, MD, Lauren Hughey, Charles Rogers, MD (Virtual), Krystle Phillips, PA (Virtual), Stacie Bullock, NP (Virtual), Amy Schalk, PA (Virtual), Brian Wade, MD (Virtual), Meredith Sharpton, PA (Virtual), Travis Blackburn, PA (Virtual), Bryant Poole, MD (Virtual), Jacob Langston, MD (Virtual), and 3 Unknown Guests (Virtual).

III. Committee Minutes

Dr. Smith motioned to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, April 7, 2026, meeting. Sharon Pelekanos, PA seconded the motion. Gregory Ayers, MD, Lora-Emily Banks, PA, Tonya Bradley, MD (Virtual), Sharon Pelekanos, PA, Ronald Roan, MD (Virtual), Joshua Smith, MD, and Lauren Worley, PA voted in favor of the motion.

IV. Old Business

a. Ratification Process-

At its May 2026 meeting, the Board approved amending Rule 540-X-1-.04 which sets forth the powers and duties of the Board's executive director, to include the authority to approve in-protocol PA and AA registrations, requests to train, skill requests, and QACSC/LPSP

issuance. The Board also resolved to ratify staff approvals to maintain oversight. PA licenses are not included for staff approval and ratification.

This rule change removes the delay between the licensee's timely submission of the requisite documents and his/her ability to practice when the applicant has satisfied all requirements for a "within protocol" request. Outside protocol requests will need to be individually reviewed by the Board.

Beginning in July 2026, staff began administratively approving applications, with all approvals subsequently presented to the Board for ratification.

The Committee recommended the protocol be Received as Information.

V. New Business

a. Orthopedic Specialty Protocol-

The proposed Orthopedic Specialty Protocol revisions added ultrasound-guided glenohumeral joint and intra-articular hip injections when an on-site physician is present and placed ischiofemoral bursa injections in the limitations section due to increased risk. Sacroiliac joint procedures were removed from the protocol but may be requested through the Out-of-Protocol application process. Physicians and APPs are required to maintain continuing education and training in musculoskeletal aspiration and injection procedures. Platelet-rich plasma procedures were permitted at approved joint sites following supervised practice and Board approval, with 10 initial cases and 5 annual maintenance cases required. Lumbar trigger point injections below T12 were also added, with 10 initial cases and 5 annual maintenance cases requirements, while thoracic and cervical injections remain excluded.

The Committee recommended the protocol be Received as Information.

b. Urology Protocol-

Alabama Urology Network (AUN) is requesting Board approval of a statewide Urology Protocol developed by Alabama urologists and physician assistants. The protocol would establish standardized training, supervision, and competency requirements for physician assistants performing selected urologic procedures under physician supervision.

AUN states that increasing demand for urologic care, combined with a shortage of urologists in some areas of the state, has created access challenges for patients. The proposed protocol would allow trained PAs to perform certain office-based urologic procedures while maintaining physician responsibility for patient care and clinical outcomes.

According to AUN, the protocol would improve patient access, reduce wait times, increase practice efficiency, and establish consistent statewide standards for training, supervision, and quality assurance.

The proposed Urology Protocol would authorize appropriately trained PAs to perform approved office-based procedures, including ureteral stent removal, difficult Foley catheter placement, diagnostic cystoscopy, priapism reversal, Xiaflex injections, testosterone pellet insertion, and transrectal ultrasound with or without biopsy.

Vincent Bivins, MD, presented the proposed Urology Protocol. The Committee discussed how the protocol would enable appropriately trained PAs practicing in urology to safely perform authorized procedures in rural clinic settings. Dr. Bivins noted that training typically requires six months to one year, depending on the PA's prior experience.

Lauren Worley, PA motioned to approve and Joshua Smith, MD, seconded the motion. Gregory Ayers, MD, Lora-Emily Banks, PA, Tonya Bradley, MD (Virtual), Sharon Pelekanos, PA, Ronald Roan, MD (Virtual), Joshua Smith, MD, and Lauren Worley, PA voted in favor of the motion

c. Excision of Malignant Neoplasms -

Sharon Pelekanos requested consideration of revising the Dermatology Specialty Protocol to allow PAs to perform deeper lesion excisions, including certain malignant neoplasms, while continuing to exclude malignant melanoma. Current rules prohibit the excision of all lesions.

Currently, both the Core Duties Form and the Dermatology Specialty Protocol prohibit the excision of lesions, whether malignant or non-malignant. The request seeks consideration of revisions that would allow PAs to perform deeper lesion excisions, including the excision of certain malignant neoplasms, while continuing to exclude malignant melanoma.

According to Ms. Pelekanos, physician assistants in several surrounding states, including Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, and West Virginia, are permitted to perform these procedures within their scope of practice.

The Committee recommended the Excision of Malignancy Neoplasms be Deferred for additional information.

d. Surgical First Assist Clarification-

The Committee considered a request from Sharon Pelekanos, PA, Advisory Committee member and Director of Advanced Practice Providers at USA Health, for clarification of Rule 540-X-7-.26 regarding physician supervision of PAs performing or assisting with invasive procedures in the operating room.

Rule 540-X-7-.26 requires a supervising physician to be present in, or immediately available to, the operating room when a PA participates in patient care and generally requires the physician's presence when a PA performs or assists with an invasive procedure extending deeper than the dermis, unless otherwise approved by the Board.

The Committee discussed whether this language is consistent with the PA scope of practice, which permits certain procedures involving tissue deeper than the dermis, including surgical wound closure subject to applicable depth limitations.

The Committee further considered whether the rule should clarify that the supervising physician must remain immediately available within the operating room suite or surgical area, rather than continuously present in the operating room while the PA performs activities such as wound closure.

The Committee recommended deferring consideration of the Surgical First Assist Clarification pending receipt of additional information and relevant examples.

- e. Request from BMSA: Applicant for Alabama Physician Assistant Service Program Loan-

The Executive Director, Kelly Parker, presented the Board of Medical Scholarship Awards' request for the Advisory Committee's recommendation regarding the award of an Alabama Physician Assistant Service Program Loan to Lena Suzanne Spears, PA. Ms. Spears is a first year student at Faulkner University in Montgomery and has committed to practicing in a rural area.

Lauren Worley, PA motioned to approve and Sharon Pelekanos, PA, seconded the motion. Gregory Ayers, MD, Lora-Emily Banks, PA, Tonya Bradley, MD (Virtual), Sharon Pelekanos, PA, Ronald Roan, MD (Virtual), Joshua Smith, MD, and Lauren Worley, PA voted in favor of the motion

Adjournment

Dr. Gregory Ayers adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Jaime Friday

Minutes submitted by: Suzanne Powell

Minutes approved by:

Dr. Gregory Ayers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Ayers', written over a horizontal line.

-Gregory Ayers, MD