

**MINUTES**

**TENNESSEE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

**Office Based Surgery Committee**

**September 14, 2010**

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The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Health Related Boards' Iris Room, 227 French Landing, Ground Floor, Heritage Place Metro Center, Nashville, Tennessee 37243. Committee members present were Drs. Michael Zanolli, Subhi Ali and Neal Beckford. Dennis Higdon, MD was present to assist the Committee. The Committee met to consider the questions raised by Drs. Michael Goodman and Matthew Bagamery.

Drs. Goodman and Bagamery have an office based surgical center approved by the state. They ask the following questions:

Question Number 1: Does the fact that we only do colonoscopies and EDGs put us in level 2 or 2A?

Question Number 2: As far as your standards for staff in the room: We have an anesthesiologist or certified nurse anesthetist giving propofol. Exactly how many assistants do we need in the room in addition to them? Specifically, do we need a licensed provider such as an RN or LPN I the room in addition to the nurse anesthetist or can surgical techs who have graduated from an approved program or certified medical assistants suffice (in addition to the CNRA)? We always have 3 staff in the room at all time during the procedures. Out CMAs and surgical techs are training in GI procedures and are experienced.

Question Number 3: Since we are not sterile procedure, and therefore we do not perform true surgery, do our surgical techs have to be certified by national examination (as you stated under 2A of your guidelines) or is it sufficient for them t have finished an approved program?

Question Number 4: Are medical assistants allowed to assist with procedures if we have the other necessary providers in the room such as an anesthesiologist/CNRA and an RN or LPN?"

After discussion, the Committee authorized the following response:

Response to Question Number 1: These procedures are level 2 office based surgical procedures.

Response to Question Number 2: By ensuring that the physician performing the procedure is assisted by a licensed anesthesia provider as well as another assistant (including a licensed nurse, medical assistant, or surgical technician) you comply with the requirements of the rules regarding office based surgery.

Response to Question Number 3: Since the procedures are level 2 office based surgical procedures there is no requirement in the rules that the surgical technician

have passed a national examination. However, in the board's opinion utilizing only certified surgical technicians is the best practice.

Response to Question Number 4: There is no prohibition against certified medical assistants from providing assistance with procedures so long as all other personnel are present.

These responses will be incorporated into a response after ratification by the full Board at its November 2010 meeting.

The Committee adjourned at 5:35 p.m.