

Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
Minute Entry Extracts
May 20, 2009

Board Opinion: Regarding the Physician's Duty to Obtain a History and Physical, Delegation of History and Physical to RN The Board adopted the opinion that a physician may delegate to an RN the duty of assisting with obtaining a patient's medical history and vital signs; however, the physician is responsible for reviewing and completing the history and physical examination as part of the physician's responsibility to perform, document and authenticate a complete history and physical examination on a patient. (amended June 24, 2009)

Board Opinion Re: Responsibility of Physician for History and Physical Dictation, Delegation of Dictation Duty to RN or CRRN After consideration of a request for an opinion from the Board, the Board adopted the opinion that a physician shall not delegate his/her duty of dictating a patient's history and physical to a Registered Nurse or a Certified Registered Rehabilitation Nurse.

Board Opinion Re: Responsibility of Physician for History and Physical Dictation, Delegation of Dictation of History and Physicals to RN The Board voted to notify Ms. Kaufman that it is the Board's adopted opinion that a physician shall not delegate his/her duty of dictating a patient's history and physical to an RN.

Board Opinion Re: Responsibility of Physician for Discharge Summary, Delegation of Dictation Duty to RN - The Board adopted the opinion that a physician may delegate to an RN the duty of dictating a discharge summary from information already documented in the record. The expectation of the Board is that the discharge summary will include all pertinent information which would be required by physicians providing subsequent care, including admitting diagnosis, discharge diagnosis, discharge medications, follow-up plans and an appropriately detailed narrative of the patient's hospital course. The dictated discharge summary shall be reviewed and signed by the physician who shall accept full responsibility for the summary.

Board Opinions Re: Responsibility of Physician for Discharge Summary, Delegation of Dictation Duty to LPN The Board adopted the opinion that a physician shall not delegate to an LPN the physician's duty of dictating discharge summaries.

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Minute Entry Extract
September 16, 2009

Board Opinion Re: Responsibility of Physician for Discharge Summary, Delegation of Dictation Duty to Registered Health Information Technician - The Credentials Committee recommended that the Board adopt the opinion that a physician may delegate to a Registered Health Information Technician the duty of dictating a discharge summary from information already documented in the record. The expectation of the Board is that the discharge summary will include all pertinent information which would be required by physicians providing subsequent care, including: admitting diagnosis, discharge diagnosis, discharge medications, follow-up plans and an appropriately detailed narrative of the patient's hospital course. The dictated discharge summary shall be reviewed and signed by the physician who shall accept full responsibility for the summary.