



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH Board of Physicians

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary

October 17, 2016

RE: Critical Information Regarding the Clinical Hours Requirement
for licensure in Maryland

Dear Sleep Center Directors:

It has come to the Board's attention that there may be some confusion regarding the clinical hours requirement for polysomnographic technologist licensure in Maryland. One of the pathways to licensure requires graduation from a polysomnographic/sleep technologist educational program that is accredited by either the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) or the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs (CAAHEP). **The information in this letter only pertains to individuals in Maryland seeking to obtain licensure after graduating from an AASM educational program.**

If an individual graduates from an educational program accredited by CAAHEP, no additional clinical hours are required. If an individual graduates from an educational program accredited by AASM, he or she is required to complete a clinical component, which includes obtaining a minimum of 546 clinical hours in the 3 years preceding licensure at a sleep laboratory accredited by AASM or the Joint Commission. If the 546 clinical hours are completed in Maryland, the hours may be completed only during the time when an individual is a student.

For purposes of the clinical hour requirement, an individual is a student when they are enrolled in an educational program accredited by AASM and performing polysomnography services within the accredited program under supervision and without pay. The AASM educational program includes the 80 hour introductory course and the 23 online modules. The 546 clinical hours required for Maryland licensure must be completed while the individual is enrolled in an AASM accredited educational program. Once an individual has completed the modules, he or she is no longer enrolled in the educational program, and thus, is no longer a student. Under Maryland law, an individual may practice polysomnography only if he or she is a student or is licensed to practice polysomnography by the Board. The unauthorized practice of polysomnography may be sanctioned by the Board.

Therefore, please advise licensure applicants: **DO NOT COMPLETE YOUR LAST MODULE** until you have completed your 546 clinical hours.

Disclaimer: this advice only pertains to the clinical hours required for one of the pathways to obtain Maryland licensure. Eligibility for other certifications may require additional hours and/or requirements.

Please feel free to share this correspondence with anyone who may be interested in obtaining licensure as a polysomnographic technologist in Maryland. If you have any questions about the clinical hours requirement or any of the other requirements for polysomnographic technologist licensure, please contact Felicia Wright, felicia.wright@maryland.gov, or Linda Monroe, linda.monroe@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Christine A. Farrelly
Executive Director

