



Practice Clarification

OREGON HEALTH LICENSING AGENCY

Polysomnography

September 9, 2013

On September 6, 2013, the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (agency) received the following question regarding licensed polysomnographic technologists from Denise LeLande. Based on previous legal advice and board approval received for similar questions, the agency responded to the inquiry prior to specific board approval.

Question:

Still confused after reading scope of practice for Polysomnographic Technicians. Following administration of a sleep study, can sleep techs DIAGNOSE sleep apnea, and ORDER equipment, without a physician seeing the study? Does that exceed scope of practice? We believe results of study should be sent to the physician, who diagnoses, and then orders the appropriate equipment.

Short Answer:

No. It is not within the scope of practice for a licensed polysomnographic technologist to diagnose sleep apnea or order equipment without a prescription or verbal order of a physician or physician assistant licensed under ORS chapter 677 or a nurse practitioner licensed under ORS 678.375 to 678.390 and under the direction of a qualified medical director for polysomnography.

Long Answer:

ORS 688.805(6)(b) states that *“the practice of polysomnography must be performed in accordance with the prescription or verbal order of a physician or physician assistant licensed under ORS chapter 677 or a nurse practitioner licensed under ORS 678.375 to 678.390 and under the direction of a qualified medical director for polysomnography.”*

Also ORS 688.800(2)(b) states ”“Polysomnography” means the treatment, management, diagnostic testing, education and care of patients with disorders related to sleep.

“Polysomnography” includes, but is not limited to analyzing data for the purpose of assisting a physician who diagnoses and treats disorders related to sleep;” Assisting the physician by analyzing data is not the same as diagnosing and treating disorders relating to sleep—that is for the qualified medical director for polysomnography to determine.

Important Note: The Agency does not provide personal legal advice to licensees or members of the public. The responses below are specific to only those questions asked. Even slight changes in the scope or content of the question may change the applicability of these responses in a different situation. Please consult your own attorney for legal advice regarding Oregon laws and administrative rules.