

**POSITION STATEMENT**  
**TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

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**POLICY: SUPERVISING PHYSICIANS**

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Supervision as applied to certified nurse practitioner/prescription writers and physician assistants is governed by Medical Board rules Chapter 0880-6 and 0880-2-.18 respectively. As to all other supervisees providing medical services, the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners interprets the provisions of T.C.A. § 63-6-204 (b) as requiring at a minimum, the following of a supervising physician:

1. The supervising physician must hold a Tennessee license to practice medicine.
2. The supervising physician's Tennessee license must not have an encumbrance or restriction imposed after the date of this policy.
3. The supervising physician must be "on-site" at least four (4) hours per week.
4. The supervising physician and supervisee must compile protocols to be used by the supervisee.
5. The supervising physician must update the protocols at least annually.
6. The supervising physician must have a copy of the protocols on-site and must be produced upon demand if requested by the appropriate authorities.
7. The supervising physician may supervise in his/her area of expertise only (i.e. specialty board certification).
8. The supervising physician must be available at all times (i.e. telephone, pager, etc.) for communication and consultation.
9. The supervising physician must sign all medical charts, after proper review, within seven (7) days.
10. The back-up supervising physician(s) must be identified in the protocols.

Violation of the Medical Practice Act that reflect on the supervising physician's competency and/or ability to provide adequate supervision to the supervisee shall be grounds for suspension or revocation of supervision privileges.

**Adopted as revised by the Board of Medical Examiners on this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2002.**

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**David L. Cunningham, M.D. President**  
**Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners**