

# Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board



# Newsletter

Summer 2012

A regulatory agency of the State of Tennessee

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Bureau of Health Licensure and Regulation • Health Related Boards • 227 French Landing, Suite 300, Heritage Place MetroCenter, Nashville, TN 37243  
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## BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2013

The 2013 Board Meetings will be held at 227 French Landing, Heritage Place, Metro Center, Nashville, TN, 37243, in the Iris Conference Room on the Ground Floor

### Personnel and Education Committee Meetings

Personnel and Education Committee meetings will convene at 1:00P.M. CST/CDT on the following dates in 2013:

January 23, 2013  
April 17, 2013  
July 17, 2013  
October 16, 2013

### Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board Meetings

Full Board meetings will convene at 9:00A.M. CST/CDT on the following dates in 2013:

January 24, 2013  
April 18, 2013  
July 18, 2013  
October 17, 2013



## BOARD MEMBER ACTIVITY

### A Farewell and Thanks to Former Board Members

Norman Crowe	Knoxville	Independent Lab
Dr. Trudy Papuchus	Mt. Juliet	Laboratory Administrator
Christopher Seay	Memphis	Laboratory Supervisor
Thomas F. O'Brien, MD	Memphis	Pathologist, Non-Educator

### Welcome These Board Appointees

Stephanie A. Dolsen	Knoxville	Laboratory Supervisor
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## ACCESSING THE BOARD'S WEB SITE

- Log on to <http://tn.gov/health>
- In the title bar: Click on For Health Care Professionals
- Under Health Related Boards: Click on Medical Laboratory

There are many resources on our web site including, but not limited to, the rules, statutes, applications, policy statements and a list of approved educational schools/programs and licensed facilities. License renewal and licensure verification may also be utilized on this web site. This is a valuable resource. Please use it. You will find it to be very friendly.



## IN MEMORIAM

Former Board Member and colleague, Dr. Pennell Painter, passed away Tuesday, July 6, 2011. Dr. Painter was a driving force for the Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board while serving as well as being the consummate professional. He brought forth many innovative ideas, made us think and, above all, raised us all up professionally. Dr. Painter will be sorely missed by all who were fortunate enough to be associated with him. His passing leaves a giant void that will be hard to fill.

# THE SUBMISSION OF POINT-OF-CARE EXEMPTION REQUESTS REGARDING RESPIRATORY THERAPY AND BLOOD GASSES

[http://health.state.tn.us/boards/MedLab/PDFs/MedLab\\_POCT\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://health.state.tn.us/boards/MedLab/PDFs/MedLab_POCT_Guidelines.pdf)

On a regular basis, the Administrative Office for the Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board receives exemption requests for point-of-care testing. There appears to be some confusion regarding what is and what is not point of care testing in regards to Respiratory Therapy and Blood Gasses.

If a Respiratory Therapist performs ABG's in their hospital department under license from the Respiratory Therapy Board or upon endorsement from the Medical Laboratory Board, this DOES NOT constitute point-of-care testing and there is no need for an exemption request.

If a Respiratory Therapist performs ABG at the bedside, then this is a laboratory test, performed by non-laboratory licensed personnel, outside the clinical laboratory and WOULD REQUIRE an exemption from the Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board.

If an exemption is required, the Board Presentation Packet must be composed using the following elements and in the order presented:

1. Title Page (Please include name and address of facility);
2. Statement of medical need for performance outside a laboratory setting; to include what test(s), when they would be performed, why this test should be performed as a point of care and who will be authorized to perform the test(s).
3. A signature sheet that includes the following information:
  - a) The legible signature of the current medical laboratory director and;
  - b) The legible signature(s) of all personnel who share the authority and responsibility for implementing and maintaining the alternate site procedure(s).
4. A complete procedure written in substantial compliance with NCCLS protocol;
5. Analyte & Methodology with a correlation summary for;
  - a) Any new methodology, and;
  - b) Any change in current methodology.
6. Quality Assurance Protocol(s);
7. Maintenance of records of testing procedures;
8. Protocols for performance & improvement (competency);

(continued in next column)

## Board Notification Process

The Board Presentation Packet must be e-mailed to the Board Administrative Office in the form of an Adobe PDF File. The PDF file must be e-mailed to: [lynda.England@tn.gov](mailto:lynda.England@tn.gov)

In addition, a printed document of the exemption request with original signatures plus four (4) additional printed copies must be submitted to:

TENNESSEE MEDICAL LABORATORY BOARD  
ATTN: LYNDA S. ENGLAND  
227 FRENCH LANDING, SUITE 300  
HERITAGE PLACE, METROCENTER  
NASHVILLE, TN 37247

**(PDF FILES AND PRINTED COPIES MUST BE IN THE SAME ORDER AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED)**

**Please note the following important information:**

1. All exemption requests (PDF and printed copies must be physically in the Board's Administrative Office no later than the end of the business day (M-F, 4:30PM CST/CDT) **thirty** (30) days **prior** to the scheduled Board meeting. All quarterly Board meeting dates are posted on the Health Department and Medical Laboratory Board's web site.
2. **Incomplete** packets may delay the review by the Board and may result in the request being deferred to the next scheduled Board meeting.
3. A facility that has received approval from the Board for instrument/method to be used by identified personnel and/or department(s) for point-of-care testing of an analyte do not have to appear before the Board again to add analytes to the approved instrument/method and may add them by submitting written notification to the Board's Administrative Office. It is only when the facility wants to change or add personnel or department(s) to the previously approved instrument/method that another hearing before the Board is required.
4. Any questions, please call the Administrative Office.

**RULES REFERENCE:** *Rules for Medical Laboratories 1200-06-03-.16*

## PUBLIC CHAPTER 717

Public Chapter 717 is a new law passed regarding the Medical Laboratory Board. This law became effective April 11, 2012 and continues the Medical Laboratory Board until June 30, 2016.

## FOR THOSE THAT PRESENT AT OUR OFFICE WITH CASH PAYMENTS

There may be times when it is necessary or convenient for applicants or licensees to make a cash payment at our office. Cash, personal check, cashier's check or money order for the exact amount are welcomed; we do not accept credit or debit cards.



The Tennessee Open Meetings Act passed by the General Assembly in 1974 requires that meetings of state, city and county government bodies be open to the public and that any such governmental body give adequate notice of such meeting. Open meeting notices can also be accessed at

<http://health.state.tn.us/boards/calendar.htm>

This form is also available on the bulletin board in the reception area of the Health Related Boards located at 227 French Landing, Suite 300, Heritage Place Metro Center, Nashville, TN 37243. A copy may also be requested by calling the Board office.



## NEW TRAINING PROGRAMS APPROVED BY THE TENNESSEE MEDICAL LABORATORY BOARD

At the July, 2012, Board Meeting the following were approved as training facilities:

- Genetics of Memphis, Inc.; (for training in the specialty of Cytogenetics)
- Baptist College of Health Sciences, Memphis, TN.; (for training of medical technologists)
- Pathgroup Cytogenetic Training Program, Nashville, TN.; (for training in the specialty of Cytogenetics)

## DISCIPLINARY ACTION REPORT

Action(s) taken against Medical Laboratory Professionals is/are reportable on the monthly Disciplinary Action Report and is/are published to the Department of Health website. Minutes regarding the actions of the TMLB meeting will be included in the Board's newsletter. The report may be found by following the link provided.:

<http://health.state.tn.us/boards/disciplinary.htm>

### April, 2012

<b>Licensee:</b>	James A. Otten, License# 3995
<b>Violation:</b>	Failure to comply with Rules regarding Continuing Education
<b>Action:</b>	Voluntary surrender of License

### July, 2012

<b>Licensee:</b>	Christopher Reecer, License # 21762
<b>Violation:</b>	Failure to comply with Rules regarding Continuing Education
<b>Action:</b>	License suspended

The Board Policy and procedure for Continuing Education violation may be read in its entirety at the following web address:

[http://health.state.tn.us/boards/MedLab/PDFs/MedLab\\_CViolations.pdf](http://health.state.tn.us/boards/MedLab/PDFs/MedLab_CViolations.pdf)

**Rule 1200-06-01-.12(1)** Beginning January 1, 2006, the Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board requires each licensee to successfully complete twenty-four (24) hours of approved continuing education pertaining to laboratory technology or laboratory management for the two (2) calendar year (January 1-December 31) period that precedes the licensure renewal year.

## THE TENNESSEE MEDICAL LABORATORY BOARD Statutes, Policies, Rules and Regulations

It is important and necessary to know and understand the Statutes, Policies, Rules and Regulations under which one operates and works. If you do not have or know where to obtain this information, they may be accessed using the following link:

<http://health.state.tn.us/boards/MedLab/legislative.htm>

## REMINDER ABOUT PRACTITIONER PROFILES

The Health Care Consumer Right-to-Know Act of 1998, T.C.A. § 63-51-101 et seq., requires designated licensed health professionals to furnish certain information to the Tennessee Department of Health. The information for public dissemination includes: (1) A description of any criminal convictions for felonies within the most recent ten (10) years. (2) A description of any final disciplinary actions of licensing boards in other states within the most recent ten (10) years. (3) A description of any final disciplinary actions of licensing boards in other states within the most recent ten (10) years. (4) A description of revocation or involuntary restriction of hospital privileges for reasons related to competence or character that has been taken by the hospital's governing body or any other official action of the hospital after procedural due process has been afforded, or the resignation from or non renewal of medical staff membership or the restriction of privileges at a hospital taken in lieu of or in settlement of a pending disciplinary case related to competence or character in that hospital. Only cases which have occurred within the most recent ten (10) years shall be disclosed by the department to the public. (5) All medical malpractice court judgments, all medical malpractice arbitration awards in which a payment is awarded to a complaining party and all settlements of medical malpractice claims in which a payment is made to a complaining party beginning with reports for 1998 and each subsequent year; provided, such reports shall not be disseminated beyond the most recent ten-year period, but shall include the most recent ten-year period for which reports have been filed. From the information submitted, the Department will compile a practitioner profile which is required to be made available to the public via the World Wide Web and toll-free telephone line after May 1, 1999. **Each practitioner who has submitted information must update that information in writing by notifying the Department of Health, Healthcare Provider Information Unit, within 30 days after the occurrence of an event or an attainment of a status that is required to be reported by the law.** A copy of your initial or updated profile will be furnished to you for your review prior to publication. That opportunity will allow you to make corrections, additions and helpful explanatory comments. **Failure to comply with the requirement to submit and update profiling information constitutes a ground for disciplinary action against your license.**

A blank copy of the profile may be obtained at:

<http://health.state.tn.us/Downloads/g6019027.pdf>



## APPROVED VENDOR CHANGE FOR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Initial applications for licensure with the Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board require a criminal background check (CBC). The approved vendor that processes this check for the TMLB is L-1 IDENTITY SYSTEMS. You will find complete instructions on obtaining a background check by following the link provided.

<http://health.state.tn.us/cbc/>

In addition, the Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board has established an absolute time frame for the validity of criminal background checks. That time frame is for a period of six (6) months from the time the administrative office receives the report.

This time frame establishes the interval in which a CBC may be used in the licensing process before a new CBC would be required. This would primarily be an issue when an individual begins the licensing process, does not complete the process and then decides to reapply.

Under extenuating circumstances, some application files remain open longer than the customary sixty (60) days. Should any file remain open for longer than six (6) months, a new CBC would be required.

## ACCESSIBLE MINUTES OF THE TMLB

Minutes of The Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board are posted to the internet. The minutes contain all the business discussed by the body and may be accessed and reviewed by the public.

Reviewing the minutes is an excellent way to keep apprised of the topics that may be of interest to licensees.

The minutes may be accessed by following the link provided, then clicking on the Meeting Minutes Tab. At present, minutes are available from 2004 forward:

<http://health.state.tn.us/Boards/MedLab/index.htm>

# Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board Members

Pamela Bullock, M.D.  
Knoxville, TN  
Pathologist, Non-Educator

Board Vice-Chair

Jerry Lee Miller, M.D.  
Kingsport, TN  
Non-Pathologist  
Physician

Cheryl Arnott, CT  
Nolensville, TN  
S.A.-Cytotechnologist

Stephanie Dolsen, MT  
Knoxville, TN  
Medical Technologist/Laboratory  
Supervisor

Annie Washington, MT  
Memphis, TN  
Medical Technologist Generalist

Board Chairman

Royce E. Joyner, MD  
Memphis, TN  
Pathologist-Educator

VACANT  
Pathologist Non-Educator

Regina L. Bartlett, RN  
Hendersonville, TN  
Hospital Administrator

Gloria Jenkins  
Brentwood, TN  
Citizen Representative

Diane Robbins, MT  
Livingston, TN  
Medical Technologist

Chairman, Personnel and Education  
Committee

VACANT  
Hospital /Laboratory Manager  
Administrator Director

VACANT  
Independent Laboratory Representative

Kathleen Kenwright, MT  
Cordova, TN  
Medical Technologist-Educator

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## Board Staff

Lynda England, BS MT (ASCP)  
Director

Jerry A. Gowen, BS MT (ASCP)  
Medical Technologist Consultant 1

Roberta Tolliver  
Licensing Tech

K. Denise Burton  
Administrative Assistant 1

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## Surveyors

### West Tennessee Regional Office

Mary Hamblen, MT  
Medical Technologist Consultant 2

Karon Hathcoat, MT  
Medical Technologist Consultant 1

### Middle Tennessee Regional Office

Onezean Otey, MPH, BSMT(ASCP)  
Medical Technologist Consultant 2

Karen Hargrove, MT  
Medical Technologist Consultant 1

### East Tennessee Regional Office

Julia Daniels, MT  
Medical Technologist Consultant 2

Taylor Carpenter, MT  
Medical Technologist Consultant 1