



Arizona Medical Board

1740 W. Adams St, Suite 4000 • Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Home Page: <http://www.azmd.gov>

Telephone (480) 551-2700 • Fax (480) 551-2705 • In-State Toll Free (877) 255-2212

FINAL MINUTES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE JOINT LEGISLATION AND RULES COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE MEETING Held on Monday, September 22, 2025 1740 W. Adams St., Phoenix, Arizona

Committee Members

Jodi A. Bain, M.A., J.D., LL.M., Chair
Katie S. Artz, M.D., M.S.
Bruce Bethancourt, M.D.
Laura Dorrell, M.S.N., R.N.
R. Screven Farmer, M.D.
Gary R. Figge, M.D.

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Bain called the Committee's meeting to order at: 5:04 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

The following Committee members participated virtually: Ms. Bain, Dr. Artz, Dr. Figge and Dr. Farmer.

The following Committee members were absent: Dr. Bethancourt and Ms. Dorrell.

The following Board staff participated in the virtual meeting: Raquel Rivera, Executive Director; and Michelle Robles, Board Operations Manager. Carrie Smith, Assistant Attorney General ("AAG") was also present.

C. PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING MATTERS LISTED ON THE AGENDA

Individuals who addressed the Committee during the Public Statements portion of the meeting are listed under the topic.

D. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING AMB ALL MEETINGS CALENDAR

Ms. Rivera informed the Committee that the AMB 2025 All Meeting calendar has been provided for your review and reference. This will be placed on all JLRC agendas going forward. Starting in November 2025, the 2026 All Meeting Calendar will also be included. Ms. Rivera requested the Committee's input on whether the calendars should be included under the ED report for all Board meetings so Board members can quickly review and reference future meeting dates and advise staff of any potential absences in advance of the meeting dates at the time of the Board meeting.

Board staff confirmed that the calendar can be updated as meetings are added.

Ms. Bain requested that the proposed dates for 2026 be circulated prior to the next meeting.

E. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING FIVE YEAR REVIEW AND RULEMAKING CALENDAR

Ms. Rivera reported that a draft version has been provided for the Committee's review and consideration. This includes a 5YRR calendar with future deadlines and monitoring mechanisms such as color coding with red to indicate areas where action will be needed. The 2nd tab will include rulemaking and 5YRR details. Ms. Rivera stated she plans to review prior 5YRRs to ensure accurate historical information is added to the spreadsheet.

F. FIVE YEAR REVIEW

1. ARTICLE 2, LICENSURE - REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH DRAFT FIVE-YEAR REVIEW REPORT

Ms. Rivera reported that the draft Article 2 5YRR has been provided for the Committee's review incorporating the changes discussed at the last JLRC meeting. If approved, this will be submitted to GRRC for their consideration. Additionally, there will be a request for authorization to proceed from the Governor's Office pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1039(A) for the proposed rulemaking changes identified in the 5YRR with the plan to complete rulemaking by June 2026.

G. RULEMAKING

1. ARTICLE 7, OFFICE BASED SURGERY - REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND UPDATE REGARDING RULEMAKING STATUS

Ms. Rivera reported that as of this morning, the Governor's Office reported that they would be sending an approval email today for the Board's Notice of Final Rulemaking related to Article 7 Office Based Surgery rules. Once received, Ms. Rivera will submit the information to GRRC for their consideration at an upcoming study session and council meeting. If approved at GRRC, the Board would then file the rules with the Secretary of State to be published in the Administrative Register.

H. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO MA SCOPE OF PRACTICE FAQs

Ms. Rivera reported that the 2025 Legislative Memo has been provided for review. HB 2025 expands the scope of practice for medical assistants to allow them to place and remove urinary catheters if they are appropriately trained and working under the 'general supervision' of a physician, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse midwife or physician assistant (approved provider). "General supervision" is defined to mean that the procedure or service is under the overall direction and control of an approved provider, but that the approved provider is not required to be present during the procedure or service. The law goes into effect on September 26, 2025. Based on this change, Ms. Rivera requested that the JLRC consider changes to the MA FAQs which currently indicate that MAs may not insert urinary catheters. A draft version with suggested language has been provided for your review and input. If approved, the revised FAQs will be uploaded to the website. Ms. Rivera reported that she will follow up on whether a rule is needed regarding the discussion that was had under item I.

Ms. Smith confirmed that that the definition of General Supervision came from statute.

I. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF MA SCOPE OF PRACTICE INQUIRIES

Dr. Huether and Dr. Hammon addressed the Committee during the Public Statements portion of the meeting.

Ms. Rivera noted that the correspondence from physicians is provided for the committee's reference of their original inquiries. Ms. Rivera noted that she obtained input from the ASA and AZNB based on the Committee's request. Ms. Rivera noted that she also received additional correspondence from the Arizona Medical Association (ARMA) and The American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS).

Dr. Farmer stated that when this inquiry first came up he was hesitant, but this is very different from what was originally presented and is regarding something specific.

Committee members questioned Dr. Huether regarding possible volumes of lidocaine in these scenarios.

Dr. Farmer and Dr. Figge opined that specific volumes mg/kg or cc's should be listed. If carved out specifically for lidocaine, Dr. Figge opined that this is reasonable.

Ms. Smith stated that the Board's only enforceable method is if something is in statute or rule and that FAQs provide information only. Ms. Smith noted that the Board is currently in the information gathering stage.

Dr. Farmer commented that the specificity of the request makes it very clear going forward. It is our job now to figure out the legalities on how to make it happen.

Ms. Smith confirmed that the Board would need to engage in the normal rulemaking process since MAs can administer injections in statute already.

Dr. Tournas addressed the Committee regarding injections and noted that his company's legal department is taking the Board's FAQs as rules to go by. Commented that the restriction about any anesthetic agent is not found in rules and statutes but layered in the FAQ. Questioned, can the FAQs be modified.

Ms. Smith stated that these FAQs have been around for a while and there have been attempts to modify them from time to time. Ms. Smith noted that since this has to do with practice issues and not legal issues, this has been mainly a practice -guided and physician-guided process. Ms. Smith further explained how MAs putting in catheters was not in statute so stakeholders requesting this were directed towards the legislature. In this case, it's different because administering injections is already in statute. The Board has authority to interpret its statute and the clearest possible way to do that would be through the rulemaking process.

Dr. Tournas further clarified that they are requesting that the FAQs not include prohibiting it.

Dr. Farmer opined that this is not a standard of care problem, and that it is somewhat urgent because this is happening in the real world and we want to keep things within safe parameters. Dr. Farmer requested an expeditious path forward and offered to help craft language.

J. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE TOPICS

Ms. Rivera suggested discussion of the PA Audit as some findings are related to the AMB.

Ms. Bain requested a list of programs the Board has in place that may be helpful to avoid confusion regarding programs in place, for example the PHP, at a future meeting.

K. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dr. Figge moved for adjournment.

SECOND: Dr. Farmer.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion:

The following Board member was absent: Ms. Dorrell and Dr. Bethancourt.

VOTE: 4-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

The meeting adjourned at: 6:10 p.m.



Raquel Rivera

Raquel Rivera, Executive Director