



THE AMERICAN BOARD OF SLEEP MEDICINE

January 25, 2011

Janice East, RPSGT, REEGT
President
Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists
8400 Westpark Drive
2nd Floor
McLean, VA 22102

Dear Ms. East:

Thank you for sending a follow-up letter to the American Board of Sleep Medicine that outlines the concerns of the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists (BRPT) regarding our development of a Sleep Technologist Certification Examination.

Our goal is to offer a certification examination to sleep technologists based on a blueprint reflective of the day-to-day professional responsibilities of sleep technologists in the sleep center setting and instruction received from available didactic programs. We believe this methodology fairly and responsibly evaluates professional competence.

Above all, our goal is to safeguard the future of sleep technology as an independent profession within allied healthcare and to protect the professional livelihood of sleep technologists. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) has demonstrated this commitment in multiple arenas and with significant investment. In response to challenges related to the licensure of sleep technologists, the AASM has allocated countless hours and more than \$1 million in direct support to fund efforts aimed at protecting scope of practice definitions for sleep technology and introducing favorable legislation and regulations that provide sleep technologists with a specific licensing/credentialing pathway. An active participant with the Committee on Accreditation for Polysomnographic Technologist Education, the AASM provided management services at no cost for several years, enabling the organization to devote its resources to establishing an accreditation program. Further, the AASM has developed educational programs and resources, including A-STEP and Inter-scorer Reliability, to provide a standardized knowledge base for sleep technologists. Lastly, the AASM has championed the value of the certified sleep technologist in our Standards for Accreditation for sleep disorders centers. Clearly, the AASM's long history of commitment to sleep technology has positively impacted the profession, and I believe our efforts continue to add long-term benefit and value to education, training and certification opportunities for sleep technologists.

More details about the Sleep Technology Certification Examination will be communicated to members of the sleep technology community shortly. It has been the position of the AASM that strengthening levels of professionalism and competence in sleep technology is paramount to the profession's future, and we remain committed to this tenet.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel F. Watson, MD
President, American Board of Sleep Medicine

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