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February 26, 2018

Charles Miles, MD, President
Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure
1867 Crane Ridge Drive Suite 200-B
Jackson, MS 39216

Dear MS State Board of Medical Licensure:

The Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians represents 1,124 physicians, residents, and medical students across Mississippi. Recently, the Mississippi Board of Medical Licensure amended regulations as it relates to the collaboration of nurse practitioners and primary care physicians. As primary care is the main target of these potential regulations, we have several concerns that we feel need to be addressed as the board moves forward.

1. We believe the amendment to these regulations which singles out primary care physicians as defined by Family Practice, General Internal Medicine, and/or General Pediatrics is in violation of state law. Mississippi Code 73-49-1 states "No state board or agency that licenses health care providers shall promulgate or enforce any rule or regulation affecting the practice of its licensees that does not apply equally to the practice of all of its licensees." Not only is it unlawful for the Board of Medical Licensure to use discriminatory practices that single out specific specialties and the practicing physicians therein but also it unjustly creates two levels of specialties within the practice of medicine where a state agency is implying that a different set of rules applies to certain doctors. It is evident to us that these new regulations should be applied to collaborating physicians across the field of medicine and should not discriminate against these three specialties.

2. We feel that requiring EMR limits some primary care doctors from being able to collaborate under these rules. Not all doctors have access to electronic medical records and those doctors should not be punished and prohibited from collaborating under these new rules.

3. Regarding EMR, we understand the Board of Medical Licensure does not regulate the advanced practice nurses; however, without requiring the doctors to put in the collaborative agreement that the np must have the same EMR this requirement becomes moot and will not necessarily yield the intended result of having doctors being able to see medical records electronically.

MISSION: Dedicated to advancing the specialty of Family Medicine and improving the health of all people in Mississippi.

4. We request an addition be added to Rule 1.5 that states, primary care doctors who choose to collaborate within the 75-mileage rule may do so while not adhering to the conditions in Rule 1.5.
5. We would like to request that a collaboration board or subcommittee consisting of primary care doctors be utilized to ensure quality patient care.
6. We would like to request an easily accessible database be maintained at the Mississippi Board of Medical Licensure in order to identify collaborative relationships of physicians and nurse practitioners.

The Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians wants to make sure these regulations are driven by the need to keep patient care as the most important purpose. We appreciate you taking our concerns into consideration when discussing the changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine T. Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Katherine T. Patterson, MD, FAAFP
President