

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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January 10, 2016

RE: Physician Practice;
Signing off on Testing Results

Dear

During its most recent meeting, the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners considered your inquiries. As we understand, you wish to know if: (i) a physician (a medical doctor) may sign off on test results utilized to diagnose dyslexia, "or must it be done by a psychologist;" and (ii) a physician may sign off on such results, what credentials are needed to do so? With apologies for the delay in responding, the Board has asked me to relay its advice.

As to your first question, there is no limitation on the scope of practice for Louisiana licensed physicians as a matter of state law. However, there are limitations as a matter of professional standards. Physicians may not, that is, provide services that they are not otherwise qualified to provide as result of their education, training and experience. To do so would be considered unprofessional conduct by the Board.¹

As to your second question, if a physician has had training in the analysis of testing used to diagnose dyslexia as part of his or her post-graduate education and experience in doing so following the completion of training, he or she may be qualified to sign off on such testing.

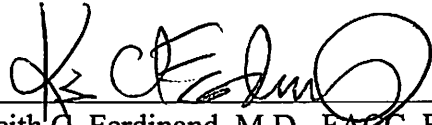
While we believe the above is responsive to your second question, in the context in which you refer to the word *credentialing*, it should be noted that a given hospital or similar institution may, as a matter of credentialing and definition of clinical privileges, properly impose clinical restrictions on physicians generally or on individual physicians, which would confine their services within the institution more narrowly than the scope of practice authorized generally by physician licensure. In addition, governmental and/or private payors may specify certain credentialing requirements for purposes of reimbursement to physicians providing these services.

I trust this reply is responsive to your inquiries. If not, please let us know.

¹La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285A provides that the Board may take action against the license of a physician for '(13) unprofessional conduct . . .;' and '(30) Violation of any rules and regulations of the board, or any provisions of this Part.' The Board's Unprofessional Conduct Rules provide: '[F]or illustrative purposes only, *unprofessional conduct* includes but is not limited to: LAC 46:XLV.7603A.9. 'Failing to Adhere to Accepted Practices—Physicians shall practice within the scope of their education, training and experience.'

Very truly yours,

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

By: 
Keith C. Ferdinand, M.D., FAEC, FAHA
Interim Executive Director