

**North Carolina Board of Pharmacy**  
**Durable Medical Equipment Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes of October 28, 2008**

Chairwoman Marcia Ladd called the meeting to order at 10 am. at the Board of Pharmacy office. Present for the meeting were Robert (Joey) McLaughlin, Jr. (via telephone), Karen Womack, and Mel Elliott, committee members. Also present were Board staff Karen Matthew, Wendy Watson, and Debbie Stump; Emily Heil, pharmacy intern; and Sarah Phillips, Board Counsel.

Chairwoman Ladd read the ethics statement.

Minutes of the April 22, 2008 meeting were approved by all.

**Old Business:**

No old business was on the agenda. However, Chairwoman Ladd brought up the draft statement on the CMS cap on rentals and reviewed the draft statement regarding the Board's position on a DME provider's duties under state law. Chairwoman Ladd moved for the statement, as amended by Board counsel, to be presented to the Board for its adoption. The motion was seconded and approved by all committee members present.

**New Business:**

The first item of new business discussed was whether the chairmanship of the committee should change. Karen Matthew stated that the Board changed presidents each year and did not know if the committee needed to follow suit. After discussion, it was determined that Ms. Ladd would remain chairwoman of the committee; approved by all committee members present.

Discussion was then held about DME elections. Chairwoman Ladd's term as medical equipment representative ends in 2009 and plans were discussed to hold elections in May or June 2009. Karen Matthew described generally the electronic voting process allowing each DME permit in North Carolina to have one vote. Paper ballots would be sent to those requesting such ballots and to DME permits without an email address.

Mr. Elliott asked if the voting might take place after the June 2009 NCAMES meeting. The elections would have to follow those of the Board of Pharmacy which were planned for April through May 2009.

Notices about the election would be sent to DME permit holders in early spring and also announced at the NCAMES meeting in January 2009.

Committee members also discussed whether a policy statement could be issued about the CMS cap on rentals of CPAP equipment. Sarah Phillips stated that the committee under state law could not issue such a proposal. (The statement approved above was placed on the Board's website.)

Wendy Watson also brought up that all DME permittees should be reminded that renewal of permits start in November 2008, and would only be allowed on-line.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held at the Board office at 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 28, 2009.

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Marcia Ladd, Chairperson

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Karen Womack

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Robert (Joey) McLaughlin, Jr. (*via telephone*)

*Not Present*

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J. Parker Chesson, Jr.

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Mel Elliott