



110 Centerview Drive  
Post Office Box 11289  
Columbia, SC 29211-1289  
Phone: (803) 896-4500  
FAX: (803) 896-4515

South Carolina  
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Board of Medical Examiners



Henry D. McMaster  
Governor

Emily H. Farr  
Director

**SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS’  
ADVISORY OPINION ON CORPORATE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE**

The South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners (“Board”) Board does not license or regulate corporations. However, the Board has well-established expectations concerning the economic relationships within which its licensees may practice. While the economic relationship is not a direct regulatory concern of the Board, the licensee must control the exercise and practice of his or her clinical judgment at all times. The physician’s professional judgment must be independently exercised, regardless of the economic relationship or business form involved. Licensees are subject to all provisions of the Medical Practice Act regardless of the economic relationship or corporate form in which they practice. Licensees may not employ or permit unlicensed persons to practice medicine. It is unlawful and unprofessional conduct for a licensee who engages in the practice of medicine to permit an unlicensed person to direct, participate in or interfere with the licensee’s practice of medicine.

Consequently, licensees should not enter into any agreement or associate themselves with a practice arrangement which permits a person other than a licensed physician to direct, participate in, or interfere with the licensee’s practice of medicine and exercise of their independent professional judgment. Licensees should ensure unlicensed personnel are appropriately trained and competent to perform delegated tasks and provide documentation of that to the Board upon request.

To the extent the licensee’s economic relationship complies with the principles set forth herein and is otherwise authorized by applicable law, it is authorized by the licensing law of this State governing physicians. It is each physician’s individual responsibility to ensure that he or she practices only within the lawful scope of practice set forth in the Medical Practice Act and other State law. It is further the responsibility of non-licensees to refrain from any activities which constitute the practice of medicine. As required by law, complaints received by the Board concerning unlicensed practice or other violations of the Medical Practice Act by licensees will be investigated and appropriate disciplinary action or other enforcement action taken as warranted by the individual facts and circumstances. It is the Board’s desire to collect only relevant information concerning the physician’s economic relationship with third parties necessary to enforce the provisions of the Medical Practice Act.