



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF HEALTH LICENSURE AND REGULATION
OFFICE OF HEALTH RELATED BOARDS
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REVISED POLICY

Patient Test Management/Laboratory Reports

During its quarterly meeting held on April 16, 2015, the Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board discussed a previous policy adopted on April 14, 2011 regarding Patient Test Management/Laboratory Reports.

Tennessee Code Annotated Section 68-29-121(b) provides: “[t]he results of a test shall be reported to the physician, optometrist, dentist, chiropractic physician, designated entity or other health care professional who requested it.”

The statute indicates the only persons to whom a laboratory may lawfully send the results of any test it performs, except other laboratories as authorized by Tennessee Code Annotated Section 68-29-129(5).

Pursuant to CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvements Acts) regulations §493.1291 and 45CFR §164-524, patients may now be allowed access to their personal health information, including access to their laboratory test reports.

Tennessee Code Annotated Section 68-29-121(b) should not be interpreted to preclude a medical laboratory from also providing test results directly to the patient.

The revised policy was adopted on July 16, 2015.