

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS



Suite 100
830 Union Street
New Orleans
Louisiana 70112-1499
Telephone: (504) 524-6763

Members
ELMO J. LABORDE, M.D., *President*, Lafayette
BERNARD L. KAPLAN, M.D., *Vice-President*, Alexandria
F. P. BORDELON, JR., M.D., *Secretary-Treasurer*, Marksville
IKE MUSLOW, M.D., Shreveport
RICHARD M. NUNNALLY, M.D., Baton Rouge
GERALD R. LANASA, M.D., Metairie
KEITH C. FERDINAND, M.D., New Orleans

Volume 5, No. 1

NEWSLETTER

March 1991

1991 Renewals

Despite our efforts to encourage early and timely renewal of licenses, again this year many physicians had to pay the late renewal penalty fee of \$100. Failure to renew timely can have significant unpleasant consequences. When the Board office receives an inquiry from an insurance carrier, hospital medical staff office, specialty Board office, or any other entity regarding an unexpired physician, we have no alternative but to advise that the physician's license is not current. This may result in loss of hospital staff privileges, malpractice coverage, specialty certification or society membership, not to mention actual suspension of licensure for physicians not renewed by the end of January. Indeed, some 951 notices of suspension for nonrenewal were issued this year, 231 to physicians located in Louisiana.

Because licensure fees barely cover the Board's cost of processing, it is renewal fees which sustain the Board's various operations, and the handling and processing of late renewals is costly to the Board as well as to the physician. Realizing that the holiday season is a difficult time for a physician and his staff, we make an effort to get the renewal notices out early in November. The year end renewal date, incidentally, is not one chosen by the Board, but specified by the Medical Practice Act.

1991 Meeting Calendar

The Board's meetings for the remainder of 1991 have been tentatively scheduled as follows:

April 10-12	August 21-23
May 22-24	September 25-27
June 19-21	Oct. 30-31, Nov. 1
July 17-19	December 4-6

Items for meeting agendas must be received in the Board office in writing at least 20 working days prior to the meeting.

1990 Licensure Statistics

During 1990, the Board issued original and reciprocity licenses, permits and certifications as follows:

Licensure Category	Original	Reciprocity
Acupuncturists/Acupuncture Assts	0	0
Athletic Trainers	3	4
Emergency Med.Tech.-Intermediate	56	N/A
Emergency Med.Tech.-Paramedic	125	0
Doctors of Medicine		
Unrestricted	397	376
Institutional Temporary Permits	0	0
Intern Registrations	100	N/A
Preceptorship/Mini-Residency	14	N/A

Resident Permits	5	0
Teaching/Research Permit	0	0
Visiting Physician Temp. Permit	13	N/A
Dispensation Registration	48	N/A
Midwives	2	0
Occupational Therapists	69	N/A
Occupational Therapy Assistants	20	N/A
Doctors of Osteopathy		
Licensed to Practice Medicine	15	4
Licensed to Practice Osteopathy	0	0
Physician Assistants Class I	8	N/A
Physician Assistants Class II	6	0
Podiatrists	5	5
Radiological Technicians	27	0
Respiratory Therapists	45	36
Respiratory Therapy 18 Month Permit	199	N/A
Respiratory Therapy Technicians	250	60

Fee Complaints

The Board regularly receives patient complaints regarding physician fees prompted by health insurance carrier notices to the patient that the fee charged by the physician exceeds that allowed by the insurance company as the "usual and customary" fee for a specified service. This seldom means that the physician's fee is unreasonable in fact, or that the physician has violated the Medical Practice Act by "gross, willful, and continued overcharging for professional services." Each carrier may have its own data as to what it deems "usual and customary," and a fee which does not fit this profile is not necessarily unreasonable in any sense. Physicians may be able to avoid this type of complaint if they take the time with their patients to explain their fees for recommended procedures and then caution the patients that their insurance carriers may or may not approve reimbursement of the full cost.

Supervision of Physician's Assistants; Suturing of Minor Lacerations

A physician authorized by the Board to employ a physician's assistant (a "PA") is accountable for the "responsible supervision, control and direction" of the PA. Conversely, a physician's assistant may not perform any functions whatsoever in the absence of the direction and supervision of an authorized supervising physician. What may constitute appropriate and "responsible" supervision in a given instance varies according to the nature of the procedures undertaken by the PA and the medical environment in which the PA and supervising physician operate.

Information coming to the Board's attention indicated that some PAs who have been authorized by the Board to undertake the suturing of minor lacerations may be doing

so without the kind of physician direction and supervision which is medically appropriate. The Board therefore concluded that a statement of its position on the issue was warranted. In pertinent part, the Board's Statement was as follows:

It is the position of the Board...that a physician's assistant who is authorized by the Board, as part of the PA's approved job description, to perform the suturing of minor lacerations, may undertake to do so with respect to a particular patient, only when the patient's laceration has been previously examined in person by the PA's supervising physician and the supervising physician provides specific directions as to the appropriate manner of and procedure for suturing the laceration.

More generally, the Board believes it appropriate to emphasize that a PA's legal authority to act depends directly on the direction and supervision of the supervising physician. When the supervising physician is absent from the designated office (on vacation, because of illness, or otherwise), the PA is wholly without legal authority to perform or provide any patient services whatsoever.

Meet the Board Staff

The Board's staff currently comprises a licensure staff of 10 full-time employees and a disciplinary staff of two full-time investigators and six other full-time employees. We also have a full-time accounting clerk, a mail/supply clerk, an Executive Director and two consultants. The following is a listing of the Board's employees and consultants. Brackets following the names indicate years of service, with [*] indicating less than one year.

- MRS. DELMAR RORISON [25], Executive Director
 JOHN B. BOBEAR, M.D.[*], Medical Consultant/Director of Investigations
 RONALD J. HINGLE, R.Ph., M.P.H. [2], Consultant Pharmacist/Disciplinary Staff
 PEGGY J. RIVIERE [4], Administrative Services Assistant (docket clerk)
 RITA L. ARCENEUX [1], Secretary (secretary to the Executive Director, also assists the docket clerk)
 FREDERICK W. THORNE, JR. [18], Confidential Administrative Assistant (chief investigator)
 ROBERT C. BURAS [2], Investigator/Probation Officer
 EDITH H. DOLIVE [4], Typist Clerk (clerical assistant to Messrs. Thorne and Buras)
 YVETTE M. BANKS [3], Secretary (malpractice clerk)
 YVETTE M. ALEXIS [*], Clerk (file clerk)

Licensure Staff

- PAULA M. MENSEN [20], Administrative Services Assistant (supervises all licensure clerks and serves as personnel officer)
 MERIAN A. GLASPER [11], Officer Manager (licensure clerk: foreign medical graduates; visiting residents; short-term residents; visiting physicians; acupuncturists)
 CHERYL A. NEASON [12], Office Supervisor, (licensure clerk: U.S./Canadian medical examination applicants; dispensation registrations; private radiological technologists)
 MONIQUE A. GAUDIN [*], Typist Clerk (licensure clerk: U.S./Canadian medicine reciprocity applicants; physician assistants)
 SANDRA W. BROUSSARD [3], Typist Clerk (licensure clerk: occupational therapists; athletic trainers; midwife practitioners; emergency medical technicians.)
 CYNTHIA H. KNECHT [3], Clerk (licensure clerk: Podiatry.

Assistant to Mrs. Mensen: maintains personnel files; handles staff and outside computer data requests)

- JOHN RICHARDSON [*], Clerk (licensure clerk: respiratory therapy)
 LYNDA C. CAMMON [6], Typist Clerk (licensure record clerk: licensure verification; address changes; annual renewals; reinstatement and/or relicensure applicants)
 ANNETTE M. SYLVAN [*], Typist Clerk (licensure clerk: endorsement of Louisiana licensees to other states; assists with verifications, changes of address and renewals)
 MELANIE S. WALKER [*], Typist Clerk (receptionist; licensure clerk: intern registrations; written licensure verification requests.)

Miscellaneous Staff

- REBECCA L. GASQUET [9], Accounting Clerk (accounts receivable and payable; banking; property and inventory control; payroll; timekeeper)
 BETTY G. HOLMES [5], Clerk (mail and supply clerk; FAX operator; assists other licensure clerks as time permits)

The Board's staff receives an average of 385 telephone calls per day, 75 pieces of mail (excluding renewals), and an average of 30 complaints a month. The staff also processes about 1,900 licenses and 16,000 renewals a year.

Expert Witnesses

In conducting investigations and formal hearings, the Board often has need for medical experts in various specialties to evaluate medical records and provide written opinions and expert testimony. While the Board would hope that most physicians would be willing to donate their time and services, the Board is able to pay a nominal fee for such services. Those of you who are interested, or who know others who would be interested, in serving in such capacity are asked to submit your name and a *curriculum vitae* to the Board office.

Louisiana to Require U.S. and Canadian Graduates to Have One Year Postgraduate Training for Licensure Beginning 1992

In 1992, Louisiana will require that graduates of U.S. and Canadian schools have completed one year of accredited postgraduate training in order to obtain full licensure. Individuals wishing to serve their internship or first year of postgraduate training in Louisiana will be required to register with the Board and will be issued Intern Registration Cards. As Louisiana already has an Intern Registration process for those who elect not to seek licensure immediately upon graduation or who come from a state which does not grant licensure until completion of one year of training, we anticipate no problems in expanding the process to accommodate the change in the licensure requirements in 1992.

Notice of Address Change

Whenever a licensee's professional, home or preferred mailing address is changed, it is important that the Board be notified as soon as possible. It is imperative that you keep the Board informed of any change of name and/or address to ensure receipt of the annual renewal forms, which are mailed in mid-November each year. If you do not receive your renewal application, you should contact the Board office, as failure to renew will result in suspension of your license. Physicians located in Louisiana should also notify the Drug Enforcement Administration, 1661 Canal Street, Suite 2200, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70112, and the Louisiana Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Division, Post Office Box 3767, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70821 of any change of address. The form below may be used to advise the Board of an address change.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE

(Please Type or Print)

Name: _____ License Number: _____

Effective Date of Change: _____

Professional Address:

Street Address	City/Town	State	Zip Code + 4
Parish	Telephone Number: (Area Code) Number/Extension		

Home Address:

Street Address	City/Town	State	Zip Code + 4
Parish	Telephone Number: (Area Code) Number/Extension		

Preferred Mailing Address:

Street Address	City/Town	State	Zip Code + 4
Post Office Address	City/Town	State	Zip Code + 4

**LOUISIANA STATE
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**
Suite 100
830 Union Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112-1499

*Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Baton Rouge, LA
Permit No. 835*