

# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS NEWSLETTER



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VINCENT A. CULOTTA, JR., MD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Since mid-July 2017, I have been serving as the Executive Director of the LSBME. I have gained a much greater understanding of the myriad activities and responsibilities of the board and the staff here. My primary emphases since I have arrived have been to improve our communication with our constituents, lessen the time from application to licensure for physicians and other licensees, and to discuss and defend our activities during the legislative session.

In an increasingly fast-moving and technological age, it is imperative that we communicate more efficiently with our licensees and the public. To this end, we are upgrading our RSS feed, and sending out more frequent email blasts to our licensees and others. We do not want to bombard our medical professionals with emails, but we do want to get important information out there, and quickly. Starting with this edition, our newsletters will be distributed online rather than in print, and will be produced quarterly rather than annually. Additional tech innovations such as internal fingerprinting capabilities to speed up background checks are described in our IT Updates section.

This legislative session has been a busy and challenging one for us, with many bills proposed that would affect our mission. You will hear more about that later in a legislative update after we have had some time to digest the significance of various pieces of legislation.

After many years in practice as an obstetrician and gynecologist, as well as working with many physicians and other healthcare professionals in various hospitals and the Louisiana State Medical Society, I am proud and humbled to serve in this new capacity as the Executive Director of the Board. ■

Vincent A. Culotta, Jr., MD  
Executive Director

### Active Licensees by Category, As of May 2018

Active Licensees by Category, As of May 2018	Total
Acupuncture Detoxification Specialist	19
Licensed Acupuncturists	56
Physician Acupuncturists	24
Athletic Trainers	553
Clinical Exercise Physiologists	57
Clinical Laboratory Personnel	5922
Medical Psychologists	105
Licensed Midwives	19
Occupational Therapy/Assistants	2,834
Perfusionists	92
Physicians (MD/DO)	17,352
Physician Assistants	1,160
Doctors of Podiatry	184
Polysomnography/Technicians	200
Private Radiological Technologists	4
Licensed Respiratory Therapists	3,463
Telemedicine Permits	95
Therapeutic Marijuana Registrations	10
Total Licensees/Permits	32,149

## CHANGES TO THE NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter is changing! We will now be publishing mostly online and delivering them to you via email. Also, we will no longer have a section on disciplinary actions. Anyone wishing to find out who has been the subject of a board disciplinary action may go to our website at [www.lsbme.la.gov](http://www.lsbme.la.gov), and click on the "Disciplinary Actions" box on the homepage. All of the actions taken in the last year are listed in reverse chronological order (most recent first). The page is also searchable by name. The "Archives" tab in the upper right side of the page permits searches in the last five years or all entries. ■

## LEADERSHIP CHANGES AT THE BOARD

### BOARD HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Vincent A. Culotta, Jr. joined the LSBME as Executive Director on July 15, 2017. A New Orleans native, Dr. Culotta received his undergraduate degree at LSU in Baton Rouge and his MD in 1974 from LSU New Orleans. He completed his residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Tulane University School of Medicine and Charity Hospital of New Orleans in 1977. In 1996, he was granted a Master of Science in Health Services Administration from the College of Saint Francis in Illinois.

Since receiving his medical degree, he has been in private practice, as well as on staff at various local hospitals in New Orleans. Most recently, he served as the chief of the Obstetrics and Gynecology and Family Practice residency programs at East Jefferson General Hospital. Dr. Culotta has a lifetime board certification in Obstetrics and Gynecology; he is a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecology, and the American College of Surgeons. He is a past president of the Orleans parish Medical society (1995-1996) and more recently of the Louisiana State Medical Society (2013-2014). ■

### LESTER W. JOHNSON JOINS BOARD

Dr. Lester W. Johnson is our newest board member, joining the board in July 2017.



Following undergraduate studies at LSU and Jesus College Oxford England Dr. Johnson received his MD with AOA honors from LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans. He completed a surgical residency at LSU Department of Surgery and Charity Hospital in 1975; he has been board certified in Surgery since 1976. Dr. Johnson is currently Chief of Surgery and Director of Surgical Services at University Health Conway - Monroe and Professor of Clinical Surgery, Assistant Dean for Rural Health Initiatives, and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at LSUHSC-Shreveport. He is past President of both the Surgical Association of Louisiana and the Louisiana Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, and past and founding Chairman of the Louisiana Emergency

Response Network. Dr. Johnson has served as Associate Editor of the Journal of Louisiana State Medical Society since 2002. He is a recipient of the Life Award for Charity Hospital Level I Trauma Center and was named Alumnus of the Year in 2013 by LSU School of Medicine New Orleans.

Dr. Johnson replaced Kenneth Barton Farris, MD. The Board would like to thank Dr. Farris for his dedicated service to the medical community and the public. ■



### REMINDERS FROM THE PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM

AS most practitioners know by now, if you possess a CDS license from the Louisiana board of pharmacy, you have been automatically enrolled in the Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program, as per Act 76 of the 2017 Louisiana legislative session. (*Problems with the PMP? Contact them at (225) 925-6496, option "2".*)

Medical interns and residents seeking PMP access privileges must first acquire a Louisiana CDS license. Once the CDS license has been issued, the intern must then apply for PMP access privileges. **Until the online auto-registration process is amended by the PMP vendor to include the medical interns and residents, the paper application form is required.** For medical interns and residents, we have packaged the CDS license application form and PMP access application form in one single file for your convenience. It can be found at [www.pharmacy.la.gov](http://www.pharmacy.la.gov) under the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) menu link. ■

## INFORMATION/TECHNOLOGY UPDATES



Many information technology (IT) processes and procedures are changing here at the board. While all licensee categories are able to renew their licenses online, by the end of this year all licensees will be able to apply online for initial licensure as well. (Currently only physicians are applying for initial licensure online). Beginning with this newsletter, we will be transmitting our newsletters electronically on a quarterly basis. Our RSS feed for news updates continues to be available by right-clicking on the RSS logo in the bottom left of our webpage at [www.lsbme.la.gov](http://www.lsbme.la.gov) and subscribing to the feed.

In other initiatives, we are working on the process of joining the FSMB uniform application (UA) for state medical licensure. Similar to the "common app" for colleges and universities, physicians wishing to obtain initial licensure in several states simultaneously will have a streamlined process in terms of the delivery of basic information concerning their training and qualifications. Currently 23 states and 27 boards participate in the UA program.

And last, but definitely not least, we are pleased to announce that we will be able to provide the fingerprinting technology required for background checks directly to applicants. By the end of 2018 or earlier, applicants will be able to come to the LSBME at 630 Camp street, or interact with members of the licensing department at professional events such as Medical School Match Days to start the process of obtaining their background checks. The portable technology utilized will allow us to digitally upload an applicant's fingerprints to the Louisiana State Police, eliminating the necessity to travel to a state police facility close to them or in Baton Rouge, expediting this process and the licensure procedures considerably. ■

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## RULES ADOPTED AND NOTICED FOR INTENT SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

*The following rules were adopted or noticed since the publication of the previous newsletter. Because this newsletter is being published just after the end of 2018 legislative session, a separate email blast will be sent out with a legislative update.*

### **Continuing Medical Education on Controlled Dangerous Substances (Adopted April 2018)**

Act 76 of the Louisiana legislature, and §4005 of the rules requires health care providers with a controlled dangerous substances (CDS) license to obtain 3 hours of continuing medical education ("CME") pertaining to **drug diversion training, best practices regarding prescribing of controlled substances, appropriate treatment for addiction**. The CME is a one-time requirement and the three credit hours are considered among those required by the licensing board for license renewal commencing in 2019. Act 76 provides that the CME requirement may be waived if the practitioner submits a certification form developed by the licensing board, attesting that she/he has not prescribed, administered or dispensed a CDS during the entire applicable reporting period. The certification must be verified by the Board through the PMP, which must submit aggregate annual compliance documentation to the Senate and House Committees on Health and Welfare. The law makes professional licensing boards responsible for developing rules and enforcement of the new requirements.

As part of this rule, the board provides a link on its website of approved courses that meet the specific content requirements. This link is: <http://www.lsbme.la.gov/content/board-approved-cme-courses-cds-requirements>. This page explains the rule and has a link to the list of approved courses. Currently, there is a six month moratorium on approving individual courses already taken by licensees; institutions or large groups who wish to petition the board's approval for courses for their constituencies may do so. (email [cdscme@lsbme.la.gov](mailto:cdscme@lsbme.la.gov))

### **Physicians: General, Licensure & Certification (Adopted March 2018)**

New training requirements for full licensure. Section §311 changes graduate medical education requirements for physicians graduating from U.S. or Canadian medical schools. Physicians applying for initial licensure after January 1, 2019 must have completed at least 2 years GME in an ACGME, AOA or RCPS accredited program or at a minimum completed one (1) year and have a letter of commitment from current program for year 2. Any extra-program work hours (moonlighting) must be approved in writing and with assurances of good standing by program director.

**Physician Collaboration with Advance Practice Nurses (Adopted February 2018)**

Rules (Chapter 79) adopted to facilitate collaboration between physicians and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). Rules describe eligibility and required components of such agreements, and outline collaborating physician responsibilities and compensation arrangements. Applicable terms, exceptions, required information and due diligence are defined.

**Mandatory access and review of prescription monitoring program (Adopted February 2018)**

Act 82 of the Regular Session of the 2017 Louisiana legislature and later §6931 of the rules requires access and review of prescription monitoring program date prior to initially prescribing any opioid to a patient and at intervals of at least every 90 days if opioids are prescribed for more than 90 days. Limit of 7 day supply of opioids for adult outpatient use for acute conditions, limit of 7 day prescription for a minor, and risks and rationale for use in minor patients to be discussed with guardian or tutor. This rule applies to any licensee whose scope of practice includes the authority to prescribe opioids: physicians, physician assistants and podiatrists.

**Acupuncturists and Acupuncture Detoxification Specialists – (Adopted July 2017)**

In accordance with Act 550 of the 2016 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the board updated its rules pertaining to the practice of Acupuncture. Amendments included addition of new definitions, change title of “acupuncturist’s assistant” to “licensed acupuncturist” and “acupuncturist” to “physician acupuncturist.” New rules update the educational requirements for acupuncturists and delete the requirement for a supervising physician, requiring instead a relationship with a Louisiana physician for referrals and follow-up care when necessary. Note: Act 93 (La. Leg. 2018) removed the relationship requirement.

**Athletic Trainers; Licensure & Certification (Adopted July 2017)**

Rules for Athletic Trainers (Chapters 31 and 57) updated regarding definitions, ethical requirements, licensing, practice, and composition and procedures of advisory committee. Practice authority changed from a permit to a license. New requirement of twelve hours of continuing education for renewal of license. Includes causes prescribed by law for which the board may refused to issue or take action against a license. Repeals various sections of rule that are no longer applicable.

**Physician Assistants; Licensure and Certification (Adopted June 2017)**

Rules changed to conform to Act 453 of the Louisiana Legislature 2016. New rules change requirements for prescriptive authority. PAs are required to have completed six months of practice under a supervising physician after graduation from an accredited PA education program to obtain a CDS license and require them to successfully complete an educational activity developed or approved by the board, respecting controlled dangerous substances. Rule updates mutual obligations of SP and PA, provides that performance plan requirements shall be considered satisfied if the PA’s practice site requires chart review as part of its JCAHO ongoing professional practice evaluation process for PAs. Increases number of PAs supervising physician may be primary SP for from 2 to 4. Note: Among other things, Act 475 (La. Leg. 2018) makes clear that training prerequisite to applying for a CDS license is to occur during education program.

**Physicians Licensure and Practice; Telemedicine (Adopted February 2017)**

Rules changed to conform to Acts 630 and 252 of the 2016 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. Rule removes requirement that physicians practicing medicine by telemedicine maintain a physical practice location in this state or have an arrangement with a physician who does; authorizes use of telemedicine by interactive audio without the need for video, provided certain conditions are satisfied. Requirement for at least one in-person visit by physician who prescribes controlled substances by telemedicine removed for patients treated in a Louisiana licensed healthcare facility with its own DEA registration. Clarifies the state of telemedicine permits and provides for documentation of telemedicine encounters.

**Marijuana for Therapeutic Use by Patients Suffering from a Debilitating Medical Condition (Adopted February 2017)**

Amendments were added per Act 96 of the 2016 Session of the Louisiana Legislature that made certain changes to the rule. The terminology of the act of ordering Medical Marijuana changed from prescription to recommendation. The category of eligible diseases and conditions was changed to “a debilitating medical condition” and the number of eligible diseases was expanded from 3 to 10. Certain exceptions to the rules were enacted in the event of related drug approvals by the USFDA. Note: the list of eligible diseases and conditions was expanded in the 2018 regular session of the Louisiana Legislature.