

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

# NEWSLETTER



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## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Greetings to all, and hope you are healthy and well. While the Covid pandemic is far from over, we are glad to see some light at the end of the tunnel as vaccinated persons increase and cases and hospitalizations decrease in the state of Louisiana.

On the home front, I am happy to report that the extensive exterior façade and energy efficiency improvements of our building at 630 Camp Street are finally complete.

As the city of New Orleans has entered Phase 3, we are now permitting licensees and other visitors to visit the building to drop off materials and meet in small groups if necessary.

Our licensees are continuing to enroll in the electronic education tracker CEBroker in larger numbers and we encourage you to get this done well before your renewal month.

We are entering "crunch time" for our licensing department as new physicians trainees enter the system for the first time. We encourage you to be proactive in the submission of your materials, and to be patient with our staff. From a public health point of view, we hope you will enjoy the increasingly good weather with friends and loved ones outside of your household, but continue to observe safe practices such as masking, social distancing and thorough handwashing even if you are fully vaccinated. ■

Best regards, and stay well,

Vincent A. Culotta, Jr., MD

### Updating your contact information

All licensees should be aware that if you change your address or your email address, it is YOUR responsibility to log on to the LaMED dashboard at <https://online.lasbme.org/#/> and make the change to your record. (You can also go to the home page at [www.lasbme.la.gov](http://www.lasbme.la.gov), click For the Practitioner > LaMED Dashboard.) Board staff cannot do this for you. To make sure that emails and communication by regular mail are reaching you, please make a point of changing your contact information as necessary. Please remind your colleagues of this if you hear someone mentioning that, "I didn't get that announcement..." or "I didn't hear about that..."

**In Memoriam**

The Board members and staff of the LSBME would like to express its sympathy to the families and friends of those who have lost people they cared about to Covid-19. In particular, we wish to pay our respects to the healthcare workers and caretakers who died because their jobs put them at greater risk of catching, and possibly dying from this sometimes deadly virus. An investigation performed by *Kaiser Health News* and the *Guardian* newspaper ([Lost on the Frontline](#)) investigated the thousands of healthcare personnel who are known to have died from carrying out their duties in hospitals, nursing homes, and other facilities. Of these, at least 77 were performing their duties here in Louisiana when they became ill and subsequently died. Not all of these were licensed by the LSBME, but we honor them all.

Active Licensees by Category, 2020	Total (new licensees)
Acupuncture Detoxification Specialist	20 (3)
Athletic Trainers	590 (85)
Licensed Acupuncturists	64 (2)
Physician Acupuncturists	25 (2)
Clinical Exercise Physiologists	57 (2)
Clinical Laboratory Personnel	5759 (536)
Genetic Counselors	156 (140)
Licensed Midwives	24 (5)
Medical Psychologists	110 (7)
Occupational Therapy/Assistants	3,097 (211)
Perfusionists	99 (12)
Physicians (MD/DO)	18,016 (1347)
Physician Assistants	1459 (177)
Podiatrist (DPM)	193 (10)
Polysomnography/Technicians & Technologists	195 (11)
Private Radiological Technologists	1(-6)
Licensed Respiratory Therapists	3,521 (152)
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,386 (2696)</b>

Note: Does not include temporary, emergency or trainee permits, permits for visiting physicians, or telemedicine. For more info go to <http://www.lsbme.la.gov/content/statistical-license-data>. Genetic counselors were added as a new group of licensees in 2019.

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**DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.** Information on disciplinary actions may be found on the board's website at <http://www.lsbme.la.gov>. A summary of Board Orders, Consent Decrees and Reprimands for the past 10 years and related documents may be found by selecting Disciplinary Actions on the home page.

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## Electronic Education Tracker Update

The LSBME's implementation of our new electronic education tracking system (CE Broker) is well underway. Once fully enrolled, the system will keep track of the CME or CE of most of our licensee groups. Licensees can check their accounts to see if they have completed the required number of hours and types of CE as their yearly renewal approaches. This system was put in place both in an effort to assist our licensees with tracking their hours, and to conform to auditing requirements as per the State Auditor of Louisiana.

All licensees (with the exception of Physician Assistants and Acupuncturists, whose continuing education requirements are regulated by their national certification organizations) are required to enroll in the new system during this renewal year. To enroll in the basic, no cost account, licensees should go to <https://cebroker.com/la/account/basic> and enter their license number exactly as it appears on the license, including any leading 0s or periods. No charge is required; licensees should ignore any boxes that say "7-day trial" and proceed. Those who wish to pay for a higher level of service may do so but this is not necessary.

For those who have difficulty enrolling in the system, or in uploading CE or CME, contact CE Broker support via phone at 877-434-6323 or via email at [support@cebroker.com](mailto:support@cebroker.com) ■

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## **Reminders pertaining to Controlled Dangerous Substances and the PMP**

In our last newsletter, we reminded prescribers of the rule requiring them to check the prescription monitoring program (PMP) before prescribing opioids, with few exceptions. The Board's rules require this as well. It is also considered best practice to check the PMP before prescribing other controlled dangerous substances (CDS), not just opioids. **Polypharmacy and over sedation is a common problem, especially in elderly patients.** Our investigators also want to make sure that prescribers are aware that Tramadol is considered an opioid, as they sometimes receive comments indicating confusion in this area.

We understand that busy providers may not have time to check every patient's PMP record themselves. But the Board of Pharmacy requires that in this case an official delegate is named as such, and uses his or her own ID and password to use the system. To create a delegate to check the PMP for you, please go to <https://louisiana.pmpaware.net/login> and select one of the categories for a delegate to begin this process. Only the prescriber or registered delegate may access the PMP. ■

## RULEMAKING SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

***Since the publication of the January 2021 Newsletter the following rules were approved by the Board and the Occupational Licensing Review Commission. After administrative oversight by the Louisiana Legislature they will be published in the Louisiana Register.***

For more detail and the most up to date information on the status of each rule, go to:

<http://www.lsbme.la.gov/content/regulatory-progress-rule-making-and-regulatory-changes>

### **Complaints and Investigations; Guidelines for Determining Whether to Issue Public or Non-Public Actions and Complaint Disposition Guidelines**

#### **Chapter 46:XLV. 9714, 9716**

In conformity with recommendations of the LLA, the Board directed the development of: (i) criteria for determining whether to issue public or nonpublic actions; and (ii) guidance to provide a frame work to guide future disciplinary dispositions.

### **International Medical Graduates Qualifications and Applications for Licensure**

#### **2020-2 Chapter 46:XLV.323, 361 & 363**

The Board has been asked to conform the requirements for postgraduate training (PGY) for international medical graduates (IMGs) with those applicable to US graduates, provided the applicant graduated from an approved medical school. Currently, IMGs are required to complete three years of PGY training in an accredited medical residency training program prior to licensure eligibility. U.S. medical school graduates are required to complete 2 years of PGY accredited training or one (1) year with a commitment from the program for PGY-2 training with demonstration of completion of PGY-2 training as a condition to licensure renewal. The board proposes to amend its rules governing licensure of foreign medical graduates, by adding additional language to a subsection (§323A.4), involving an alternative method for licensure for international medical graduates, and by repealing other subsections (§§361.G and 363.B).

### **Podiatrists; Requirements and Qualifications for Licensure, Scope of Practice**

#### **Chapter 46:XLV.1307**

Noting that a uniform podiatry 3 year postgraduate training program was implemented throughout all podiatry schools in 2013, the Board's Podiatry Advisory Committee has suggested a change in the current rules (1307G) to provide that licensed advanced practice podiatrists with 2 or more years of postgraduate training may independently perform a complete history and physical (H&P) on patients for the purpose of preoperative evaluation before a podiatric procedure.

### **Physicians; Continuing Medical Education**

#### **2020-4 Chapter 46:XLV.433-449**

The Board has determined to amend its continuing medical education (CME) rules for all categories of licensees to utilize an electronic reporting service for tracking and reporting CME hours. Rather than capturing CME by a sampling of licensees (3%) by subsequent audit, all licensees (100%) will have their CME tracked and reported to the Board electronically by way of an electronic reporting service (CE broker). Notices will be sent at periodic intervals of the number of CME hours completed/required. A licensee who does not satisfy the annual CME requirement will be ineligible for licensure renewal.

### **Rules of Adjudication; Assessment of Costs and Fees**

#### **Chapter 46:XLV.9935**

The Board proposes to amend its rules governing adjudication, by inserting a new section (§9935), dealing with the assessment of costs and fines, which may be imposed in board proceedings.

## **Medical Professions; Restricted Temporary Permits; Emergency Temporary Permit**

### **Chapter 46:XLV.402D, 412H and L**

Pursuant to Emergency Declaration, adopted at an emergency meeting held on March 30, 2020, the Board exercised the emergency provision of the APA and amended, for a limited time, its existing rules (402D and 412H) and adopted a new subsection (412L) to provide for emergency temporary permits for formerly licensed Louisiana physicians and allied health care practitioners during the declared public health emergency. The proposed rule intends to make this change permanent.

## **Rules of Procedure; Petitions for Rulemaking**

### **Chapter 46:XLV.9301**

This rule provides the procedures for requesting and consideration of the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a board rule.

## **Physician Licensure and Certification**

### **Chapter 46:XLV.315, 415 and 417**

The proposed amendments to §315.A expand the existing discretionary waiver of certain license requirements for applicants appointed to a full-time position by a medical school or college, at a rank of assistant professor or above, to an applicant who would be a full-time employee of an academic medical center whose duties and responsibilities are devoted primarily to training residents and fellows and other academic endeavors within post-graduate medical education. As with medical school professors, the proposed amendments would limit the applicant's practice to the academic medical center, as defined in §315.B, for which he or she has been approved by the board and affiliated hospitals and clinics of such center within the same geographic area of the state. As is the case under the existing rules (§327), the proposed amendments would be available to medical educators who graduated from either U.S. or international medical schools and the waiver of qualifications would expire upon termination of the appointment (§415.B). The proposed changes to §417.B are intended to conform the rules governing notification of license renewal to current agency practices (electronic notification), which resulted from the board's transition from sending out paper license renewals to electronic renewals and courtesy notices over the past several years.

For information on new and updated rules published in the 2021 *Louisiana Register*, see <https://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/osr/reg/regs2021.aspx> ■

### **CDSCME reminder for physicians and other prescribers**

If you are renewing your license for the first time, and have a CDS permit from the Board of Pharmacy, you must take a minimum of 3 hours of **board approved** CME that must include the following topics: Best practices for Prescribing CDS, Anti-diversion Training, Treatment of Chronic Pain, and Appropriate Treatment for Addiction. For the most recent list of **pre-approved** courses, go to: <http://www.lsbme.la.gov/content/board-approved-cme-courses-cds-requirements>. This is a one-time requirement; if you have completed a board approved CDSCME activity in the past, you do not need to do so again.

If you do NOT prescribe CDS you may fill out an exemption request form, which can be accessed [here](#). **If you have filled out an exemption form in the past and are still exempt, please be aware that you will be asked to reaffirm your continued exempt status when you renew online.**