

# NEWSLETTER



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## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2018 was a very busy year. The work of the LSBME throughout 2018 has brought about substantial changes; you may read more about them throughout this newsletter.

Since our last publication, rulemaking efforts have been noticed for intent on matters pertaining to Acupuncturists, Genetic Counselors and Physician Assistants. As per legislation passed in the 2018 regular session, a new uniform prescription drug prior authorization form was designed and adopted in collaboration with the Board of Pharmacy. For more detailed information on these rulemaking efforts, please see page 3 of this newsletter.

Changes to the rules on the use of therapeutic marijuana are ongoing. The board is working closely with committee members on this issue, and an advisory opinion should be published in February.

In general, anyone looking for information on the most recent rulemaking efforts should go to <http://www.lsbme.la.gov/licensure/rules>.

As well as creating legislation that affected various groups of healthcare professionals, the legislature

passed laws in 2018 that changed the workings of the board itself. Act 599-2018 expanded the size of the board from 7 physician members to a total of 10 members, one of whom by definition is a public member and not part of the healthcare profession. Changes were also made to how the complaints process is handled by the department of investigations.

During this past year, we said goodbye to longtime board member Mark Dawson, MD and welcomed 4 new members: Rita Y. Horton, MD; Terrie R. Thomas, MD; Kim S. Sport, JD; and James A. Taylor, MD. We also welcomed a new director of investigations, Lawrence H. Cresswell, III, DO.

In the next few weeks, the state Architecture Board will select an architect and work will begin on substantial and much needed renovations and repairs to the outside of our building. Please "pardon our progress" if you come here to visit.

All of us at the board wish all of you our best for a happy, healthy and productive 2019. ■

Vincent A. Culotta, Jr., MD  
Executive Director

**CDSCME Reminder:** For those of you who have not yet fulfilled the requirement of 3 hours CME on Controlled Dangerous Substances, please make sure to check the Board's list of approved courses to meet this requirement as it is updated periodically. Make sure the course you want to take is on the list!

**Remember that the education hours must include the following topics:** Best practices for Prescribing CDS, Anti-diversion Training, Treatment of Chronic Pain, and Appropriate Treatment for Addiction.



## TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

The IT department of the LSBME consistently strives to maintain and update our technology infrastructure and systems. To that end we are embarking on various projects in the next few months to improve several processes at the board.

One project involves the transfer of all paper records into digital form. This digitalization process will improve the ongoing storage, backup and retrieval of LSBME data. In addition, the LSBME is negotiating the use of a new platform called CE Broker to assist with CE audits and help our licensees track their continuing education at no cost to them. Licensees will be able to see what courses are board approved, will receive reminders regarding their CE, and all documentation of CE or CME will be stored digitally on the platform. This will make it much easier for licensees to be compliant with and prove their compliance with the continuing education requirements of their respective professions. ■

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## NEW LICENSEE CATEGORY – GENETIC COUNSELORS

As per Act 593 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the board is now responsible for licensing a new category of licensee – genetic counselors. Genetic counselors assist clients with concerns pertaining to inherited disease and conditions that might affect them or their families. Genetic counselors inform clients as to which genetic tests may be appropriate for them, and what may be learned or not learned from the testing. After the results of the tests become available, they work with their clients on what decisions to make going forward.

Most genetic counselors work in outpatient clinics or within hospitals, and often work with obstetricians, oncologists and other physicians. There are various types of genetic testing that genetic counselors may assist their clients with, such as prenatal testing (including pre-implantation or pre-conception testing), newborn screening, diagnostic testing, or even somatic tumor testing or pharmacogenetic testing to assist in decisions pertaining to different kinds of therapies.

Rules for the licensing and practice of Genetic Counselors in the State of Louisiana are in development have been Noticed for Intent in the December 2018 register. ■

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## ***Did you know?*** **About the Retired/Reduced Fee License Status for Physicians?**

Many of our retired or semi-retired physician licensees are unaware of the possibility of changing their licensure status from "Active" to "Retired/Reduced Fee." If you are practicing part or full time, and part of your responsibilities include prescribing controlled dangerous substances, you should of course retain your "Active" licensure status. But if you are no longer in practice, are 70 years of age, and want to stay licensed in Louisiana, you may want to consider changing your status from Active to Retired/Reduced fee. Retired status on your license means that you are still a licensed Louisiana physician, but your annual licensing fee is reduced by one half. As part of this transition, you will be required to turn in your CDS licensing permit to the Board of Pharmacy, and your DEA permit to that federal agency. You will be precluded from the active practice of medicine, including the prescription, dispensing or administration of controlled substances or other prescription medications. The annual fee for a retired/reduced fee license is \$150 as compared to \$332 for Active licensure status. Anyone with further questions about this issue may contact licensing at [licensing@lsbme.la.gov](mailto:licensing@lsbme.la.gov). ■

## RULEMAKING UPDATES

*The following rules were adopted or noticed since the publication of the October newsletter.*

### **Louisiana Uniform Prior Drug Authorization Form - (Adopted December 2018)**

Pursuant to Act 423 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature, the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy and the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners were required to jointly promulgate rules establishing a single prior drug authorization form to be used by all payors of prescription drug claims and any other entity requiring prior authorization of prescription drug claims.

**Genetic Counselors - (Noticed for Intent December 2018):** Act 593 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature established this category of health care providers under the Board's jurisdiction. Rules corresponding to this new category of providers were developed on licensing qualifications and practice which were noticed in the December edition of the Louisiana Register.

**Acupuncturists/Acupuncture Detoxification Specialists – (Noticed for Intent December 2018)** Several changes in the law resulting from Act 93 (HB 421, Rep. Leger) of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature. Proposed changes update the licensure qualifications for acupuncturists, add CME requirements, added conditions for reinstatement of license, and remove the requirement that acupuncturists have a relationship with a referral physician who practices at a physical practice location in this state for referrals and any follow-up care which may be necessary.

### **Physician Assistants - (Noticed for Intent December 2018)**

A rulemaking effort was commenced to accommodate several changes in the law resulting from Act 475 (SB 528, Sen. Lefleur) of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature. The proposed changes are: (i) increase from 4 to 8 the number of PAs for whom a physician may serve as the primary supervising physician; (ii) restate and clarify the physician assistant qualifications for PA prescriptive authority previously contained in the law; (iii) remove any qualifications for PA prescriptive authority other than those set forth in Act 475; and (iv) make associated or necessary changes to the rules. In addition, because PAs are the only category of providers licensed by the Board whose rules do not contain a penalty for late renewal/reinstatement, the proposed changes include such a penalty. ■

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**DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.** Information on disciplinary actions can 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 Verifications in the upper left hand corner of the home page, then Disciplinary Actions.

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