

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS NEWSLETTER



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Prescriptive Authority for Physician Assistants

Act 10 of the 2004 Louisiana Legislature expanded the scope of physician assistant practice to include prescriptive authority for certain drugs and medical devices to the extent delegated by a supervising physician. This Act was signed into law by Governor Kathleen Blanco on May 6, 2004 and became effective August 16, 2004. The Board is working with representatives of the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee and the Louisiana Academy of Physician Assistants to amend its rules to allow prescriptive authority in accordance with the Law. The Act requires the physician assistant to have completed a minimum of one year of clinical rotations during training, a minimum of one year of practice under a supervising physician and have been delegated prescriptive authority by his or her supervising physician. A physician assistant and supervising physician bear mutual obligation and responsibility to ensure that the PA's scope of practice is clearly identified. Before utilizing prescriptive authority, a PA must demonstrate the requisite qualifications and be approved by the Board. The prescription of a controlled substance also requires certification and registration with state and federal drug enforcement agencies. The supervising physician must also submit an application for registration to the Board and provide a description of the way in which a physician assistant will be utilized. The application must be updated to reflect any change in the manner that a PA will be utilized. Delegation of prescriptive authority constitutes a material change in the manner that a PA may be utilized and requires *prior* filing of an updated application and approval by the Board. Promulgation of the rule amendments relative to prescriptive authority is anticipated to be completed after January 2005. In the interim, the Board began the approval process, and at its meeting of September 21, 2004, approved applications for registration of prescriptive authority for legend drugs and medical devices to the extent delegated by the supervising physician. The Board cannot consider registration for controlled substance authority until its current rule-making effort is complete and has so notified physician assistants that they do not possess authority and should not prescribe any controlled substance at this time. The Board will notify them once authority to prescribe controlled substances has been approved.

The Board has developed a single registration form for use by both the PAs and supervising physicians. It may be obtained on-

line at www.lsbme.org or by calling the Board's licensing department (504) 568-6820 ex. 225. Careful consideration should be made when completing the application form as an incomplete application (one where all the appropriate responses are not given) will be returned and delay the approval process.

Controlled Substance Registration Certificate

On October 1, 2004 the Drug Enforcement Administration began issuing a revised Certificate of Registration. The new certificate consists of two parts: one that can be displayed on the wall and a smaller wallet size version and has the imbedded watermark logo, which provides authentication of the certificate and also deters counterfeiting. Registrants that are currently allowed to renew their DEA registration via the Diversion Control Program's website may print their Certificate of Registration upon completion of the registration renewal process as long as no changes have been made to their registration since their last renewal. The Diversion Control Program's website may be accessed at www.DEAdiversion.usdoj.gov. The DEA will continue to send Certificates of Registration via the United States Postal Service to all new registrants and all other DEA registrants renewing their DEA registration. The new Certificate will resemble the following:

NEW REGISTRATION NAME: JANE D REGISTERANT ADDRESS: 1234 MAIN AVE PO BOX 1234 ANYCITY, LA 70130-0123		REGISTRATION TYPE: PRACTITIONER EXPIRATION DATE: 11-23-2004	
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537		CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE This certificate is not transferable on change of ownership, control, location, business activity, or valid after the expiration date.	

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Who are the Members of the Board?

Kim Edward LeBlanc, M.D., Ph.D., was appointed to the Board on March 23, 2000 by Governor, Mike J. Foster. Currently, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Family Medicine, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, Dr. LeBlanc is a valuable asset to the Board and continues to see patients while training physicians.



Dr. LeBlanc obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Upon graduation, he entered medical school at Louisiana State University School of Medicine, Shreveport where he received his medical degree. His residency training in family practice was obtained from Dr. W.O. Moss Regional Hospital in Lake Charles. He was the Louisiana Resident Representative at the National Conference of Family Practice Residents in 1979 and served as Chief Resident during the spring semester of 1981, his senior year. Dr. LeBlanc furthered his education by receiving a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Exercise Physiology from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge in 1998.

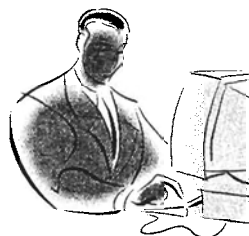
Dr. LeBlanc began his medical practice in Breaux Bridge as a primary care sports medicine/family practice physician before being appointed as the Director of Family Practice Residency Program at University Medical Center in March 1999. Sports Medicine being his first love, he is a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine as well as the American Academy of Family Physicians. He is certified by the American Board of Family Practice, has a Certificate of Added Qualifications in Sports Medicine, completed the American College of Sports Medicine Team Physician Course, certified in Advance Cardiac Life Support and the Advance Trauma Life Support.

Dr. LeBlanc has contributed to the medical profession by serving as reviewer for the American Family Physician Journal, the Physician and Sports Medicine Journal, the Journal of the American Medical Athletic Association and the Family Practice Recertification Journal. He has completed research studies comparing the use of prednisone versus ibuprofen in the acute treatment of ankle sprains and evaluating the effects of beta-carotene on race performance, oxidative stress and exercise performance.

Since beginning his tenure on the Board, Dr. LeBlanc has served as Vice-President and is the current President. He is currently serving on the Senate Concurrent Resolution Committee to study the licensure of Naturopaths in the state. He serves as the Federation of State Medical Boards' representative to the Accreditation Council of Continuing Medical Education. He is also a member of the Bylaws Committee and Finance Committee of the Federation of State Medical Boards and was recently appointed to Chair their Special Committee on the Evaluation of Undergraduate Medical Education.

In addition to his numerous medical activities, Dr. LeBlanc has served as coroner of St. Martin's Parish, medical director at St. Martin's Parish Sheriff Department, school board member of St. Bernard Elementary School, clinic consultant to the American Running and Fitness Association, and team physician for the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Breaux Bridge Junior and Senior High Schools for all sports. On the personal note, he is an avid runner, competed in 28 marathons, loves swimming and weight training and has three daughters who help occupy his spare time.

Dr. LeBlanc's aspiration is the continued high quality of medicine offered by physicians in the state of Louisiana for the benefit of the citizens of this state. He will not compromise quality for quantity and works diligently at achieving his goal by giving of his time, talent and tenacity in serving on this Board.



The President's Corner

This issue of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners' *Newsletter* has a somewhat different format which includes this commentary. We are working to make this *Newsletter* more "user-friendly" and informative. Any suggestions or comments will always be welcome.

The function of the LSBME is often misunderstood. It may be noted from our website at www.lsbme.org that this Board is a state agency charged with protecting the *public* through the proper licensing and regulation of health care practitioners under its jurisdiction. The Board is also responsible for investigating complaints and disciplining those practitioners who are in violation of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act and various other practice acts. The LSBME is responsible for licensing the following health care practitioners: physicians, physician assistants, acupuncturists and assistants, clinical laboratory personnel, podiatrists, clinical exercise physiologists, occupational therapists and assistants, respiratory therapists, private radiological technologists, midwives and athletic trainers and as of July 1, 2004, perfusionists.

It will be noted that this Board is not involved with other disciplines such as nursing, physical therapists or psychologists, to name a few. In addition, this Board does not involve itself with the education or training of medical students or residents. In reality, the Board does not actually serve the disciplines. Rather, the Board serves the public. This state has been fortunate to have hard-working, well-trained and ethical medical practitioners. The overwhelming majority never have any dealings with the Board other than to renew their license. It is only a few practitioners that run afoul of one or more of the Board's rules and/or regulations. When such acts are reported, our Division of Investigations begins the process of determining the accuracy of any and all complaints. Most of these complaints are investigated and closed with no action taken on the particular practitioner. We do remain sensitive to the needs of the physician or other type of practitioner. However, when deemed necessary after a very thorough and exhaustive investigation, action will be taken as appropriate.

Please do not misinterpret what is meant by the above paragraph. The Board does not go "after" anyone! However, the Board takes all complaints seriously and investigates and takes action whenever necessary. The usual practitioner has nothing to "fear". Good, sound medical practice does not need anyone to police this endeavor. This Board works hard in fulfilling its mission but never employs scare tactics in doing so.

Let us change gears for the moment. The Board also must respond to various legislative mandates in a timely fashion. For example, the most recent legislative session enacted several items that the Board must act upon. One of which is developing guidelines for mid-level providers who have been granted prescriptive authority. In addition, administrative rules must be promulgated for the granting of prescriptive authority by physician assistants. At times this can be a daunting task, but the Board will always respond to these mandates judiciously and thoughtfully. This usually involves the formation of committees on which the members of the Board must sit. Most times, this involves a great deal of work and can be a thankless task; however, the Board works tirelessly to be certain that everything is done with the highest of intent.

Finally, please know that all seven members work diligently and professionally while serving on this Board. This requires many hours of effort each month and done without fanfare or desire for personal recognition but simply knowing we are serving the common good of the citizens of Louisiana. None of our citizens should worry about harmful practices to which they are unaware. The LSBME must work within the statutes that have been enacted to allow us to perform our duties. Each of us enjoys our work and thank you for allowing us to serve.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

The Board has joined with the Office of Information Technology in converting to a state-wide standard licensing management software system for all licensing and regulatory agencies. After considering several vendors in the RFP process, CAVU Corporation was awarded the state-wide contract in the latter part of 2003. CAVU's *eLicense* system was the first in the market based solely on internet technologies and provides an off-the-counter web-browser based application database that includes licensing, enforcement, fee processing, online lookup and online renewal.

Online renewal will afford the licensee the ability to renew his license online. The licensee will be able to go to the Board's website and access renewal processing and complete the renewal application. This will allow for the completion of the application at a time most convenient 60 days prior to the expiration. This processing will be cost-productive to the Board and a convenience to the licensee. Once implemented the Board will continue to accept renewal through the mail, but will encourage all licensees to renew their license online. This feature will be available in the spring of 2005.

Online lookup will afford the licensure applicant the availability to check the status of his application through the application process. The applicant will be able to go online and check the status of his application to learn what has been received and what is still pending in completing his application. This feature will also be available in the spring of 2005.

The Board began the conversion process in May of this year and switched to the new system in September. Update from the CAVU system to our website will be available the 1st of December. In making this technical change, the Board will have a new website address, changing from www.lsbme.org to www.lsbme.louisiana.gov.

Requests for written verification of licensure will also change from the old address of LSBMEVER@lsuic.edu to the new e-mail address of LSBMEVER@lsbme.louisiana.gov. General correspondence should continue to be directed to the Board at P.O. Box 30250, New Orleans, LA 70190-0250.

Finally, all e-mail addresses for the Board's staff will also be affected. Please check the website for the new e-mail address for all employees.

In making the transition, the Board would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation and gratitude to the Computer Technology Department of Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center for its many years of service in maintaining our computer database, website and email addresses and providing many other computer technical support. You will be missed.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE MONITORING FOR ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Substance abuse monitoring for allied health professionals has presented a problem for the investigative staff of the Board for many years. Inasmuch as there is no established Impaired Program for allied health professionals, the Board instituted an in-house allied health monitoring program. This program is headed by our Lead Investigator, Charles Fleetwood. To obtain more information on this program, you may contact Mr. Fleetwood at 504 588-9093 or e-mail cfleetwood@lsbme.louisiana.gov.

☒ HEMOCHROMATOSIS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's hemochromatosis team has created a free CME website to train health care professionals on the clinical features, diagnosis, treatment, and management of hemochromatosis. Hemochromatosis occurs as a result of significant iron overload and is commonly misdiagnosed due to its early non-specific symptoms (i.e. fatigue, arthralgia, and weakness). Advanced hemochromatosis symptoms include liver cancer, diabetes, arthritis, arrhythmia, cirrhosis and impotence, but can be prevented by early diagnosis and simple phlebotomy treatment.

The mission of the hemochromatosis team is to prevent chronic health problems by educating health care professionals and patients on how simple it is to diagnose and treat hemochromatosis.

Their website address is as follows: <http://www.cdc.gov/hemochromatosis/training/index.htm>.

2005 Meeting Calendar

The Board's meetings for the 2005 calendar year is as follows:

January 18, 19	July 19, 20
February 15, 16	August 16, 17
March 22, 23	September 27, 28
April 19, 20	October 25, 26
June 14, 15	December 6, 7

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