

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

NEWSLETTER



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FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Greetings to all of our licensees and stakeholders; we hope you are managing to stay cool and dry.

The board has been proceeding with various initiatives that I would like to inform you about.

We have upgraded many of our systems to increase productivity. We will be rolling out a new application process soon in which all documentation must be submitted by the applicant before the applications can be finalized and processed, but more details later...This effort is taking place to shorten the time it takes to become licensed. We have already made tremendous progress, as you can see on the graph on the following page, averaging less than 20 days for the entire licensing process for most groups. In addition to shortening licensing times, we now are able to process the renewals of our 38,000 licensees with one employee. The use of CE Broker has also made the processing of continuing education tracking much simpler.

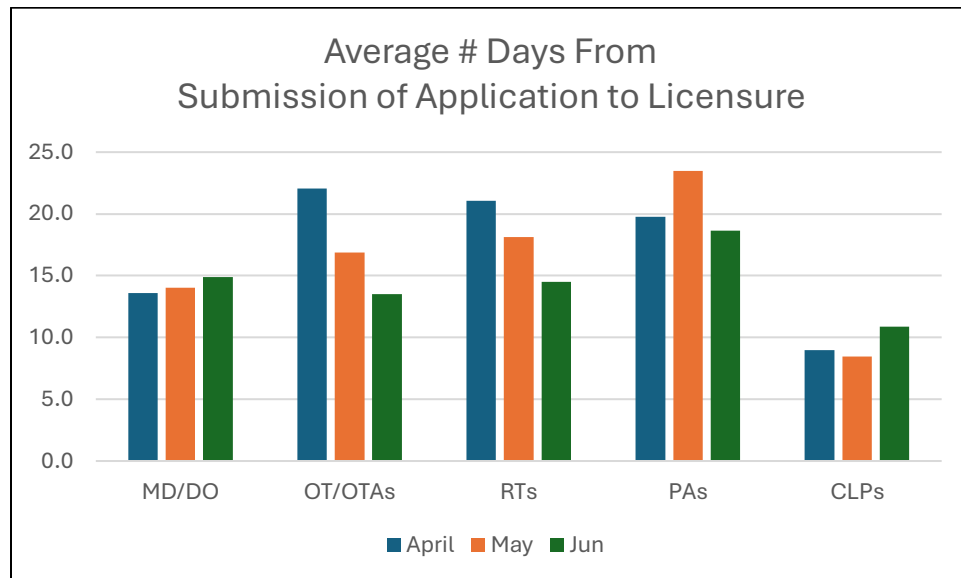
In addition to a new process for initial applications, we are reformatting some of the fields in our LAMed database to better calculate our workforce numbers. You may be asked more questions upon renewal; we ask that you be understanding about this. Once the updated information is entered in our system, you should be able to merely attest to its accuracy in future renewals. We do request that you input any changes as necessary: this is crucial for our understanding of the healthcare workforce in the state.

As part of having a better understanding of our workforce, especially our physician workforce, we would like to request that our compact physicians create a portal and enter some additional information. In order to do this, you will need to enter LAMed from the top left of our homepage and register in the system; an email blast will go out with more details.

And finally, we would like to report that our hardworking Investigations department has enacted new processes and lowered the number of days a case is in preliminary review by 60 percent. This has taken a sustained and strong effort and will continue.

Best regards,

Vincent A. Culotta, Jr., MD



The LSBME has been implementing various changes to decrease the time it takes to obtain a license. The chart above indicates average #days to licensure for our 5 largest practitioner groups. This data does not include compact licenses or CLS-Technicians.

Practitioner Wellness

Because stress and burnout are such a common experience in the medical field, we have decided to touch on this from time to time in the newsletter. We would very much like to reiterate that if you are feeling stressed out or have any suicidal ideation, that you reach out to a mental health professional for assistance. There is no shame in this, the board encourages physicians and other practitioners to reach out for help. It may make all the difference. Just as we all try to maintain our physical health, we owe it to ourselves and the people of Louisiana to maintain our mental health as well.

If you are unsure where to go and are concerned about confidentiality, you can contact the Health Professionals Foundation of Louisiana for confidential assistance if you are a prescriber. All of our licensees are encouraged to seek help from Employee Assistance if relevant or from local mental health professionals. In our initial application and our renewal process we do not ask if you have sought or are under the care of a medical health professional—we only ask you to attest that you are able to practice your profession with skill and safety. What matters is that you reach out and access what you need to be well, in body and in mind.

PUBLIC BOARD ACTIONS, APRIL - JUNE, 2025

Below is a list of all licensees who were subject to a public board action, April – June 2025. (Board actions include discipline, notices of summary suspension, reinstatements, voluntary surrenders, etc.) Click on the name to see the documentation related to the board action.

[Eddye G. Blossom, II, MD](#) - Order for reinstatement of unrestricted license, 04/28/2025.

[David Scott Burkett, MD](#) - Order for indefinite suspension of license, 04/28/2025.

[Keith Gregory Hickey, MD](#) - Interim order for indefinite suspension of license, 04/28/2025.

[Todd P. Howell, MD](#) - Consent order for reprimand of license, 05/05/2025.

[Victor Jackson, MD](#) - Order for reinstatement of unrestricted license, 04/28/2025.

[James Kenneth Morris, Jr., RT](#) - Stipulation and agreement for voluntary surrender of license, 04/28/2025.

[Carrie Elise Patterson, OT](#) - Summary suspension of license, 06/10/2025.

[Tina Trahan Wells, MD](#) - Order for indefinite suspension of license, 04/28/2025.

[Calvin Edward Williams, Jr., MD](#) - Order for reinstatement of unrestricted license, 06/09/2025.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2025 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature passed several bills that may be of interest to the board's licensees. Below are brief summaries of some of those new laws. As always, please review the acts in full for a complete understanding of what has changed in the law and consult your attorney with any questions you may have or legal advice you might require.

ACT NO. 60 (HB115 by Joe Stagni) This Act adds an exemption to licensure for clinical laboratory personnel who are employed by a source plasma donation center that performs only non-diagnostic testing for the purpose of screening source plasma donors. "Source plasma" is defined as "the fluid portion of human blood collected by plasmapheresis and intended as source material for further manufacturing use." For the purposes of this law, it does not include "single donor plasma intended for intravenous use."

ACT NO. 61 (HB118 by Peter Egan) This Act modifies the law relating to examination and execution of emergency certificates by telehealth in St. Tammany Parish by removing language in R.S. 28:53(G)(7)(b)(i) which required that the initial examination must have been made in person by a psychiatrist, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, or a psychologist.

ACT NO. 121 (HB15 by Shane Mack) This Act adds certain additional substances to the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law.

ACT NO. 148 (HB137 by Josh Carlson) This Act adds psychologists and medical psychologists to the practitioners authorized under R.S. 28:53(B)(1) to conduct an examination by telehealth for the purposes of executing an emergency certificate.

ACT NO. 205 (HB525 by Joy Walters) This Act creates the Uterine Fibroids Commission and assigns various functions to the commission, including review of existing regulations, providing a forum for an annual public hearing, making recommendations on policy, serving as an advisory body to the governor and the Department of Health on matters relating to uterine fibroids, polycystic ovary syndrome, and endometriosis, and related responsibilities.

ACT NO. 322 (SB70 by Brach Myers) This Act amends R.S. 40:1277.5 to expand the availability of the use of remote patient monitoring services to include pregnant or postpartum women and infants who required neonatal intensive care before discharge.

ACT NO. 383 (SB575 by Lauren Ventrella) This Act makes various changes to R.S. 9:2800.12 regarding liability for the unlawful termination of a pregnancy.

ACT NO. 421 (SB120 by Larry Selders) This Act expands R.S. 28:53(B)(2)(e) and R.S. 28:53(B)(5) to permit admission by emergency certificate for persons who are willing to seek voluntary admission upon arrival at the treating facility and mandates that such persons be assessed pursuant to applicable law at the time of the initial psychiatric evaluation at the facility.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, CONTINUED:

ACT NO. 463 (SB14 by Patrick McMath) This Act requires physicians and physician assistants who practice family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, endocrinology, gastroenterology, cardiology, oncology, rheumatology, neurology, nephrology, dermatology, pulmonology, surgery, immunology, hematology, obstetrics, and gynecology to complete at least one hour of CME on nutrition and metabolic health every four years. The board is in the process of preparing rules to determine the content of the CME.

RULES ADOPTED OR PROPOSED SINCE APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

Since the last newsletter, the following rules have been noticed or adopted. You can find updates on our website as the proposed rules go through the rule-making process.

Rules Proposed

Fully-Trained Foreign Physicians - LAC 46:XLV.321,323, and 328

The proposed amendments will provide for the licensure of fully-trained foreign physicians and establish qualifications for licensure.

Rules Adopted

Occupational Therapy - LAC 46:XLV. Chapters 1, 19 and 49

The Rule changes amend the standards of practice for occupational therapy practitioners, update licensure qualifications, introduce new definitions, revise continuing education requirements, restructure the Occupational Therapist Advisory Committee, establish rules governing the practice of dry needling and the supervision of unlicensed personnel and volunteers, amend the rules concerning the supervision of Occupational Therapy Assistants, and make typographical changes. (See following page for specifics).

Marijuana for Therapeutic Use – LAC 46:XLV Chapter 77

The Rule repeals Chapter 77 which governs physicians who recommend therapeutic marijuana.

Office Based Surgery - LAC 46:XLV Chapter 73

The Rule revises definitions, increases physician reporting requirements, clarifies the conditions necessary to perform office-based surgery, enacts regulations for Level I, II, and III office-based surgeries, and corrects typographical errors.

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact – LAC 46:XLV.305, 416, 433, 441, 449 & 400

The Rule (a) adds LAC 46:XLV.305 so as to provide a severability clause applicable to the Chapter; (b) adds LAC 46:XLV.416, for those licensed pursuant to R.S. 37:1310.1, the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact ("IMLC"), so as to conform the information and data the Board receives from IMLC practitioners to match the same type of information and data it already receives from licensure applicants who have applied for licensure, renewal and/or reinstatement under R.S. 37:1271-1291.1 and the Board's rules under LAC

RULES, CONTINUED

46XLV.123 et seq, all in accordance with R.S. 37:1310.1, Section 5(d); and (c) amends LAC 46:XLV.433, 441, 449, and 4005 to require all IMLC licenses to comply with continuing medical education requirements pursuant to R.S. 37:1310.1, Section 7(b), similar to those already expected of individuals licensed under R.S. 37:12711291.1 and the Board's rules under LAC 46XLV.123 et seq.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY RULES

The information below was also sent out in an email to all OTs and OTAs, but we are including it here in case anyone in the occupational therapy practitioner group did not receive it, and also for the benefit of others who work with occupational therapists.

The free 1-credit Laws and Rules course for Occupational Therapy on CE Broker (which is now an annual requirement) has been recently updated to reflect the new rules.

The following areas have many changes and should be reviewed carefully:

Section Number	Topic
§1939	Temporary Permits – No longer renewable; increased supervision requirements
§1951	Use of title of Doctor
§1965	Continuing Education Requirements –14 total hours now required, one of which must be an ethics course and one of which must be the LSBME Rules course. The Rules course is free and currently being updated. It will be available for OTPs renewing their license in July. OTPs renewing in June will be exempt from the requirement of the Rules and Ethics courses and will need only the traditional 12 hours of CE. OTs may now earn CEUs for being a Level II Fieldwork Educator and earning a post-professional OT degree.
§4907	Screening – OT and OTA responsibilities
§4909 E & F	Referral – Changes with wellness and school system settings
§4911	Evaluation - OT and OTA responsibilities
§4913	Intervention Process - OT and OTA responsibilities
§4925	Supervision of OTAs
§4926	General supervision of OTAs. No longer any differences depending on setting.
§4927, B, 1	Documentation of OT Supervision of an OTA – OTA must identify the supervising OT for each session in their daily note.
§4928	Supervision of Unlicensed Personnel (Techs)
§4930	Dry Needling

As always, the most recent version of the Occupational Therapy laws and rules can be found at www.lsbme.la.gov.

LOUISIANA'S "DUTY TO REPORT" LAW PERTAINING TO IMPAIRMENT

We want to make sure that all licensees are aware of this important law pertaining to the impairment of healthcare professionals.

The Louisiana Health Care Professionals Reporting Act (LRS §RS 37:1745.14), also known as a "Duty to Report" law, requires a health care entity to submit a written report to the appropriate professional licensing board within 72 hours of each instance in which it: (1) takes adverse action against a health care professional due to impairment or possible impairment; or (2) accepts the surrender of clinical privileges, the resignation of employment or a contractual relationship, or the withdrawal from participation in a health care training program of or by a health care professional: (a) while the health care professional is under investigation by the entity for impairment or possible impairment; or (b) in return for not conducting an investigation.

In this case the law defines the following: "Impaired" or "impairment" means dependency on, or the excessive use or abuse of alcohol or drugs that affect the central nervous system and which are capable of inducing physiological or psychological dependence." Impairment in this context refers only to difficulties in practicing with skill and safety resulting from substance abuse.

The above-mentioned law pertains to all practitioner groups we license.

A report is not required when a health care professional is granted a leave of absence for evaluation or treatment of impairment or possible impairment provided all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The individual cooperates with the institutional policy regarding the evaluation or treatment of such impairment or possible impairment.
- (2) Any leave of absence granted is for six months or less.
- (3) The individual agrees not to engage in any clinical activity while undergoing evaluation or treatment except insofar as approved by his or her addiction provider while undergoing treatment.
- 4) The individual has been reported to their applicable professional healthcare program.

For example, in the case of physicians, physician assistants, podiatrists or medical psychologists, when the healthcare entity makes a report to the Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of Louisiana (HPFL) Professionals' Health Program, they have met their reporting obligation to the LSBME and this law. In those cases, if one of these health professionals creates a contract with the HPFL, either because they have been reported to HPFL or self-reported a problem, the situation does not have to be reported to the LSBME and remains confidential. Should the professional violate his or her contract, the HPFL is legally bound to report to us.

Anyone in a supervisory position should be especially aware of this duty to report.

REQUIRED VERIFICATION OF DRUG OR DEVICE SUPPLIERS

In order to protect the general public from dangerous counterfeit, misbranded, adulterated or stolen prescription (legend) drugs and devices, federal and/or state laws require the verification of a legend drug or device supplier's license prior to the purchasing of the vendor's products. The Louisiana Board of Drug and Device Distributors (LBDDD) is a state agency charged with the responsibility to safeguard life and health and to promote the public welfare by licensing and regulating all entities engaged in the wholesale distribution of legend drugs or devices within and into the state of Louisiana.

In a physician's office setting, the person(s) or management staff responsible for the purchasing of a prescription legend drugs or devices should first verify the credentials (license) of the supplier of any legend drug or device before placing an order. A legend drug or legend device is a drug or device intended for human use which carries on its label a restrictive statement such as "Rx", "Rx only", physician use only, "Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without a prescription.", or a statement that federal law restricts the sale of a medical device to or on the order of a healthcare practitioner. Every legend drug or device distributor who engages in the distribution of these drugs or devices into or within the state of Louisiana to persons other than consumers or patients, including but not limited to distribution by manufacturers, repackagers, own-label distributors, jobbers, third-party logistics providers, retail pharmacy warehouses, pharmacies, brokers, agents, and wholesale distributors, must register with the Louisiana Board of Drug and Device Distributors and must renew such license annually.

The LBDDD may be contacted at 12091 Bricksome Avenue, Suite B, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816; by phone at 225-295-8567; by fax at 225-295-8568; or by email at admin@drugboard.la.gov.

Wholesale distributors of legend drug or device licenses can be verified on the Louisiana Board of Wholesale Drug Distributors website at www.drugboard.la.gov – LA Wholesale Licensee Search page. The website is a secure and primary source for credential verification, as authentic as a direct inquiry to the Board.

TO VERIFY A VENDOR IS LICENSED BY THE LBDDD, GO TO:

<https://www.drugboard.la.gov/wholesaler-license-lookup/>

- 1.) Visit the above link.
- 2.) Type in the name of your supplier and click "Lookup".
- 3.) Check to see if your supplier is displayed on the list
- 4.) If your supplier is on the displayed list, expand the selection and print a copy for your records as proof of "due diligence".
- 5.) If your supplier is NOT on the displayed list, then the prescription drug or device supplier is not authorized (licensed) to sell or distribute in or into the State of Louisiana.

*** Correction *** In the April issue of this newsletter, the "Did You Know Section" incorrectly stated that "[i]f the patient was a minor, the records must be stored until the patient turns twenty-one or the six years from the when the physician last treated the patient, whichever is longer." This should have been communicated as a suggestion for best practice, not a statutory requirement. There is no age-based retention requirement. Louisiana Revised Statute 40:1165.1(A)(3)(a) provides, "Medical and dental records shall be retained by a physician or dentist in the original, microfilmed, or similarly reproduced form for a minimum period of six years from the date a patient is last treated by a physician or dentist."

REMINDERS

COOPERATION WITH BOARD REQUESTS IS A PHYSICIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY

When the board investigates a complaint, it is often necessary to request that the respondent physician provide copies of pertinent patient records or other information. When the request is made to the physician, the physician is legally obligated to provide the documents or information. The failure of a physician to provide the requested records or documents not only delays or obstructs the progress of the investigation but can also constitute unprofessional conduct in violation of La. R.S. 37:1285 (A)(13). A physician found to have engaged in unprofessional conduct is subject to sanctions up to and including suspension or other administrative action.

FOR LICENSEES RENEWING FOR THE FIRST TIME

We want to make sure that you are aware of certain CME/CE requirements you must fulfill before your first renewal, as well as your ongoing required hours for subsequent renewals. You must set up an account on our electronic education tracker, CE Broker, if you have not already done so. **All coursework to meet your required hours (or for physician assistants your NCCPA certificate of compliance) must be posted on your transcript in CE Broker or you will be unable to renew your license.**

All new licensees must take a Laws and Rules course on your profession before you renew for the first time, except for Clinical Exercise Physiologists and Perfusionists. You can find links to these courses on our [Continuing Education](#) page. Or you can search for them on CE Broker under the LSBME as the provider.

For those of you who prescribe controlled substances (Physicians, Physician Assistants, Podiatrists and Medical Psychologists), you have a one-time requirement per Act 76-2017 to take the **Board-Approved** course on the prescribing of Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) offered by medical interactive. Click [here](#) for more information, or go to <https://medicalinteractive.com/lbme> to enroll in the course.

The course is free to all prescribers and course completion satisfies the statutory requirement. Prescribers can also be awarded 3 level 1 AMA CME hours for a fee of \$100. Those who are insured by LAMMICO will have this fee waived.

The board would like to remind you that any prescriber who filled out an exemption request form for this requirement because they were not prescribing controlled substances at the time whose practice has changed are required to take the course. **Prescribers are also reminded that this requirement is for the prescribing of ALL CDS, not just opioids or class 2 drugs.**

How To create a Free CE Broker account

1. Go to <https://cebroker.com/la/account/basic/>
2. Enter your License number exactly as it appears on your license, "123456".
3. Once you have an account, you can upload your CE or CME certificates.
4. The courses of some content providers who are registered with CE Broker will upload automatically.
5. Any Laws and Rules course taken on CE Broker will upload automatically and instantly to the transcript.
6. You can also download the CE Broker app on your smartphone and use the camera to take pictures of certificates, if that is easier.
7. CE Broker will track that you have met your requirements for your first renewal, or for yearly compliance with CE/CME with the NCCPA for PAs.

Online Laws and Rules Courses Currently Available on CE Broker

Acupuncture Professionals
 Athletic Trainers
 Clinical Laboratory Personnel
 Genetic Counselors
 Occupational Therapy (annual)
 Medical Psychologists
 Midwives
 Physicians

Physician Assistants
 Podiatrists
 Polysomnography
 Respiratory Therapy
 Dispensing Physicians
 Supervising Physicians
 Telemedicine

Courses will be updated as required by regulatory changes and can be taken annually.

Keep your Contact Information Up to Date

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 may also go to the home page at www.lsbme.la.gov and click on 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 make sure that the mailing/user email field contains the email that you see and read, and that it does not go to the office manager or other personnel.** Do not share your password for your LaMED Dashboard account; this is for **your** private use only.

Questions/Comments? Something you'd like to see in the Newsletter? Email: Education@lsbme.la.gov