



ALABAMA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS **NEWSLETTER**

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 3
FALL 1995



IMPORTANT NOTICE

ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWAL

Applications for the 1996 Alabama license renewals and renewals of the Alabama Controlled Substances Registration Certificate will be mailed to physicians and osteopaths in early October. The deadline for returning both applications is December 31, 1995. Licensees have a thirty (30) day grace period after December 31, 1995, within which to register and pay the annual license renewal fee. This grace period does not apply to renewal of Alabama Controlled Substances Registration Certificates. Failure to return the application and fee for a 1996 license before the close of business on January 30, 1996 will result in the automatic revocation of the current license by operation of state law.

Each year, including the present one, license

applications mailed out are returned because the Commission was not notified of changed addresses. Alabama Code §34-24-338, (1975) states, "If any registrant shall change his address during the year for which any certificate of registration shall have been issued by the Commission, such registrant shall, within fifteen (15) days thereafter, notify the Commission of such change..." If you do not receive a renewal application for your license or controlled substances certificate or if you have made a move within the last year, please notify, immediately, the Medical Licensure Commission, P.O. Box 887, Montgomery, Alabama 36101-0887 or the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners, P.O. Box 946, Montgomery, Alabama 36101-0946.

HOSPITAL REPORTING OF PHYSICIAN DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The Alabama Legislature has amended §34-24-59 which requires hospitals to report disciplinary actions taken against physicians to the State Board of Medical Examiners. The amended law now requires the chief administrator officer of each hospital to report to the Board any disciplinary action taken concerning a physician when the action is related to professional ethics, medical incompetence, moral turpitude, or drug or alcohol abuse. Disciplinary

actions must be reported to the Board within 60 days of the date of the initial action. Failure on the part of a hospital to file the required report can result in imposition of civil monetary penalties by the State Board of Health not exceeding \$2,500.00 for each violation. Copies of the new law can be obtained by contacting the BME Legal Department at 1-800-227-2606.

HOSPITAL PATIENTS HAVE A RIGHT TO PRIVACY

By: Kathryn Rowan, RN

*Clinical Research Nurse at the University of South Alabama,
College of Medicine, Department of Anesthesiology, Mobile,
Alabama*

Entering the hospital can be a frightening experience for patients. They find themselves in a strange, institutional setting feeling as if they have little or no control over what happens to them. They may be overwhelmed by feelings of powerlessness and vulnerability.

As nurses, we try to help our patients get through this experience with their sense of dignity intact. But unfortunately, their dignity is often one of the first things we forget.

One of our biggest sins is exposing them unnecessarily during care. Nurses have become so used to seeing patients disrobed that we're often totally unaware that a patient is sending non-verbal cues—avoiding eye contact, ignoring instructions, resisting care, or acting angry or sullen—to let us know that he or she is anxious or embarrassed. For example, how many times have we:

- Left the bathroom door open while helping patients void?
- Left curtains or doors open while giving personal or incontinent care?

- Neglected to assign gender-appropriate staff to do examinations or procedures that might embarrass patients?
- Totally stripped patients prior to bathing or in emergency situations and then neglected to cover them with a gown or towel?
- Left a patient exposed while trying to locate another piece of equipment?
- Done nothing when a physician or another nurse unnecessarily exposed a patient?

I'm sure that just about all of us have been guilty of these subtle invasions of privacy at one time or another. We may not give such incidents a second thought, but for patients, they are embarrassing and dehumanizing.

So let's pause for a moment during care to think about how patients might feel in situations such as the ones I've just described, and to make sure that we are not committing similar violations. We must also speak up whenever we see another nurse or doctor compromising a patient's privacy.

Treating patients with a little common courtesy is all it takes to preserve their dignity. Would you want anything less for yourself or someone in your family? □

Reprinted from RN Magazine, February 1993.

ALABAMA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS PUBLIC ACTION REPORT -- JUNE 1995 through AUGUST 1995

On June 8, 1995, the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners entered an Order reinstating the Alabama controlled substances certificate of Isa A. Fawal, M.D., Birmingham, Alabama, license number 3546. Additionally, the reinstatement Order mandates that Dr. Fawal maintain and provide to the Board a quarterly log of all controlled substances prescribed by him.

On June 7, 1995, a voluntary restriction was entered against the certificate of qualification and license to practice medicine in Alabama of Florino S. Samson, M.D., Tuscaloosa, Alabama, license number 13158. The voluntary restriction allows Dr. Samson to return to the active practice of medicine in Alabama under specified terms and conditions. Dr. Samson is prohibited from treating female patients. Additionally, any medical practice of Dr. Samson must be supervised and must be approved by the Board of Medical Examiners.

On July 10, 1995, a voluntary restriction was entered

against the certificate of qualification and license to practice medicine in Alabama of Jerry Wayne Sheffield, M.D., Birmingham, Alabama, license number 6587. The voluntary restriction was entered in connection with treatment for substance abuse and requires that Dr. Sheffield participate in the Physicians Recovery Network and that he utilize sequentially numbered triplicate prescriptions for all controlled substances prescribed by him to patients. Additionally Dr. Sheffield is prohibited from registering as a dispensing physician and he is prohibited from maintaining any samples of any controlled substances in his medical office.

On July 19, 1995, the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners terminated the voluntary restriction previously entered against the certificate of qualification and license to practice medicine in Alabama of Larry C. Fite, M.D., Faulkville, Alabama, license number 7892. Dr. Fite's certificate of qualification and license to practice medicine have been reinstated to full unrestricted status.

MEDICAL LICENSURE COMMISSION PUBLIC ACTION REPORT JUNE 1995 through AUGUST 1995

On June 6, 1995, the Medical Licensure Commission of Alabama issued an Order denying a license to practice medicine in Alabama to Marvin Morris Ettinger, M.D., Louisiana. The Commission found that Dr. Ettinger had failed to truthfully answer some questions on his application for a certificate of qualification filed with the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners.

On July 10, 1995, the Medical Licensure Commission issued an Order suspending the license to practice medicine in Alabama of Ben Parker Council, M.D., Mississippi, Alabama license number 10537. The Commission's action was based upon a disciplinary action taken against Dr. Council's medical license in the State of Mississippi. The Commission conditioned Dr. Council's eligibility for termination of the suspension upon satisfactory evidence that Dr. Council had entered into a contract with the Physicians Recovery Network of the State of Alabama. On August 30, 1995, the Commission issued an Order reinstating Dr. Council's Alabama medical license with terms of probation for one year.

On July 10, 1995, the Medical Licensure Commission issued a disciplinary Order mandating a letter of reprimand to Radcliffe John Coyle, M.D., Lillian, Alabama, license number 6346. The Commission's Order was based upon disciplinary action taken against the medical license of Dr. Coyle in the State of Arizona.

On July 10, 1995, the Medical Licensure Commission issued an Order modifying a previous Order reinstating the license to practice medicine in Alabama of Kathryn A. Pitman, M.D., Chatom, Alabama, license number 15547, on April 4, 1994. The Order of modification allows Dr. Pitman to change her practice location to the Mobile County Health Department and grants to her controlled substances prescribing authority for Schedules III, IV and V.

On July 14, 1995, the Medical Licensure Commission issued an Order suspending the license to practice medicine in Alabama of Elena V. Perry-

Thornton, M.D., Boaz, Alabama, license number 15801. In the Order, the Commission outlined the terms and conditions which must be met by Dr. Perry-Thornton for eligibility to apply for reinstatement of her medical license.

On August 10, 1995, the Medical Licensure Commission of Alabama issued an Order revoking the license to practice medicine in Alabama of Troy Frank Kilpatrick, M.D., Oneonta, Alabama, license number 2447. The Commission immediately suspended the revocation and placed Dr. Kilpatrick's license on probation subject to specified terms and conditions. Additionally, Dr. Kilpatrick was assessed an administrative fine in the amount of \$2500.00.

On August 23, 1995, the Medical Licensure Commission approved a Stipulation and entered a Consent Order placing the license to practice medicine in Alabama of John Melburn D. Holmes, M.D., Roanoke, Alabama, license number 9079 on indefinite probation subject to specified terms and conditions. Dr. Holmes is prohibited from engaging in obstetrical medical practice, must comply with conditions of quality assurance monitoring, and must complete specified CME requirements.

On August 30, 1995, the Medical Licensure Commission issued a disciplinary Order publicly reprimanding Melchor P. Mallare, M.D., Danville, Virginia, license number 11718. Additionally, the Commission assessed an administrative fine in the amount of \$2500.00 against Dr. Mallare.

On August 25, 1995, the license to practice medicine in Alabama of Gerhard Jan Hirnen, M.D., Dadeville, Alabama, license number 8409, was temporarily suspended by Order of the Medical Licensure Commission of Alabama. Dr. Hirnen is accused in an Administrative Complaint filed by the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners of unprofessional conduct in the treatment of certain patients by engaging in improper sexual contact with the patients. The Commission scheduled a hearing for October 24, 1995.

CME CALENDAR
— 1995 DATES

October 18—Gadsden AL

Psycho Pharmacology

Contact: Joy Bryan, Mountain View
(205) 245-3645 x394

CME Credit: 15 hours of Category 1

October 19—Huntsville AL

7th Annual Infectious Dis. Conference for
Primary Care Practitioners

Contact: UAH Office of CME
(205) 551-4490

CME Credit: 6 hours of Category 1

Nov. 2-5—White Sulphur Sprgs WV

Advances & Controversies in Internal Med.

Contact: George Converse, M.D.
Lloyd Noland Hospital (205) 783-5276

CME Credit: 15 hours of Category 1

November 6—Birmingham AL

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)

Contact: Vicki Hixon, Hill Crest
(205) 833-9000 x312

CME Credit: 1 hour of Category 1

November 14—Birmingham AL

Advanced Coding & Reimbursement Sem.

Contact: MASA Education Department
(334) 263-6441

November 15—Montgomery AL

Advanced Coding & Reimbursement Sem.

Contact: MASA Education Department
(334) 263-6441

November 16—Mobile AL

Advanced Coding & Reimbursement Sem.

Contact: MASA Education Department
(334) 263-6441

November 16—Huntsville AL

Advances in Wound Care

Contact: UAH Office of CME
(205) 551-4490

CME Credit: 6 hours of Category 1

November 16-19—Kansas City MO

89th Annual Scientific Assembly

Contact: Southern Medical Association
(800) 423-4992

December 2-7—Acapulco Mexico

Pinata of Pediatrics VIII: A Practical
Seminar for Primary Care Physicians

Contact: UAH Office of CME
(205) 551-4490

CME Credit: 12 hours of Category 1

1996 DATES

January 18-21—Bent Creek Lodge

Bent Creek Medicine Update

Contact: A. Robert Sheppard, M.D.
(205) 367-8668 CME Credit: TBA

February 7-10—Lake Buena Vista FL

Adolescent Medicine Seminar

Contact: George Converse, M.D.
Lloyd Noland Hospital (205) 783-5276

CME Credit: 15 hours of Category 1
14.25 AAFP

March 13-16—Lake Buena Vista FL

Pediatrics Seminar "Advances & Changing
Trends"

Contact: George M. Converse, M.D.
Lloyd Noland Hospital (205) 783-5276

CME Credit: 15 hours of Category 1
15 hours of AAFP

April 10-14—Hilton Head Island SC

General Surgery Update

Contact: George M. Converse, M.D.
Lloyd Noland Hospital (205) 783-5276

CME Credit: 18 hours of Category 1

April 11-14—Destin FL

AL Section, ACOG Annual Mtg.

Contact: Natalie Munroe (334) 263-6441

April 19-21—Orange Beach AL

MASA Annual Meeting

Contact: MASA Education Department
(334) 263-6441 (800) 239-6272

CME Credit: TBA

April 24-27—Hilton Head Island SC

Pediatrics Update

Contact: George M. Converse, M.D.
Lloyd Noland Hospital (205) 783-5276

CME Credit: 15 hours of Category 1
15 hours AAFP

May 3-5—Guntersville AL

Spring Sem. Clinic/Carraway & Norwood

Contact: D. Haigler, M.D. or Linda McNair
(205) 226-6358 CME Credit: TBA

June 4-8—Hilton Head Island SC

General Surgery Seminar

Contact: George M. Converse, M.D.
Lloyd Noland Hospital (205) 783-5276

CME Credit: 19 hours of Category 1

June 6-8—Orange Beach AL

AIA/ACP Joint Annual Mtg.

Contact: Natalie Munroe (334) 263-6441

June 11-15—Hilton Head Island SC

Adult Infectious Disease Seminar

Contact: George M. Converse, M.D.
Lloyd Noland Hospital (205) 783-5276

CME Credit: 19 hours of Category 1
19 hours AAFP

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