



ALABAMA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS NEWSLETTER

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Legislature Modifies State Licensing Requirements

Under a new law which became effective April 27, 1999 (Act 99-103) applicants for a certificate of qualification for a license to practice medicine who graduated from a college of medicine or school of medicine which is not accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education of the American Medical Association will be required to complete three years of post-graduate or residency training to qualify for licensure. Medical schools in the United States and Province of Canada are accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education. Graduates of LCME accredited medical schools will continue to be eligible for licensure upon completion of one year of post-graduate or residency training.

Other changes included in Act 99-103 include a provision that would allow the State Board of Medical Examiners to withhold approval of any college of medicine or medical school not accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education which has had its accreditation withdrawn, its certification or licensure revoked, has had its approval withdrawn by a state, national or territorial licensing jurisdiction or has engaged in fraudulent, criminal or other practices inconsistent with quality medical education. Another change will permit doctors of osteopathy to continue to be licensed through the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners Examination after January 1, 2000. Previous law would have required that doctors of osteopathy take the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) for licensure after January 1, 2000.

Another provision of the new law requires that an applicant for a certificate of qualification for a license to practice medicine complete the application process within six months from the date the initial signed application is received by the Board unless the applicant is required to pass an examination as part of the application process, in which case the applicant shall have twelve months to complete the application. At the expiration of the deadline for completing the application, an incomplete application must be withdrawn by the Board and the applicant is required to re-initiate a new application. Once a certificate of qualification has been issued by the Board of Medical Examiners, the holder of the certificate must apply for a medical license with the Medical Licensure Commission within six months or the certificate of qualification is withdrawn. ■

reminder

The Medical Association of the State of Alabama offers to all licensed Alabama physicians an informational CME transcript as a service to help them organize their AMA Category 1 CME hours earned annually. This service is offered to all physicians, but may be of particular value to physicians whose hospitals do not offer a transcript service.

For more information please call Sherry Ward, MASA Education Department (800) 239-6272 or (334) 263-6441. ■

Public Action Reports

April 1999 through June 1999

Alabama Board of Medical Examiners

On June 9, 1999, the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners denied the application of Walt W. Mutchler, M. D., Glen Carbon, Illinois, for a certificate of qualification for a license to practice medicine in Alabama. The denial was based on disciplinary actions taken against Dr. Mutchler's license to practice medicine in Missouri and West Virginia. Dr. Mutchler has appealed the Board's decision to the Medical Licensure Commission of Alabama.

On June 9, 1999, the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners accepted the voluntary surrender of the certificate of qualification of Benjamin W. Rodamar, D. O., license number DO-185, Jackson, Alabama. Dr. Rodamar surrendered his certificate of qualification while under investigation by the Board for alleged violations of Ala. Code §34-24-360 concerning ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients. Dr. Rodamar is no longer authorized to practice medicine in the State of Alabama. ■

Medical Licensure Commission

On May 6, 1999, the Medical Licensure Commission entered an order which denied the application for reinstatement of Michael Edward Robbins, M.D., license number 13101.

On May 26, 1999, the Medical Licensure Commission entered an Order Temporarily Suspending the medical license of Jerry Henry Crump, M.D., license number 13179.

On June 8, 1999, the Medical Licensure Commission entered an Order which Suspended the medical license of David Fowler Burke, M.D., license number 16438. Dr. Burke's suspension shall remain in effect for a minimum of one year from the date of the Commission's Order.

On June 8, 1999, the Medical Licensure Commission entered an Order which Suspended the medical license of Shashank C. Patel, M.D., license number 12628. Dr. Patel's suspension shall remain in effect for a minimum of one year from the date of the Commission's Order.

On June 8, 1999, the Medical Licensure Commission entered an Order which placed the medical license of Charles Edward Porter, Jr., M.D., license number 16285, on Indefinite Probation. As a condition of such probation, Dr. Porter is not to practice medicine in any form without the prior direct approval of the Medical Licensure Commission. ■

Medical News & Perspectives - March 17, 1999

Several Groups Attempting Regulation of Internet Rx

Charles Marwick

Bethesda, Md—To try to control increasing use of the Internet for obtaining prescription drugs without adequate physician oversight, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has called on physicians and pharmacists for help.

The agency views obtaining prescription drugs without the personal interaction of patient and physician as a significant problem but believes that it is one better handled by state licensing and medical boards than by the FDA.

The boards are willing to do their part—at press time, three had taken disciplinary action against three physicians who had prescribed Viagra over the Internet to men who were not their patients—but have not yet taken a formal position on the issue.

The use of the Internet for prescribing drugs, while legal, is open to questionable practices. For example, a Chicago television station recently aired a program on which a man received Viagra through an Internet pharmacy despite listing on his application several contraindications, such as existing heart disease.

"We are especially concerned where there is no proper patient-physician relationship and no proper pharmacy intermediary. This bypasses the usual safeguards," said Michael A. Friedman, MD, the FDA's deputy commissioner for operations, at a meeting the agency called for physicians and pharmacists to discuss the issue.

The problem, Friedman said, "is too big for any one organization to handle comprehensively, and the FDA doesn't have the staff, the resources, or even the authority to deal with it. We are interested in having the products available but also want them to be used properly and safely."

All the speakers at the FDA meeting agreed that the issue must be tackled. John O'Bannon III, MD, of Richmond, Va, a member of the American Medical Association (AMA) Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs, said that, while there is nothing wrong with Internet prescribing per se, "any prescribing on the Internet or otherwise is wrong, illegal, and unethical if it occurs outside the context of a valid patient-physician relationship." O'Bannon said the council is planning to update an existing AMA statement on Internet prescribing.

George Barrett, MD, vice president of the Federation of State Medical Boards, said that a federation committee on professional conduct and ethics has drafted a recommendation to discipline physicians for unprofessional conduct if they prescribe drugs without conducting an evaluation of the patient. However, he said it was only a committee recommendation; it has not been considered by the federation's Board or House of Delegates. The federation could take a formal position on this issue by spring, he added. ■

Note: The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners has not adopted a formal policy position on this issue, but is currently investigating the possible involvement of Alabama licensed physicians in Internet prescribing without a valid physician-patient relationship.

1999/2000 CME calendar

540-X-14-02

Basic Requirement

(a) Beginning on the effective date as set forth herein, every physician licensed to practice medicine who resides in the State of Alabama must earn or receive not less than twelve (12) hours of Category 1 continuing medical education in every calendar year as a condition precedent to receiving his or her annual registration certificate for the next calendar year. The calendar year begins January 1st and ends December 31st of each year.

August 12-15

Destin FL—Alabama Society of Allergy & Immunology Annual Meeting

Contact: Judy Lovelady (334) 263-6441

August 13-15

Guntersville—Infectious Disease Update

Contact: MASA Education Department 334-263-6441

August 17

Decatur AL—Medical Assurance 1999 Loss Prevention Seminar *Your Practice Prescription for the Future*

Contact: Gina Preston (800) 282-6242 or (205) 877-4430

CME Credit: 2 hours Category 1

August 22

Destin FL—Medical Assurance 1999 Loss Prevention Seminar *Your Practice Prescription for the Future*

Contact: Gina Preston (800) 282-6242 or (205) 877-4430

CME Credit: 2 hours Category 1

August 27-28

New Orleans LA—4th Annual Managed Care Conference

Contact: Tina Long or Jessica Scott, SMA (800) 423-4992

CME Credit: 13 hours Category 1

September 24

Panama City FL—Medical Assurance 1999 Loss Prevention Seminar *Your Practice Prescription for the Future*

Contact: Gina Preston (800) 282-6242 or (205) 877-4430

CME Credit: 2 hours Category 1

September 25-October 5

Galapagos Voyage—Therapeutics Update

Contact: Charlotte de Frances, UABSOM/International Expeditions (800) 633-4734

September 30-October 1

Birmingham—Advances in Clinical Hepatology and Liver Transplantation

Contact: UAB Division of CME (205) 934-2687

CME Credit: 7.5 hours of Category 1

September 30-October 3

Destin FL—17th Annual Rheumatology on the Beach

Contact: Annette Lee (205) 877-1692 or David McLain MD dmclain@pol.net

October 8

Huntsville—11th Annual Infectious Disease Conference

Contact: UAB CME Office - Huntsville (256) 551-4490

October 10-13

Lake Buena Vista FL—Current Clinical Internal Medicine Seminar

Contact: George M. Converse, MD (205) 783-5276

CME Credit: 15 hours Category 1

October 13-16

Lake Buena Vista FL—Pediatric Infectious Disease Seminar

Contact: George M. Converse, MD (205) 783-5276

CME Credit: 15 hours Category 1

October 28-31

White Sulphur Springs WV—Internal Medicine Seminar

Contact: George M. Converse, MD (205) 783-5276

CME Credit: 15 hours Category 1

October 29

Florence—7th Annual Shoals Cardiology

Contact: UAB CME Office - Huntsville (256) 551-4490

December 27, 1999-January 2, 2000

Belize Expedition—The History & Future of Medicine

Contact: Charlotte de Frances, UABSOM/International Expeditions (800) 633-4734

2000

January 22-29

Amazon Expedition—International Health

Contact: UABSOM/International Expeditions (800) 633-4734

CME Credit: 12 hours Category 1

April 27-28

Tuscaloosa—Alabama Rural Health Conference

Contact: Kay Fendley (205) 348-1344

June 15-18

Destin FL—MASA Annual Session

Contact: MASA Education Dept. (334) 263-6441 or (800) 239-6272

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ALABAMA BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
NEWSLETTER



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