



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Executive Office



MEDICAL ERRORS TASK FORCE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

*Cesar Aristeiguieta, M.D.,
Chair
Steve Alexander
Reginald Low, M.D.
Mary Lynn Moran, M.D.
Gerrie Schipske, R.N.P., J.D.*

January 31, 2008

The Westin Los Angeles Airport
Concourse B Room
5400 West Century Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 216-5858

*Action may be taken on any
item listed on the agenda.*

AGENDA

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
(or at the conclusion of the
Education Committee)

ALL TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**If a quorum of the Board is present, members of the Board who are not members
of the Committee may attend only as observers.**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Discussion and Approval of "Problem Statement", Goals, and Purpose of Task Force
3. Discussion of Types of Medical Errors and Identification of Those for Future Discussion/Presentation
4. Discussion of Future Meeting Dates for 2008
5. Agenda Items for Future Discussion
6. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda
7. Adjournment

The mission of the Medical Board of California is to protect healthcare consumers through the proper licensing and regulation of physicians and surgeons and certain allied healthcare professions and through the vigorous, objective enforcement of the Medical Practice Act and to promote access to quality medical care through the Board's licensing and regulatory functions.

Meetings of the Medical Board of California are open to the public except when specifically noticed otherwise in accordance with the Public Meetings Act. The audience will be given appropriate opportunities to comment on any issue before the Board, but the Chair may apportion available time among those who wish to speak.

For additional information call (916) 263-2389.

NOTICE: *The meeting is accessible to the physically disabled. A person who needs disability-related accommodations or modifications in order to participate in the meeting shall make a request to the Board no later than five working days before the meeting by contacting Teresa Schaeffer at (916) 263-2389 or sending a written request to Ms. Schaeffer at the Medical Board of California, 1426 Howe Avenue, Suite 54, Sacramento, CA 95825. Requests for further information should be directed to the same address and telephone number*

State of California

Department of Consumer Affairs

Medical Board of California

January 15, 2008

To: Members
From: Janie Cordray, Research Director
Subject: Medical Errors Task Force Meeting

The following is offered to assist with discussion:

Objective/Problem Statement of Task Force:

The following statement may be useful in initiating the discussion:

Since the IOM report "To Err is Human" was published, there has been tremendous discussion, as well as legislation, to promote the reduction of medical errors. Traditionally, the Medical Board has played its part in patient protection through its mandated responsibility of disciplining physicians, without great involvement in quality improvement initiatives. The Board would like to examine its role to determine if it could provide greater public protection by becoming involved in initiatives to reduce medical errors, or how it might provide assistance.

Work of the Task Force:

The following elements may be useful to consider:

- Examine the extent of the medical error problem in California, and how the Board's licensees contribute to or remedy the problems;
- Learn from those in the healthcare delivery systems (physicians, hospitals, societies, associations, medical schools, and others) how they are addressing medical errors, and the success of current programs or initiatives;
- Examine how the current Medical Board system of discipline, mandatory reporting, and other programs may inhibit or assist addressing medical errors in various settings;
- Examine how the Board may assist organizations, societies, facilities, or others in their efforts to reduce medical errors.

IOM categories of medical errors:

Diagnostic:

- Error or delay in diagnosis
- Failure to employ indicated tests
- Use of outmoded tests or therapy
- Failure to act on results of monitoring or testing

Treatment:

Error in the performance of an operation, procedure or test
Error in administering the treatment
Error in the dose or method of using a drug
Avoidable delay in treatment or in responding to an abnormal test
Inappropriate (not indicated) care

Preventive:

Failure to provide prophylactic treatment
Inadequate monitoring or follow-up of treatment

Other:

Failure of communication
Equipment failure
Other system failure

Possible Major Topics for Discussion at Future Meetings:

- Assessing the Current Environment - Statistical data on errors, literature, current programs, and initiatives;
- Reluctance of physicians to report medical errors - encouraging participation in reporting;
- California reporting laws and the disciplinary process; how it helps or hinders the reporting and addressing of medical errors;
- Potential opportunity for the Medical Board to assist in the reduction of medical errors