

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

DATE REPORT ISSUED: June 30, 2018
ATTENTION: Members, Licensing Committee
SUBJECT: Continuing Medical Education Audits
STAFF CONTACT: April Alameda, Chief of Licensing

REQUESTED ACTION:

This report provides the Committee Members with an update on continuing medical education (CME) audits at the Medical Board of California (Board). No action is needed at this time.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

California law requires, as a condition of renewal, physician and surgeons, special faculty permit holders, and midwives to complete the required hours of approved CME during each two-year period immediately preceding the expiration date of the license or permit. In addition to fulfilling CME requirements, licensees and permit holders must maintain documentation of the CME for a minimum of four years. These records are required to be submitted to the Board to demonstrate compliance, if audited.

In October 2013, the Board delayed the random audits due to the conversion to the online BreZE system and the need to make changes to the system. In May 2016, the Board resumed CME audits. The Board randomly audits all licensees and permit holders each month. Based upon a random sampling, letters are sent requesting proof of completion of the required CME hours. The Board then audits the information to determine if the licensee is in compliance with the requirements.

California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1338(c) and 1379.28(c), in part, states that it is considered unprofessional conduct for any licensee or permit holder to misrepresent compliance with CME requirements.

PROGRAM UPDATE

The audits conducted by the Licensing Program will increase to 10% a month to ensure sufficient compliance and to enhance consumer protection. The number will increase from approximately 110 to 1,100 audits, per month. This change will take effect by the end of the year.

In addition, effective May 2018, the Board reinstated issuing an administrative citation and fine to a licensee or permit holder that misrepresents him or herself by signing under penalty of perjury on the renewal form compliance with the CME requirement, but found to be non-compliant.