The Medical Board’s Website
Then and Now

By Susan Wolbarst and Charlotte Clark

The Medical Board of California launched its first website in 1996, a simple web page with hyperlinks to information regarding Physician and Surgeon licensure in the state of California. It also provided consumers with information on how to choose a doctor or, if needed, how to file a complaint against a doctor.

Website (continued on page 4)

The Mission of the Medical Board of California

The mission of the Medical Board of California is to protect health care consumers through the proper licensing and regulation of physicians and surgeons and certain allied health care 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.
Board President Dr. Dev Gnanadev highlights his and Vice President Denise Pines’ testimony during the Board’s Sunset Review Hearing on February 27, 2017, with the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee, and the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. Please read some of the various improvements and accomplishments the Board has made during the last four years since its last Sunset Review.

Speaking of improvements, please read the lead article on the development, changes, and future enhancements involving the Board’s website.

Wondering why you have not received your pocket license? Find out some common reasons why it did not make it to your mailbox and where it may be stranded. Please see page 12.

Did you know patients are having trouble getting copies of their medical records, which they are entitled to by state law? Are you aware the amount that can be charged for them is explicitly spelled out in the law? Judging from the number of phone calls the Medical Board of California receives on this topic, education on this issue may be needed. Please see page 18 to find out what is required when a patient asks for copies of his or her medical records.

What is the leading cause of cancer mortality in California? Hint: it is not breast, colorectal, prostate or pancreatic cancers. Please see page 7 to find the answer and read about screening recommendations.

Medi-Cal’s recent policy changes make it easier to ensure that low-income adult patients are up to date on their immunizations. Please see page 15 for details.

Need A Speaker?
If you would like a speaker from the Medical Board of California to address your organization, please contact Public Affairs Manager Cassandra Hockenson at Cassandra.hockenson@mbc.ca.gov.
The Medical Board had its Sunset Review Hearing on February 27, 2017, before the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee and the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. I had the pleasure, along with Vice President Denise Pines, to testify at the hearing on behalf of the Board, and respond to specific subjects pertaining to the Board’s licensing and enforcement responsibilities. Since the Board’s Sunset Review in 2013 a lot has been accomplished.

During the last four years the elimination of opioid misuse and abuse has been one of the Board’s main focal points, with the primary goal to improve patient outcomes and reduce prescription overdose deaths. The Prescribing Task Force was formed and started meeting in the fall of 2013, inviting all interested parties and stakeholders to attend their meetings, share knowledge, and give input regarding the Board’s development of new Guidelines to Prescribing Controlled Substances for Pain. These new guidelines were completed and made public in November of 2014. In 2014 the Board also developed two Public Service Announcements, one addressing physicians and another with Olympic swimmer Natalie Coughlin addressing the consumer. They are currently available on YouTube and on the Board’s website.

The Board established a data use agreement with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to receive death certificates when the death is related to opioids, allowing the Board to use the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) to identify physicians who may be prescribing inappropriately.

The Board’s Outpatient Surgery Settings Task Force, based on stakeholder feedback on proposed statutory changes to protect consumers, sought legislation to require adverse event reports occurring at these facilities be sent to the Board rather than CDPH. Now the Board can evaluate the facility as well as look into care provided by the physicians. Legislation was also recommended requiring all physicians within Outpatient Surgery Settings (OSS) to have peer review, shorter time frames for the initial accreditation, and a requirement for OSS to check for peer review information for all physicians working within the facility.

The Board now has an active Twitter account and began a significant campaign in 2015, “Check up on Your Doctor’s License,” to educate consumers on the importance of being proactive regarding their health care and all the information available on the Board’s website regarding licensure, disciplinary actions taken against a physician, as well as any terms of probation. Also, AB 1886 was passed, providing more transparency by posting documents regarding serious disciplinary actions on the Board’s website for as long as they remain public.

The Board looks forward to working with the Senate and Assembly to seek legislation that will assist the Board in meeting its mission of consumer protection through the Sunset Review process.
While that early version seems primitive today, it represented a huge advantage for anyone who owned or had access to a computer. In the website’s earliest days, the only way to check on a doctor’s license was to call or write to the Board.

The Board’s website has grown considerably in 21 years – incorporating new technology every step of the way – including a responsive design template, which adjusts the size of the website for viewing on mobile phones, tablets, laptops or desktops without losing functionality.

Visitors to the website can view current laws and regulations relating to the practice of medicine, obtain general information for medical consumers and general practice information for physicians on various topics, such as chronic disease prevention resources. Physicians can access the Board’s Guidelines for Prescribing Controlled Substances for Pain and other published materials. In addition, the Board’s website is a source of interactive forms.

Need help finding information? Use the ‘Search MBC’ function located in the top right corner of all the pages. Ask questions and get answers from the Webmaster.

In October 2013, the Department of Consumer Affairs launched its BreEze Online License System. BreEze enables consumers to file a complaint against a physician online, check whether their physicians have had any disciplinary actions taken against their license, and check whether a person claiming to be a physician is licensed to practice medicine in California. Additionally, BreEze has information on licensees with certain misdemeanor convictions, felony convictions, malpractice information, hospital disciplinary actions, and any actions taken by another state or federal agency.

What physicians seem to like most about the Board’s website and its portal with BreEze is the ability to renew an expiring license in real time. Instead of having to wait four to six weeks to receive a renewed license, as is the case when physicians mail in a renewal form with a check, it takes an average of 15 minutes to get the job done online with a credit card.

Like renewing a license, almost every task has gotten easier in the 21 years the Board has had a website. Licensees can also update their address of record or email address, complete their physician survey, or request verification letters.

The Consumer Reports and the Informed Patient Institute, a nonprofit patient safety group, analyzed the websites of boards in all 50 states and rated them on a 1-to-100 scale by search capabilities, the types of information one could find about a doctor, instructions and ease of filing a complaint and general information available about the medical board’s operations. The Medical Board ranked the highest in the country, with a score of 84. (Source: Consumer Reports, May 2016)
What does the future hold for the website? The Board will be updating the BreEZe Online Licensing System to streamline the Physician and Surgeon application and renewal processes, as well as adding additional license types (i.e., Fictitious Name Permits, Licensed Midwives, and Research Psychoanalysts) to apply and renew their licenses online.

In addition, enhancements to the license lookup are planned for late fall/winter 2017. Not only will there be an increase in speed/response when performing queries, users will have the ability to refine searches by location, status, and other parameters. Another feature will enable licensees to place direct links on their business or social media websites that consumers can click on to go directly to the physician’s license profile.

For general questions about online license renewal, contact the Medical Board’s Consumer Information Unit at (800) 633-2322 or (916) 263-2382, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For technical support, contact the Medical Board’s Help Desk specialists at (916) 263-2205, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Shasta County Fraud Prevention Fair A Huge Success**

On March 8, 2017, the Shasta County District Attorney’s Office held their 2nd annual Senior and Veteran Fraud Prevention Fair at the Red Lion Hotel in Redding. Forty-five different agencies participated in the event, which drew over four hundred attendees.

“With forty-five agencies participating and setting up booths, we were at full capacity and even had a waiting list,” said Senior Deputy District Attorney Anand “Lucky” Jesran.

The Medical Board of California (Board) provided information on the importance of “checking up on your doctor’s license” as well as information on the Board’s mission. Public Affairs Manager Cassandra Hockenson was one of several people chosen to speak and she gave a presentation stressing the importance of being an informed patient. She also provided information about how to file a complaint with the Board, and information regarding opioid prescription drugs and the Board’s prescribing guidelines.

Over 200 “Check up on Your Doctor’s License” instructional brochures were handed out, and Ms. Hockenson, along with Web Services Team Manager Charlotte Clark, checked on physician licenses for many attendees at the Board’s booth. Participants were very much engaged and asked great questions. Most were surprised to learn how easy it was to check a physician’s license.
Legislator Profile: Rudy Salas

Assemblymember Rudy Salas was born and raised in California’s Central Valley.

Since being elected to the California State Assembly in 2012, he has successfully represented the interests of families in the Central Valley. In his two terms, Assemblymember Salas co-authored the $7.5 billion water bond for safe drinking water and water storage projects, saved $4 million for agriculture education programs that serve Future Farmers of America programs in local schools, secured $15 million in the budget for job training and millions more for local schools and disability services. He also authored legislation to stabilize Kern Medical Center and bring more doctors to the Central Valley.

Additionally, Salas has kept neighborhoods safe by leading the charge to re-open local community correctional facilities, securing $5 million for Kings County public safety services, and authoring legislation to shut down illegal gambling cafes, protect veterans from discrimination, and improve pipeline safety.

As Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions, Assemblymember Salas oversees all legislation that relates to professional licensing and changes to regulatory entities under the Department of Consumer Affairs. The issues that come before the committee are complex and engage a broad range of stakeholders including health, educational, and occupational groups.

Assemblymember Salas currently serves on the following Assembly Committees: Chair, Business and Professions; Agriculture; Governmental Organization; Veterans Affairs; Chair, Regional Approaches to Addressing the State’s Water Crisis; Chair, Workforce and Vocational Development in California; and Renewable Energy Economy in rural California. He also serves as a member of the California Workforce Investment Board.

On his path to public service, Salas held several jobs to save for college, including working in the farm and oil fields. He graduated from University of California, Los Angeles with two degrees, went to work at the White House, and later returned home to work at California State University, Bakersfield.

His passion for public service led him to the state Capitol where he served as legislative staff and locally as District Director. Shortly after, Salas realized his dream of representing and fighting for his community by becoming the first Latino to serve on the Bakersfield City Council. He now has the honor of serving in the California Legislature representing the 32nd Assembly District, comprised of part of the city of Bakersfield as well as the cities of Arvin, Avenal, Corcoran, Delano, Hanford, Lemoore, McFarland, Shafter, and Wasco; and the communities of Armona, Buttonwillow, Home Garden, Kettleman City, Lamont, Lost Hills, Stratford and Weedpatch.
Low Dose Computed Tomography Screening Can Save Patients’ Lives

By California Department of Public Health and California Dialogue on Cancer

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer mortality in California, killing almost as many patients as breast, colorectal, and prostate cancers combined.\(^{(1)}\) In 2013, roughly 17,000 new cases of lung cancer were diagnosed in California, accounting for about 10 percent of all cancer diagnoses. In regard to survival, national statistics reveal that only 16 percent of lung cancers are diagnosed at a localized stage, when the disease is potentially curable. For others with regional or disseminated disease, 44 percent have a relative survival rate of one year and 17 percent have a relative survival rate of five years. Low dose computed tomography (low dose CT or LDCT) lung cancer screening is an important tool in diagnosis of lung cancer.

Results of the National Lung Screening Trial (NLST), published in 2011 in the New England Journal of Medicine,\(^{(2)}\) prompted recommendations for LDCT lung cancer screening of high risk groups by the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) and other prestigious organizations. The NLST was the biggest randomized control trial ever conducted, with centers across the United States. Nearly 54,000 patients at high risk for lung cancer were screened with either low dose CT or single view posterior/anterior chest radiography between August 2002 and April 2004. Data were collected on lung cancer cases and deaths that occurred through December 2009. There were 247 deaths per 100,000 person-years in the LDCT arm, compared with 309 deaths per 100,000 person-years in the radiograph group, representing a 20 percent relative reduction in deaths in the LDCT arm (p=0.0004). Based on the results of this study, the USPSTF upgraded its recommendation regarding LDCT lung cancer screening,\(^{(3, 4)}\) recommending annual screening in persons who are at high risk based on age and cumulative tobacco smoke exposure. More recently, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provided a similar recommendation, with the following criteria for coverage:\(^{(5)}\)

- Age 55–77 years;
- Asymptomatic (no signs or symptoms of lung cancer);
- Tobacco smoking history of at least 30 pack-years (one pack-year = smoking one pack per day for one year; one pack = 20 cigarettes);
- Current smoker or one who has quit smoking within the last 15 years; and
- Lung cancer screening counseling and shared decision-making discussion have taken place, with documentation of risks (e.g., false positive results and concerns about radiation exposure) and benefits of LDCT.

Cancer Mortality. Observed cancer deaths in California, 2013.\(^{(1)}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cancer Site</th>
<th>Deaths per 100,000 Person-Years</th>
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<td>12408</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colon &amp; Rectum</td>
<td>5157</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breast</td>
<td>4407</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prostate</td>
<td>3111</td>
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Screening (continued on page 8)
Screening (continued from page 7)

Several websites provide resources for both patients and their health care professionals to help facilitate discussions about lung cancer screening with LDCT.\(^6\),\(^7\) A low dose CT takes about five minutes to complete. The patient lies on a table with arms over head as the machine scans the chest. Patients may be asked to hold their breath for three to five seconds at a time, and most patients report no discomfort at all.

There are some challenges to implementing lung cancer screening programs according to the CMS guidelines. The screening institution must have a multidisciplinary team that regularly meets and reviews screening cases, cases have to be documented and uploaded to a national database to report outcomes, and a robust smoking cessation program must be available as part of the screening program. Even with these challenges, there are close to 40 hospitals and cancer centers across California designated as lung cancer Screening Centers of Excellence which are now offering this service.

The California Dialogue on Cancer encourages health care professionals to screen patients who fit the above criteria.

For more information on lung cancer screening, as well as tools and resources to help clinicians and others make informed decisions, see the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality’s website at https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/tools-and-resources/patient-decision-aids/lung-cancer-screening/.

References


Q. I received a Public Letter of Reprimand last year. How long is this posted on the Medical Board of California’s website?

A. A Public Letter of Reprimand or Public Reprimand issued before or after the filing of formal charges in a disciplinary matter is available on the website for ten (10) years; however, a copy can be requested indefinitely.

A Public Letter of Reprimand issued at the time of licensure for a non-disciplinary administrative action issued under Business and Professions Code section 2221.05 is available for three (3) years from the date of the letter. After the three years, the letter is destroyed and is no longer available.

Q. Does my medical assistant need a phlebotomy certificate from the Department of Public Health in order to draw blood on my patients?

A. No. A medical assistant is not required to have a phlebotomy certificate to draw blood on the patients in your office. However, as the supervising physician, you must verify that the medical assistant has received the minimum training required by law and is deemed by you to be proficient in performing the procedure.

Q. As a California licensed physician, am I permitted to perform an examination by telehealth in order to recommend medicinal marijuana?

A. The initial examination for the condition for which marijuana is being recommended can be performed through telehealth; however, the exam must be appropriate for the patient’s complaints and symptoms and meet the standard of care. Telehealth, in compliance with Business and Professions Code section 2290.5, is a tool in the practice of medicine and does not change the standard of care. The physician must comply with all other applicable codes and regulations that apply to the practice of medicine.

Q. I heard that I am no longer required to pay the $12 CURES fee when I renew my retired medical license. Is this correct?

A. Beginning July 1, 2017, physicians who hold a California medical license in retired, disabled, or inactive status are no longer required to pay the $12 CURES fee.

Q. How do I renew my DEA license?

A. Your DEA license is renewed through the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Your DEA license is renewed by completing DEA Form 224a either online or by mail. For additional information regarding a renewal and to access the renewal form, please click on the following DEA link and then click on “Renewal Information Online.”  https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drugreg/index.html#regapps

Have a question?
If you have a question, write to Webmaster@mbc.ca.gov. Although only some questions may be featured here in “YOU ASKED FOR IT,” all questions will receive an email response, so let us hear from you.
Diabetes Deaths Growing in Californians Under 55

The number of Californians under age 55 dying from Type II Diabetes is expanding at a rapid rate, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In 1999, just 24 California residents in that age bracket died from Type II Diabetes, a condition strongly correlated with obesity. In 2015, 390 Californians under age 55 died of Type II Diabetes. According to the CDC, death rates are rising in all racial groups, but especially in African Americans and Native Americans. Nearly twice as many men as women are dying of the disease. CDC has partnered with the National Diabetes Education Program to offer free resources on preventing Type II Diabetes targeted by patient ethnicity at: https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/health-communication-programs/ndep/ndep-health-topics/ethnicity/Pages/default.aspx.

New Hepatitis C Treatments Change the Game

Direct-acting antivirals revolutionized hepatitis C treatment in 2014, according to the World Health Organization. Real-world cure rates now exceed 90 percent, including among people who are unstably housed and/or using street drugs. Most cases can now be treated in primary care settings in 8-12 weeks. For more information on treating hepatitis C, visit: www.hepatitisc.uw.edu.

NEW Online Training for Providers

Today, CDC launches the first in a series of interactive, online trainings for health care providers. These trainings feature the recommendations in the Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain, providing sample scenarios, feedback, and resources. This series is intended to help health care providers:

- Communicate effectively with patients about opioid use
- Decide when to initiate or continue opioid therapy
- Offer appropriate nonopioid options for pain management
- Assess and address risks and harms of opioid use

The first training, and all future ones to be added, will be available for continuing education credit and can be found on the CDC Training web page.
Dr. Anthony Mrbudich was born and raised in Glendale, Arizona. During high school and college, his involvement as a swim coach and chemistry tutor sparked his interest in becoming a teacher. That goal changed after he started shadowing a physician during college at the University of California, Berkeley. "I discovered the role that physicians play as educators in nearly every single visit. Coming from a family in which none of my family members were in the medical field, I found it very useful to shadow a physician and ask about what a career in medicine looks like."

After graduating from UC Berkeley, he went to medical school at Loyola University in Chicago, then trained as a family and community medicine physician through the University of California, San Francisco at San Francisco General Hospital.

What made him choose family practice medicine? "I found the concept of cradle to grave medicine to be the best of all worlds. While I knew I was dedicated to primary care, I was uncertain if I was ready to give up the opportunity to treat either adults or children. I chose to pursue a career in family medicine because I wanted to have the opportunity to provide medical care for entire families. With strong interests in education and outpatient care, as well as a belief that health care is a right for all, I chose family medicine with a vision of working at a community health center like La Clinica de La Raza," Dr. Mrbudich said.

"As a full-time family medicine physician at La Clinica in Vallejo, I have various responsibilities on a 'typical' day. I spend the majority of my time providing primary care, urgent care, and prenatal care for adult and pediatric patients. I perform minor procedures, including joint aspirations and injections, excisional biopsies, endometrial biopsies, IUD placement, contraceptive implant insertion and removal, and abscess care," he said.

Many different languages are spoken by patients at Dr. Mrbudich’s clinic. He is proficient in Spanish and experienced in using medical interpreters, which allows him to discuss treatment and care with his patients.

"In addition to caring for my patients, I also discuss clinical cases with physician assistants and nurse practitioners in our office. As a teaching faculty member of the Kaiser Napa-Solano family medicine residency, I also mentor resident physicians and medical students in my primary care and urgent care clinics."

“My favorite part of my job is getting to know the patients that I serve and partnering with them to improve their health and wellness. Furthermore, I have a passion for education which carries through all aspects of my job, from teaching patients to educating future primary care providers. I feel honored to get to work with such inspiring, hard-working, and caring patients and medical providers.”

He singles out communication between hospital systems as the most challenging aspect of his job.

In terms of advice he would offer to young people interested in becoming doctors, "I would advise them to not be afraid to ask questions. If you are interested in medicine, seek out opportunities to find mentors within the field."

Dr. Mrbudich feels very lucky to have the opportunity to participate in the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program (STLRP). “From volunteering at a local community health center in medical school to my residency at San Francisco General Hospital, I have had a long-standing commitment to providing medical care in underserved communities. The STLRP has further allowed me to sustain this commitment. I have pride in being a recipient of the STLRP and in being a primary care physician at La Clinica.”

When he is not working, Dr. Mrbudich enjoys outdoor activities, especially hiking and snowboarding with his wife.
Why Haven't I Received My Pocket License?

By Susan Wolbarst

The Medical Board of California (Board) receives numerous inquiries every day from physicians who have renewed their licenses, but have not received their pocket licenses.

Board Management Services Technician Josephine Fernandez knows the extent of the problem. She has a nearly four-foot-long drawer full of new and renewed licenses which were mailed to physicians, but were returned to the Board because they were undeliverable.

The Board mails out about 1,000 licenses per week. All are sent by first-class mail, so they will be forwarded if the post office has a forwarding address.

When first licensed by the Board, physicians are sent a wall certificate and a pocket license (sometimes called a wallet card). After that, when they renew every two years, they receive a pocket license only. This pocket license contains an expiration date, while the original wall certificate does not.

When an undeliverable license is returned to the Board, Ms. Fernandez checks BreEZe to see if the physician has provided a new address. If so, she re-mails it to the new address. If not, she uses the telephone or email to attempt to contact the physician. Should these fail, she is pretty much out of options. “If I can’t reach them, I wait for them to contact the Board,” she explained.

Physicians are required to provide an address of record to the Board, which is the mailing address the Board uses to send official correspondence to the licensee, including new and renewed licenses. “The Board sends the license to the address provided by the physician,” Ms. Fernandez said. This address is public and shows on the physician’s profile in BreEZe. If a physician uses a post office box as an address of record, he or she is also required to supply the Board with a “physical address” where the physician can be found. In such a case, that second address is confidential (not available to the public).

Business and Professions Code section 2021(b) requires physicians to notify the Board within 30 days of any change to their address of record. Any physician who does not do so can be issued a citation and a fine.

License (continued on page 16)
March 21, 2017

Dear Health Care Provider/Prescriber,

As you are aware, the overuse of prescription opioids has become a national epidemic. In California, there were 1,966 opioid-related overdose deaths in 2015. On behalf of the Statewide Prescription Opioid Misuse and Overdose Prevention Workgroup and partners, I am contacting you to offer resources to assist you in addressing this critical issue with your patients including:

- strategies for assisting high-risk patients
- medication-assisted treatment certification programs
- local addiction recovery services locator
- information about CURES (California’s prescription drug monitoring program)
- opioid prescribing guidelines
- opioid prescriber resource sheet

Please see the sections below for brief descriptions on each topic and a link to all resources at the bottom of this letter.

**Don’t “Fire” Your Patients Who May Be Over-using Opioids**

We recognize providing safe and effective pain management can be challenging. We understand there are multiple complexities to be considered in pain management when treating patients with acute and chronic pain. One of the most difficult situations for prescribers may be how to respond to patients with difficulty decreasing opioid intake or with other possible addiction symptoms. It is our hope that these resources can help you maintain your clinical relationship with your patients who are using opioid medications and improve their overall well-being. These patients may need your assistance more than ever.

**Clinician Tools for Assisting Patients on Opioids**

Patients on high doses of opioids are at increased risk of overdose and diminishing function. Tapering a patient, weaning them from higher opioid doses, can be an important first step to reducing overdose risk and improving function. It is also helpful to maintain ongoing communication with your patient about your concern for their wellbeing and your commitment to safe prescribing. A variety of tools are available on the prescriber resource sheet (link below) including a tapering pocket guide, telephone consultation services, an opioid overdose toolkit, and more.
Medication-Assisted Treatment
When addiction is confirmed, the use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) such as buprenorphine has proven highly effective in lowering overdose risk, decreasing HIV and hepatitis C, and increasing patient retention in treatment. If you are not already certified to prescribe buprenorphine, consider obtaining a certification. There are several online MAT training programs available for prescribers.

Referral and Treatment Service Locators
If you are unable to provide medication assisted treatment yourself, refer patients to an opioid treatment program or other drug recovery program within your community. Access to more information about local addiction recovery services is readily available.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program - CURES
An important tool for identifying patients at risk is the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES). CURES can be accessed relatively easily, and checking CURES with each new patient, and every four months thereafter, will soon be required by law. In the next few months, the Medical Board of California will send additional information specifically about CURES and how to best utilize it.

Prescribing Guidelines for Opioids and Controlled Substance for Pain
Both the Medical Board of California (MBC) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines provide information about best practices for prescribing opioids, options for non-pharmacological treatment of pain symptoms, along with recommendations for those patients presenting with symptoms of addiction. Abbreviated versions of these guidelines are also available.

To access the above mentioned resources and tools – please scan this QRC code below with your mobile device. It will quickly take you to a resource sheet for opioid prescribers with helpful links.

![Opioid Prescribers Resource Sheet]

Also available at this URL:
http://www.cdph.ca.gov/PrescriberResources

Healthcare prescribers are essential partners in ending this epidemic. Working together, we want to ensure that California prescribers have access to resources and support to help improve patient pain management, while avoiding opioid overdose and addiction. Thank you for providing quality medical care to your patients in need of effective pain management.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer
California Department of Public Health
Recent Medi-Cal policy changes have made it easier to ensure your adult patients are up to date on their immunizations. The Medi-Cal Fee-For-Service (FFS) contract drug list now includes all Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)-recommended adult immunizations as a pharmacy benefit (see January 2016 and September 2016 Medi-Cal Pharmacy Bulletins). The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) subsequently released an All Plan Letter requiring Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs) to also offer these adult immunizations on their pharmacy formulary. Currently, all Medi-Cal MCPs cover some, if not all, ACIP-recommended adult immunizations as a pharmacy benefit. In time, all Medi-Cal MCPs will cover all the immunizations as they update their formularies. Contact the specific health plan for details; ask for a list of in-network pharmacies in your area that stock adult vaccines, so you know where to refer patients if you cannot immunize on-site.

For Prenatal Care Providers in the Medi-Cal Program

Additionally, Medi-Cal expanded their Presumptive Eligibility (PE) program for pregnant women to offer a full range of influenza vaccine products. Medi-Cal, including emergency-only and pregnancy-related Medi-Cal, also covers the provision of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) immunizations to pregnant women at in-network pharmacies. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and DHCS have released a letter urging you to have a strong plan in place to ensure Tdap vaccination is given at the earliest opportunity between 27-36 weeks gestation of every pregnancy, regardless of mothers’ Tdap history, to maximize the transfer of maternal antibodies to protect the infant from whooping cough. This letter, in line with current ACIP recommendations and existing Medi-Cal policy, outlines expectations for providers who vaccinate on-site as well as for those referring patients to off-site vaccination. See the Prenatal Tdap Immunization flyer to find out where you can order FREE education materials to educate patients about the benefits of prenatal immunizations. For patients who decline prenatal immunizations despite your strong recommendation, you can use a modifiable declination form template featured in the California Academy of Family Physicians’ February 2017 newsletter. This declination form can help meet the Medi-Cal MCP requirement for providers to document patient immunization declinations (see DHCS Two Plan Boilerplate contract language in Exhibit A, Attachment 10, Section 6C http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/ImpRegSB2PlanBp32014.pdf).

Make a Strong Referral for Any Vaccinations Needed Off-Site

CDPH and DHCS recommend the following steps to ensure appropriate vaccination. If you do not currently vaccinate adults with all ACIP-recommended vaccines, make a strong referral; help patients identify an Immunizations (continued on page 16)
In addition to keeping their address of record current with the Board, physicians — especially new physicians — can help ensure receipt of their mail by confirming that their names are listed in the hospital mail room. If this is not done, and the person sorting the mail has never heard of them, their pocket license may be destined to spend some time in Ms. Fernandez’s drawer. She has received returned licenses marked “not at this Hospital” when a doctor is working there. Other returned licenses have post office messages saying, “post office box closed,” “post office box vacant” and “undeliverable.” Sometimes the address provided to the Board is incomplete, triggering a return. She encourages physicians to make sure to add a suite number, a room number, a department name, or whatever other direction is needed to assist the post office in making a delivery.

“If a physician has not received a pocket license within six weeks from issuance of a license or renewal, they should contact me at Josephine.fernandez@mbc.ca.gov.”

Note: Pursuant to law, a physician with an email address must also provide that to the Board and keep it current. Email addresses are confidential.

License (continued from page 12)

Changing locations?
Remember: a change of address of record must be reported to the Medical Board of California within 30 days at:


(Business and Professions Code section 2021(b))

Immunization (continued from page 15)

In-network pharmacy covered by their insurance that stocks the vaccine(s) they need. For those enrolled in Medi-Cal MCPs, the member services number is located on the back of their Medi-Cal card. For patients enrolled in Medi-Cal FFS, call 1-800-541-5555 (or if calling from a cell phone with an out-of-state area code, call 916-636-1980). Follow up at subsequent appointments to ensure your patient was vaccinated.

Use the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) to document any vaccines administered and to confirm receipt of vaccination at a pharmacy. New pharmacy regulations require that pharmacists notify the primary care provider and prenatal care provider, if applicable and known, about immunizations administered to their patients and report immunizations administered into the state or regional immunization registry within 14 days of administration.

If you have questions regarding Medi-Cal FFS, contact the Medi-Cal Provider Helpline number listed above. Contact your respective Medi-Cal MCP provider line with any Medi-Cal MCP questions. Learn more about Medi-Cal Eligibility online.
National Coalition Against Drug Abuse Expo

The National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse held its 3rd annual Dose of Awareness 5K Walk/Health Expo on Sunday, March 26, 2017, at Ygnacio Valley Park in Concord. In spite of stormy weather, the event had a great turnout. Many participated in the walk and carried a sign with a picture in memory of someone who lost their life to prescription drugs. Many participants, including the Medical Board, had booths educating attendees on everything from alternatives to opioids, rehabilitation programs, and even free Naloxone and a class on how to use it. The Board’s Public Affairs Manager Cassandra Hockenson gave a presentation on the Board’s prescribing guidelines and the importance of being a proactive health consumer and checking up on a physician’s license, as well as how to file a complaint with the Board. The Board was honored to be a part of this important educational community event for the third time.

Expert reviewer applications are accepted continuously!

If you live in California and have a full-time active practice in California, apply to be an expert reviewer (expert) for the Medical Board of California (Board). The Board established its Expert Reviewer Program in July 1994 as an impartial and professional means to support its investigation and enforcement functions. Experts assist the Board by providing reviews and opinions on Board cases and conducting professional competency examinations, medical and psychiatric evaluations.

The Board is currently looking for experts in the following specialties: allergy and immunology; addiction medicine with added certification in family medicine or internal medicine or psychiatry; colon/rectal surgery; dermatology; family medicine; neurological surgery; neurology; pathology (preferably from the following counties: Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, and Ventura); pain medicine; pediatric gastroenterology; pediatric surgery; pediatric cardiac surgery; pediatric pulmonology; psychiatry (forensic and addiction); surgery (general and endocrine surgery); thoracic surgery (cardiac surgery); urology; and vascular surgery. midwife reviewers.

Actively practicing physicians from all other specialties not listed above are also welcome to apply and participate in the program. Physicians must be board certified and have practiced in their specialty for a minimum of three years after board certification, have no current complaints, no prior discipline, and must be willing and available to testify in court.

The Board also needs midwife expert reviewers throughout the state of California. Midwives must have an active midwifery practice for the past two years, have no current complaints, no prior discipline, and must be willing and available to testify in court.

For more information regarding compensation and how to apply, please visit: www.mbc.ca.gov/enforcement/expert_reviewer/ or email the Board’s expert program at MBCMedicalExpertProgram@mbc.ca.gov.
Providing Medical Records

By Susan Wolbarst

Hardly a day goes by that the Medical Board of California (Board) doesn’t receive phone calls and emails from consumers attempting to obtain copies of their medical records.

Medical records are defined as records relating to the health history, diagnosis, or condition of a patient, or relating to treatment provided or proposed to be provided to the patient. This includes films and tracings from diagnostic procedures such as x-ray, CT, PET, MRI, ultrasound, etc.

**Medical Records and the Law**

Medical records are not owned by the patient. They are the property of the medical provider (or facility) that prepares them. However, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 123110, the patient (or the patient’s representative) has a legal right to see them and to obtain copies of most records. (An exception is mental health records if the physician determines there is substantial risk of significant adverse or detrimental consequences to the patient if inspection or copying were permitted. Such exceptions are subject to specific conditions. See Health and Safety Code section 123115 for details.)

There is no central repository for medical records. The protocol a patient should follow – even if the physician is deceased – to obtain medical records is to put the request in writing and send it to the physician’s address of record, which can be located on the Board’s website [http://www.mbc.ca.gov](http://www.mbc.ca.gov) by clicking “License Search” and following the prompts. A physician is required to provide copies of medical records to the patient within 15 days of receiving the written request.

If a physician moves, retires, or dies, another physician may buy out or take over his or her practice. The “active” patients are usually notified by mail (as a courtesy) and told where to obtain their records. If the physician died and did not transfer the practice to someone else, the local Probate Court may be able to supply the name of the executor, who may be able to supply copies of the records.

A physician may charge “a reasonable fee” for costs of copying medical records. The fee cannot exceed 25 cents per page (or 50 cents if copied from microfilm). The physician may also charge “reasonable clerical costs,” which are not specifically defined in the law. If the physician’s office advises that a fee will be charged for the records, then the records do not have to be provided to the patient until the fee is paid.

If a consumer requests in writing that his or her medical records be transferred to a different physician, the first physician may transfer them to the other physician for free, as a professional courtesy, but is not required by law to do so.

A patient who has complied with the requirements outlined in the Health and Safety Code, but has not received his or her medical records from the physician after 15 days may file a complaint with the Board. The physician will be contacted to determine the reason for failing to provide copies of the patient’s medical records.

**Physicians’ Failure to Comply**

In addition to requests for information regarding how to get medical records, in fiscal year 2015-2016, the Board received 25 complaints relating to the allegation of “failed to provide records to patient/representative.” To put that in perspective, the total number of complaints filed during that time period for all reasons combined was 8,679.

The Board may take action against a physician for failing to provide patient medical records within the legal time limit. Such action can range from making sure the physician provides the consumer with copies of the records he or she requested to issuing a citation and fine or taking formal disciplinary action against the physician’s medical license.

Records (continued on page 19)
Records (continued from page 18)

Any adult patient who inspects his or her medical records pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 123111 has the right to provide a written addendum of up to 250 words to any item the patient believes to be incorrect or incomplete. The patient must clearly indicate in writing that he or she wants the addendum to be part of his or her medical record and give it to the health care provider. The provider must attach it to the medical records and include it when making a disclosure of the allegedly incomplete or incorrect portion of the patient’s records to a third party.

Keeping and Storing Medical Records

How long does a physician need to keep medical records? There is no general law requiring a physician to maintain medical records for a specific period of time. However, there are situations or government health plans that require a provider/physician to maintain records for a certain period of time. Several laws specify a three-year retention period: Welfare and Institutions Code section 14124.1 (which relates to Medi-Cal patients), Health and Safety Code section 1797.98e(b) (for services reimbursed by Emergency Medical Services Fund), and Health and Safety Code section 11191 (when a physician prescribes, dispenses or administers a Schedule II controlled substance). The Knox-Keene Act requires that HMO medical records be maintained a minimum of two years to ensure that compliance with the act can be validated by the Department of Managed Health Care. In Workers’ Compensation Cases, qualified medical evaluators must maintain medical-legal reports for five years. Health and Safety Code section 123145 indicates that providers who are licensed under section 1205 as a medical clinic shall preserve the records for seven years. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) require that providers submitting cost reports retain all patient records for at least five years after the closure of the cost report. CMS requires Medicare managed care program providers to retain patient records for 10 years. For more information, https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE1022.pdf.

Medical Consultants Needed

Especially from San Dimas, Valencia and Fresno areas

Are you interested in being an integral part of the Medical Board of California enforcement process? Do you have the ability to conduct interviews, exercise sound judgment in reviewing conflicting medical reports and preparing opinions, analyzing problems and taking appropriate action?

This is an excellent opportunity to help your community and obtain valuable experience. The Department of Consumer Affairs, Division of Investigation, Health Quality Investigation Unit is seeking well-qualified individuals to be Medical Consultants. Interested individuals must submit an application for examination; see link for additional information and instructions (https://jobs.ca.gov/JOBSGEN/5CACC.PDF). If you have any questions, please contact Division of Investigation, Health Quality Investigation Unit Commander Bob Pulido at (909) 421-5800 or email Robert.Pulido@mbc.ca.gov.

The HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) Privacy and Security Rules prohibit digital and paper medical records containing confidential information from being thrown away in a public dumpster or recycling bin until they have been rendered unreadable or indecipherable by shredding, burning or other destruction.

More information about medical records is available on the Board’s website at http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Consumer/Complaints_FAQ/Medical_Records_FAQ.aspx#6.

Editor’s note: a variant of this updated article was published in the Fall 2015 issue of the Newsletter.
Administrative Actions

November 1, 2016 – January 31, 2017

Physicians and Surgeons

ABRAMS, ANDREW ISAAC (A 122956), Tucson, AZ
No admissions but charged with violating the terms of his probation by having a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely and failing to obey all laws. Surrender of License. December 13, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=122956

ACCETTA, AUGUST DAVID, M.D. (G 61628), Bakersfield, CA
No admissions but charged with acts of gross negligence, repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, and prohibited from practicing cosmetic surgery for the first two years of probation. November 18, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=61628

ACHTEL, ROBERT ANDREW (G 21923), Carmichael, CA
No admissions but charged with acts of gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of four patients. Surrender of License. January 27, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=21923

ADAMS, CAMERON RUSSELL, M.D. (G 82192), Los Angeles, CA
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=82192

ADHAMI, JONATHAN (A 32998), Los Angeles, CA
Failed to comply with an order compelling a mental examination. Revoked. December 28, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=32998

Explanation of disciplinary language and actions

“Effective date of decision” — Example: “March 14, 2012” at the bottom of the summary means the date the disciplinary decision goes into operation.

“Gross negligence” — An extreme deviation or departure from the standard of care.

“Incompetence” — Lack of knowledge or skills in discharging professional obligations.

“Judicial review pending” — The disciplinary decision is being challenged through the court system, i.e., Superior Court, Court of Appeal, or State Supreme Court. The discipline is currently in effect.

“Probationary License” — A conditional license issued to an applicant with probationary terms and conditions. This is done when cause exists to deny the license application, but limitations can be put in place to protect the public.

“Public Letter of Reprimand” — A lesser form of discipline that can be negotiated after or in lieu of the filing of formal charges. The reprimand may include educational and clinical training requirements.

“Revoked” — The right to practice is ended due to disciplinary action. The license is invalidated, voided, annulled, or rescinded.

“Revoked, stayed, 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions, including 60 days suspension” — “Stayed” means the revocation is postponed. Professional practice may continue so long as the licensee complies with specified probationary terms and conditions which, in this example, includes 60 days of actual suspension from practice. Violation of any term of probation may result in the revocation that was postponed.

“Stipulated Decision or Settlement” — A form of plea bargaining. The case is formally negotiated and settled prior to hearing.

“Surrender” — To resolve a disciplinary action, the licensee has given up his or her license — subject to acceptance by the Board.

“Suspension from practice” — The licensee is prohibited from practicing for a specific period of time.
ALASIL, TAREK, M.D. (A 108797), Pasadena, CA
No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Massachusetts for failing to report to the hospital and to respond to calls to treat a patient. Physician must complete an ethics course. Public Reprimand. January 13, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=108797

ALEXSON, EDWARD ROBERT, M.D. (G 27314), Santa Ana, CA
Aided and abetted the unlicensed practice of medicine by failing to supervise a chemotherapy infusion center, such that an unlicensed staff member was allowed to, and did, mix and administer chemotherapy drugs to his patients. Physician must complete an ethics course. Public Reprimand. November 4, 2016 http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=27314

ARELLA, SALVADOR, A., M.D. (A 49797), Bell Canyon, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of four patients, repeated negligent acts, prescribing without an appropriate examination or medical indication, excessive prescribing and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of five patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 7 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing or possessing any controlled substances listed in Schedules II or III and no recommending marijuana for the first 3 years of probation; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; and completing a clinical training program. January 27, 2017 http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=49797

BARNARD, THOMAS JOSEPH (G 69454), Windsor, Ontario, Canada
No admissions but charged with being disciplined by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, Canada for signs of incompetence and failing to maintain the standard of practice of the profession in relation to the care of three patients. Surrender of License. December 14, 2016 http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=69454

BASCO, MICHAEL ANGELO (G 88898), Washington, D.C.
Disciplined by Maryland for engaging in sexual misconduct with a patient and an employee. Revoked. November 10, 2016 http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=88898

BEVAN, ALISON, M.D. (A 66187), Paradise, CA
Used alcohol to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to the licensee, or any other person or to the patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol, submitting to biological fluid testing, completing an ethics course, completing a clinical diagnostic evaluation, attending substance abuse support group meetings, obtaining a worksite monitor, and notification of employer. January 5, 2017 http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=66187

BUNCKE, ADELE CONSTANCE, M.D. (G 72447), San Mateo, CA
Convicted of a misdemeanor offense for driving with a blood alcohol level in excess of .08 percent and refusing the required blood or breath test, failed to report the conviction, and has a condition affecting her ability to practice medicine safely. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of alcohol and controlled substances, submitting to biological
fluid testing, notification of employer, obtaining a worksite monitor, completing an ethics course, attending substance abuse support group meetings, and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. January 13, 2017

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=72447

BURR, MICHAEL FRANCIS, M.D. (A 91751), Palmdale, CA
Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for failing to adequately monitor a patient’s cardiac rhythm, pulse oximetry, and blood pressure during a femoral nerve block and failed to adequately monitor the neuromuscular function following a pharmacologic paralysis on another patient. November 18, 2016

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=91751

CABLE, BRIAN MARCEL, M.D (G 80508), Redwood Valley, CA
No admissions but charged with negligence, dishonesty/corruption, and false documents in the care and treatment of two patients; and repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of three patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, a clinical training program, and obtaining a practice monitor. December 16, 2016

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=80508

CASSANI, CARLA MARIA, M.D. (G 53325), Mountain View, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of a patient. Physician must complete an education course and a medical record keeping course. Public Reprimand. December 16, 2016

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=53325

CASTELLINO, CONRAD JOACHIM, M.D. (A 52608), Merced, CA
Committed acts of repeated negligence and failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a prescribing practices course and a medical record keeping course. Public Reprimand. January 27, 2017

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=52608

CHAO, DAVID JEE WEI, M.D. (G 78677), San Diego, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, prescribing without performing an appropriate prior examination, failure to maintain adequate and accurate records, and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 4 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering or furnishing Ambien; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed and any recommendation or approval for marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; and obtaining a practice monitor. January 27, 2017

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=78677

CHARLAP, ROBERT STEVEN (G 85076), Canyon Country, CA
Respondent suffers from a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Committed acts of gross negligence and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of three patients; and prescribed without a medical indication, excessive prescribing and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of two patients. Surrender of License. December 16, 2016

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=85076
CHO, PETER YOUNG, M.D. (G 80908), Ukiah, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of two patients and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of three patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course and a clinical training program, and obtaining a practice monitor. January 27, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=80908

CHU, JOHN, M.D. (A 65326), Laguna Niguel, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence and furnishing drugs to an addict in the care and treatment of one patient; repeated negligent acts, prescribing dangerous drugs without an appropriate examination, excessive prescribing, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of four patients; and violation of statutes regulating drugs. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed and any recommendation or approval for marijuana, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; and prohibited from prescribing, furnishing, and/or providing samples of narcotics, dangerous drugs, and/or controlled substances to any family member. January 27, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=65326

CIRESI, KEVIN FRANCIS, M.D. (G 60858), Fresno, CA
Convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol on four occasions. Revoked, stayed, placed on 7 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol, notification of employer, submitting to biological fluid testing, attending substance abuse support group meetings, obtaining a worksite monitor, and completing an ethics course. November 10, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=60858

COHLER, LARRY FREDERIC, M.D. (G 47848), Bloomington, IL
Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for discipline in Illinois for disclosing hospital disciplinary actions on his application for reinstatement of license, which he failed to disclose at the time the discipline was issued. November 30, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=47848

COTSIRILOS, PETER JOHN, M.D. (G 66322), Yuba City, CA
No admissions but charged with acts of repeated negligence in the care and treatment of seven patients, and failure to maintain adequate records in the care and treatment of five patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 2 additional years of probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed and any recommendation or approval for marijuana, completing an education course, and obtaining a practice monitor. November 18, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=66322

DANIELS, SALMON PAUL, M.D. (G 43879), Los Angeles, CA
Committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligence, prescribing without a prior examination and medical indication, excessive prescribing, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of four patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, surrender of DEA permit, completing an education course, and obtaining a practice monitor. January 27, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=43879
DHALIWAL, SIMMI P., M.D. (A 63694) Pomona, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient, and repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 35 months’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course and a medical record keeping course, and obtaining a practice monitor. December 16, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=63694

DIMOWO, JOHN ORUYOPITA, M.D. (A 52501), Norco, CA
No admissions but charged with being convicted of seven misdemeanor counts of unlawful issuance of controlled substances. Revoked, stayed, placed on 7 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from prescribing any Schedule II or III controlled substances, or making a recommendation for the possession or cultivation of marijuana, maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed and any recommendation or approval for marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, an ethics course, and a clinical training program; and obtaining a practice monitor. January 19, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=52501

DING, DAVID TECK LOONG (A 32315), Paradise, CA
No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of one patient, and failure to participate in an interview with the Board. Surrender of License. December 16, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=32315

DISIBIO, GUY LEWIS, M.D. (A 89904), Redwood City, CA
No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of four patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 35 months’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, obtaining a practice monitor as specified, prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine, and prohibited from practicing Clinical Pathology. January 13, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=89904

DO, TRI MINH, M.D. (A 55472), Fresno, CA
No admissions but charged with being convicted of misappropriation of public funds by a county officer, a felony, and committing acts of dishonesty. Revoked, stayed, placed on 4 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an ethics course, obtaining a billing monitor, and prohibited from the management of and/or having fiduciary responsibility for any grant and/or research money. December 16, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=55472

DOMINGUEZ, RONALD ERIC, M.D. (A 114123), Kerman, CA
Convicted twice for driving with a blood alcohol level of .08 percent or higher and has a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Revoked, stayed, placed on 4 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol, notification of employer, submitting to biological fluid testing, attending substance abuse support group meetings and completing an ethics course. December 9, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=114123

DOMUSH, CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL, M.D. (A 86887), Long Beach
Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for failing to timely
assess or intervene in a patient’s delivery after not reassessing electronic fetal monitoring patterns.

November 3, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=86887

DORIN, ADAM FREDERIC, M.D. (G 86440), Irvine, CA
No admissions but charged with dishonest and corrupt acts and unprofessional conduct. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an ethics course. December 16, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=86440

DUER, ADAM COLE (A 92917), Roseville, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, prescribing to an addict, and excessive prescribing in the care and treatment of multiple patients. Surrender of License. January 1, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=92917

DUMAS, FREDERICK JOSEPH (A 32054), Mendocino, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, incompetence, repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of one patient. Surrender of License. November 30, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=32054

EGTEDAR, ASCAR, M.D. (A 40425), Las Vegas, NV
Disciplined in Nevada for having a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, a medical and psychiatric evaluation as a condition precedent to practicing, prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine, and obtaining a practice monitor. December 23, 2016. Judicial Review Pending.
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=40425

EWING, SCOTT DOUGLASS, M.D. (A 83530), Huntington Beach, CA
No admissions but charged with being convicted of possessing a controlled substance, a felony, and battery of a police officer, a misdemeanor, and driving under the influence of alcohol; failure to maintain and provide patient records; gross negligence, repeated negligent acts and incompetence in the care and treatment of two patients; dishonest acts and/or false representation; and dishonest acts and/or false or misleading advertising. Revoked, stayed, placed on 7 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing, or possessing any controlled substances; abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol; submitting to biological fluid testing; completing a clinical diagnostic evaluation; attending substance abuse support group meetings; obtaining a worksite monitor; completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, an ethics course, a professional boundaries program, and a clinical training program; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; during probation, prohibited from performing cosmetic surgery; and notification of employer. December 16, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=83530

FARBER, GARY MAURICE, M.D. (A 46359), Carlsbad, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence, excessive prescribing, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in his care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and obtaining a practice monitor. January 20, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=46359
FISHMAN, EUGENE L., M.D. (G 10992), Los Angeles, CA
No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts, prescribing without an appropriate prior examination or medical indication and excessive prescribing in the care and treatment of four patients; and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of five patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing or possessing any Schedule II and III controlled substances and shall not issue recommendation or approval for the possession or cultivation of marijuana for the first two years of probation; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed and any recommendation or approval for marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course; and obtaining a practice monitor. December 2, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=10992

FILLMORE, KIMBERLEY ELLEN, M.D. (G 74184), Stockton, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, incompetence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a medical record keeping course, a clinical training program, and a professional enhancement program. November 10, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=74184

FLORES, JOHN ANTHONY (G 65225), Mission Hills, CA
Disciplined by New Mexico for prescribing deficiencies and prescribing in dangerous combinations and without an appropriate evaluation, assessment or monitoring, resulting in or contributing to patient deaths. Revoked. November 10, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=65225

FOSTER, ROBERT WAYNE, M.D. (G 56132), La Mesa, CA
No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and incompetence in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course. December 2, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=56132

FRANZ, JEROME ALVIN, M.D. (G 38039), San Francisco, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, prescribing without an appropriate examination or medical indication, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and obtaining a practice monitor. November 23, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=38039

FUJIMOTO, ALLEN A. (G 7287), San Lorenzo, CA
No admissions but charged with aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine, gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of two patients; violating the Pharmacy Act labeling requirements; false and misleading advertising; and violating the terms of his Board-ordered probation by failing to obey all laws. Surrender of License. December 31, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=7287

GONZALEZ, JORGE, M.D. (G 57888), Rohnert Park, CA
No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=57888

GORDON, ERIC DAVID, M.D. (G 82342), Santa Rosa, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence, prescribing without an appropriate examination and medical indication, excessive prescribing, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of four patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing or possessing any Schedule II controlled substance until completing a prescribing practices course; shall not issue a recommendation or approval for the possession or cultivation of marijuana; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed and any recommendation or approval for marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course; and obtaining a practice monitor. December 16, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=82342

GRINBERG, ALEXANDER, M.D. (A 56467), San Francisco, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in his care and treatment of three patients and gross negligence and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of two additional patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed and any recommendation or approval for marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course; and obtaining a practice monitor. December 15, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=56467

HARGIS, COLETTA MARIE, M.D. (G 54747), Orinda, CA
Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for a conviction of two misdemeanor counts of failure to file tax returns. November 2, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=54747

HASSAN, ALLEN C. (C 29816), Sacramento, CA
Violated the terms of his Board-ordered probation by failing to complete a clinical training program and a prescribing practices course. Revoked. December 16, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=29816

HECHANOVA, JONATHAN WILMER (A 109886), Albuquerque, NM
No admissions but charged with being disciplined by New Mexico for being unsafe to practice medicine unless under the care of a monitored treatment program. Surrender of License. January 13, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=109886

HEINEY, JAKE PAUL (A 97334), Lambertville, MI
Disciplined by Ohio for an indictment charging him with two counts of gross sexual imposition and one count of tampering with records. Revoked. December 2, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=97334

HIGGINS, STEPHANIE ANN, M.D. (A 70849), Lafayette, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence and failure to maintain adequate medical records in the care and treatment of eight patients, and excessive prescribing without an appropriate examination or medical indication in the care and treatment of five patients. Revoked,
stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions, including, but not limited to, 90 days’ suspension, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing or possessing any controlled substance, except for those drugs listed in Schedules IV and V; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed and any recommendation or approval for marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, an ethics course, and a clinical training program; obtaining a practice monitor and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. December 9, 2016

HOCKENBURY, STEPHEN ALDEN, M.D. (A 65864), Newport Beach, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and obtaining a practice monitor. November 18, 2016

HUANG, BOYAO (A 77036), San Marino, CA
Convicted of four counts of felony healthcare fraud. Surrender of License. December 30, 2016

HUMEID, MUSTAFA SALEH (A 33136), Bakersfield, CA
No admissions but charged with failure to comply with a Board-ordered examination. Surrender of License. December 14, 2016

IKUTA, CLYDE M. (G 11222), Anaheim, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, prescribing controlled substances without an appropriate prior examination, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of three patients. Surrender of License. January 19, 2017

ISSA, ADLY, M.D. (A 34603), Long Beach, CA
Committed acts of gross negligence, incompetence, repeated negligence, failure to maintain adequate and accurate records, false representations, and dishonest acts in the care and treatment of multiple patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 7 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a clinical training program, obtaining a practice monitor, and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. December 2, 2016. Judicial Review Pending.

JACOBS, GARY PHILLIP, M.D. (A 42016), Long Beach, CA
Self-prescribed a controlled substance and failed to participate in an interview requested by the Board. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances, submitting to biological fluid testing, completing a prescribing practices course, and an ethics course; and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. January 27, 2017

JOHNSON, ROBERT ALLSTON, JR., M.D. (A 34581), Walnut Creek, CA
No admissions but charged with solicitation to engage in or engaging in lewd or dissolute conduct and failed to notify the Board of a prior wet reckless conviction. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms
and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of alcohol, submitting to biological fluid testing, completing an ethics course, and having a third party chaperone present while consulting, examining or treating female patients under 18. December 30, 2016

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=34581

KAWANA, ALEX YASUNORI, M.D. (G 68665), Los Angeles, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of four patients. Physician completed a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an education course. Public Reprimand. January 25, 2017

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=68665

KEANEY, JAMES KENNETH, M.D. (G 54015), Union City, CA
Used or self-administered alcohol to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous to himself or others and has a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol, notification of employer, submitting to biological fluid testing, attending substance abuse support group meetings, completing an ethics course, and obtaining a worksite monitor. December 2, 2016

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=54015

KERR, ANDREW CLOUGH, M.D. (G 51543), Ventura, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence and prescribing to an addict in the care and treatment of one patient and repeated negligent acts, prescribing without an appropriate prior examination/indication, excessive prescribing, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 4 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing or possessing any Schedule II controlled substances or issuing an oral or written recommendation for marijuana during the first year of probation; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed and any recommendation or approval for marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; and obtaining a practice monitor. December 7, 2016

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=51543

LAMBERTY, NORMAN LUIS, M.D. (C 146076), Santa Rosa, CA
Failed to disclose required information in response to the criminal record history question on his application for licensure. Probationary license issued, placed on 3 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an ethics course. November 14, 2016

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=146076

LEHMAN, KENT WALTER, M.D. (G 38595), Santa Ana, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, failure to maintain adequate and accurate records, prescribing without an appropriate examination or medical indication, and violating statutes regulating controlled substances in the care and treatment of numerous patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 8 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing or possessing any controlled substances except for Phendimetrazine and Testosterone (Schedule III), and Phentermine and Nuvigil/Provigil (Schedule IV), and any Schedule V drugs; prohibited from issuing an oral or written recommendation for the possession or cultivation of marijuana; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed and any recommendation or approval for marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices
course, a medical record keeping course, an ethics course, and a clinical training program; and obtaining a practice monitor. November 18, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=38595

LEON, SAMUEL O., M.D. (A 73337), Hanford, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient and repeated negligent acts, prescribing without an appropriate prior examination and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of three patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an education course; enrolling in a physician enhancement program; and obtaining a practice monitor. December 14, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=73337

LOMELI, LUIS ANTONIO (G 52789), Ontario, CA
No admissions but charged with having a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Surrender of License. November 23, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=52789

MADING, FREDERICK JOHN, M.D. (G 73797), Anaheim, CA
Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for writing multiple prescriptions for a colleague without an examination and without proper documentation. December 16, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=73797

MARCO, COREY HALE, M.D. (A 22907), La Mesa, CA
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=22907

MARINO, JEFFREY MICHAEL, M.D. (G 76914), Loma Linda, CA
Committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligence, prescribing without an appropriate prior examination or medical indication, violating statutes regulating controlled substances, dishonesty or corruption, and failed to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of four patients. Respondent prescribed medications to himself by using four fictitious patient’s names. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course, obtaining a practice monitor, and prohibited from prescribing testosterone and anastrozole. December 8, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=76914

MARTINEZ, JEREMY DIEGO, M.D. (A 78740), Elk Grove, CA
No admissions but charged with being convicted of two misdemeanors for driving with a blood alcohol greater than .08 percent and child endangerment and used alcohol to an extent and in such a manner to be a danger to himself and the public. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol, submitting to biological fluid testing, completing an ethics course, prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine, completing a clinical diagnostic evaluation, notification of employer, obtaining a worksite monitor, and attending substance abuse support group meetings. January 5, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=78740
MASON, JILL MARIE, M.D. (C 51600), Fresno, CA
Committed acts of gross negligence and failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of a patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 35 months’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course. December 9, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=51600

MATUS, JOSE ANTONIO, M.D. (A 51515), Sherman, TX
No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Texas for failing to adequately monitor a patient’s acetaminophen levels, failing to follow the guidelines for the treatment of chronic pain in multiple patients, had inadequate records, failed to refer a patient, and failed to communicate test results to a patient in a timely manner. Revoked, stayed, placed on 2 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a prescribing practices course and a medical record keeping course. January 5, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=51515

MCGEE, JOHN R., M.D. (G 128410), Newhall, CA
Disciplined by New Jersey for gross negligence, malpractice or incompetence, and/or repeated negligent acts; professional misconduct; prescribing indiscriminately; and presenting a clear and imminent danger to the public. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing or possessing human growth hormones, anabolic steroids, any controlled substances, and shall not issue an oral or written recommendation or approval for the possession or cultivation of marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, a clinical training program, and an ethics course; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; and obtaining a practice monitor. January 13, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=128410

MIRANDA, EMILIO JOSEPH (A 112529), Los Angeles, CA
Failed to comply with a Board-ordered examination. Revoked. November 10, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=112529

NAPLES, ANTHONY FRANCIS, M.D. (G 36930), Tustin, CA
No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 35 months’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed and any recommendation or approval for marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, a clinical training program, and an ethics course; and obtaining a practice monitor. December 2, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=36930

NGUYEN, THANH HUU (A 63244), University Place, WA
Disciplined by Washington based on allegations of incompetence, negligence, or malpractice in the care and treatment of a patient. Surrender of License. January 11, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=63244

O’DORISIO, JAMES EDWARD (A 44147), Santa Rosa, CA
Committed acts of gross negligence and repeated negligence in the care and treatment of three patients, incompetence in the care and treatment of one patient, and failed to maintain adequate and accurate records. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a clinical training program, a medical record keeping course, and an education course; obtaining a practice monitor; and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. December 30, 2016.
Judicial Review Pending.
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=44147
OSTOYA, PAUL WITOLD, M.D. (A 52252), Fresno, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 4 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course and an ethics course, enrolling in a professional boundaries program, and having a third party present while consulting, examining or treating female patients. December 22, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=52252

OZAETA, JERE STAHL, M.D. (A 85231), Fresno, CA
No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of two patients and incompetence in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course and a clinical training program, and obtaining a practice monitor. January 6, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=85231

PATEL, DILIP SHIVABHAI, M.D. (A 32183), Covina, CA
No admissions but charged with being convicted of disorderly conduct. Physician must complete an ethics course and a professional boundaries program. Public Reprimand. December 30, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=32183

PATEL, HITESH D. M.D. (A 50292), Anaheim, CA
Prescribed without an appropriate prior examination and failed to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course and an ethics course, and obtaining a practice monitor. November 17, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=50292

RAD, BEN, M.D. (A 40892), Fresno, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of five patients, and incompetence in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 35 months’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a medical record keeping course and obtaining a practice and billing monitor. November 17, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=40892

RAFAELOFF, PARVANEH, M.D. (A 52350), Studio City, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician to complete a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an education course. Public Reprimand. January 30, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=52350

RAM, SURAJ S., M.D. (A 124447), Sacramento, CA
Convicted of a misdemeanor for possession of stolen property and possession of a controlled substance, self-administered a controlled substance, and committed acts of dishonesty and corruption. Revoked, stayed, placed on 6 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a clinical diagnostic evaluation; submitting to biological fluid testing; notification of employer; obtaining a worksite monitor; attending substance abuse support group meetings; prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing or possessing any controlled substances or issuing an oral or written recommendation for the possession or cultivation of marijuana, surrender of DEA permit; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed and any recommendation or approval
for marijuana; abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol; completing an ethics course; and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. December 7, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=124447

RAVIPUDI, SANJEEV DHARI, M.D. (A 64608), Columbia, MO
Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for discipline by Missouri for delegating crucial aspects of pacemaker implantation procedures to a physician assistant to perform, in whole (a generator change out) or in part (a generator change out and new implant), while he was simultaneously performing urgent procedures in an adjacent operating room. November 18, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=64608

RAWLANI, VINAY (A 140241), Chicago, IL
Disciplined by Illinois for unprofessional conduct that did not involve direct patient care. Surrender of License. January 18, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=140241

RESNICK, LAWRENCE HAROLD, M.D. (G 16871), Sherman Oaks, CA
Convicted of battery. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an ethics course, enrolling in a professional boundaries program, and practice is limited to interpreting, reporting in writing and consulting with other health care professionals regarding x-rays, mammograms, neuroradiological and other medical images. January 27, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=16871

RHEE, JOON WON, M.D. (A 77852), Redlands, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of one patient; and false advertising. Revoked, stayed, placed on 35 months’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, an ethics course, and a clinical training program. November 2, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=77852

RIOS, TOMAS BALLESTEROS, M.D. (A 54078), Bakersfield, CA
No admissions but charged with being convicted of conspiracy to commit insurance fraud, failure to report the conviction to the Board, and dishonesty. Revoked, stayed, placed on 7 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, 60 days’ suspension, completing a medical record keeping course and an ethics course, obtaining a practice and billing monitor, and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. December 30, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=54078

ROMERO, JACQUELINE, M.D. (A 146209), Salinas, CA
Applicant disclosed on her application for a license that she had been diagnosed with a condition affecting her ability to practice medicine safely. Probationary license issued, placed on 3 years’ probation, with terms and conditions including, not limited to, prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine for one year. November 28, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=146209

SCHECHET, ISIDOR ARTHUR (A 29101), West Bloomfield, MI
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=29101
SHAH, ANIMESH C., M.D. (C 52320), Allentown, PA
Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for discipline by Illinois based upon unprofessional conduct and adverse action by three other states. November 3, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=52320

SIMENTAL, MICHAEL ANTHONY, M.D. (A 86750), Riverside, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, prescribing without an appropriate prior examination and medical indication, and repeated acts of clearly excessive prescribing in the care and treatment of two patients and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of three patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 2 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed and any recommendation or approval for marijuana and completing a prescribing practices course. December 22, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=86750

Snyder, Patricia Ann (A 44222), Atascadero, CA
Violated the terms of her Board-ordered probation by testing positive for alcohol. Revoked. January 27, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=44222

Sosin, David E., M.D. (G 13099), Tustin, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, failure to maintain adequate and accurate records, incompetence, prescribing without an appropriate prior examination or medical indication, and excessive prescribing in the care and treatment of one patient, and aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, partial restriction, as specified, for the first 3 years of probation on prescribing Schedule II and III controlled substances; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed and any recommendation or approval for marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, an ethics course, and a clinical training program; and obtaining a practice monitor. December 2, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=13099

Srephichit, Seksan, M.D. (A 103108), Downey, CA
No admissions but charged with using alcohol and drugs in a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself or others. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol, completing an ethics course, submitting to a medical evaluation and treatment, submitting to biological fluid testing, notification of employer, attending substance abuse support group meetings, and obtaining a worksite monitor for substance-abusing licensees. January 4, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=103108

Srou, Sami Chafic, M.D. (G 24567), Bakersfield, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, failure to maintain adequate and accurate records, and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 4 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, and a clinical training program, and obtaining a practice monitor. December 30, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=24567

Standefer, Charlotte Bobo, M.D. (G 78053), Martinez, CA
No admissions but charged with violating the terms of her Board-ordered probation by using alcohol. Revoked, stayed, placed on 2 additional years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to,
completing a clinical diagnostic evaluation, abstaining from the use of alcohol, submitting to biological fluid testing, notification of employer, and obtaining a worksite monitor. January 27, 2017

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=78053

SUSSERT, MURRAY RICHARD, M.D. (G 22316), Los Angeles, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, failure to maintain adequate and accurate records, and prescribing without an appropriate prior examination or medical indication in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 4 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing or possessing any Schedule II controlled substances, and can only order, prescribe, dispense, administer, furnish, or possess a limited number of Schedule III substances; prohibited from issuing an oral or written recommendation for the possession or cultivation of marijuana; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed and any recommendation or approval for marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course; and obtaining a practice monitor. December 2, 2016

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=22316

SVENSSON, TRAVIS KNIGHT, M.D. (G 80502), San Francisco, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence, prescribing without an appropriate prior examination or medical indication, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of three patients; and aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course, obtaining a practice monitor, and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. November 4, 2016

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=80502

SWAN, BRIAN MICHAEL, M.D. (A 88378), Santa Ana, CA
Violated the terms of his Board-ordered probation by failing to submit to biological fluid testing. Revoked, stayed, placed on an additional 2 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed and any recommendation or approval for marijuana; abstaining from the use of controlled substances; completing a clinical diagnostic evaluation; submitting to biological fluid testing; completing a prescribing practices course and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. November 30, 2016

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=88378

TARRYK, GEORGE, H., JR., M.D. (G 14655), Long Beach, CA
Convicted of health care fraud. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, a one-year suspension, completing an ethics course, and obtaining a practice and billing monitor(s). November 17, 2016

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=14655

TOWNS, MARK FRANCIS, M.D. (A 100676), Galt, CA
No admissions but charged with failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course and an education course. Public Reprimand. December 2, 2016

http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=100676
TRALLA, MICHAEL ALAN (G 39279), Wheat Ridge, CO
Disciplined by Colorado for failing to meet generally accepted standards of medical practice in the care and treatment of four patients. Surrender of License. December 30, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=39279

TROTT, THOMAS F., M.D. (A 22459), Santa Monica, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient and failed to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 2 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course, and obtaining a practice monitor. January 20, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=22459

TROTTER, ALFRED D., JR. (A 21112), Chula Vista, CA
Committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligence, incompetence, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of six patients. Revoked. January 4, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=21112

TUCK, MICHAEL L., M.D. (G 12700), Northridge, CA
No admissions but charged with being convicted of three felony counts for writing a forged prescription, unlawful controlled substance prescription, and unlawfully obtaining a controlled substance; and has a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Revoked, stayed, placed on 4 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a prescribing practices course and an ethics course, submitting to biological fluid testing, abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol, notification of employer, attending substance abuse support group meetings, obtaining a worksite monitor, and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. December 1, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=12700

TURNER, JAMES HASKEW, M.D. (G 87352), EDEN PRAIRIE, MN
Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for being disciplined by Wisconsin for remotely interpreting a patient’s high resolution CT scan as showing interstitial lung disease, when a destructive mass was clearly visible. January 13, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=87352

VAN, MARCUS MINH, M.D. (A 83208), San Diego, CA
No admissions but charged with violating the terms of his Board-ordered probation by failing to submit to biological fluid testing, failing to pay probation monitoring costs; and violating a statute regulating drugs. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol, completing a clinical diagnostic evaluation, notification of employer, submitting to biological fluid testing, attending substance abuse group support meetings, and obtaining a worksite monitor. December 9, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=83208

WILLIAMS, ELSWORTH PEARL, JR., M.D. (A 24406), Redlands, CA
Violated the terms of his Board-ordered probation by failing to successfully pass an examination. One additional year of probation and completion of a special purpose examination. November 4, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=24406

WOODMAN, JAMES, M.D. (C 140113), Green Cove Springs, FL
Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for being disciplined by Illinois for failing to properly manage the care of a patient. November 30, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=140113
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

CHOW, JARED MICHAEL, P.A. (PA 54091), Rosemead, CA
Convicted of operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant. Probationary license issued, placed on 2 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of alcohol and controlled substances, attending a drug and alcohol recovery monitoring program, and submitting to biological fluid testing. December 15, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PA&licenseNumber=54091

CLEMENTS, BARRY JOHN (PA 15712), Vallejo, CA
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PA&licenseNumber=15712

CUPPY, CORINNE ANNE, P.A. (PA 15722), Carmichael, CA
No admissions but charged with unlawful prescribing; failure to comply with legal requirements; and gross negligence, repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of three patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, maintaining records of controlled drugs, completing a medical record keeping course and a prescribing practices course, obtaining approval of a supervising physician and practice plan, and notification to the Board of employer and supervising physician. December 21, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PA&licenseNumber=15722

ELOUL, YAROM ALEX, P.A. (PA 54177), Los Angeles, CA
Convicted twice for assault and battery. Probationary license issued, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an ethics course, obtaining approval of a supervising physician, and notification of employer. January 23, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PA&licenseNumber=54177

FRANCESCHI, JOE EDWARD OSCAR, P.A. (PA 54066), Santa Monica, CA
Convicted for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and another conviction for a wet reckless. Probationary license issued, placed on 2 years’ probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of alcohol and controlled substances, attending a drug and alcohol recovery-monitoring program, and submitting to biological fluid testing. December 5, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PA&licenseNumber=54066

LINDSEY, TERRY F. (PA 13585), Sutter Creek, CA
No admissions but charged with being convicted for a wet reckless and driving with a blood alcohol content of .08 or higher. Surrender of License. November 10, 2016
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PA&licenseNumber=13585

PODIATRIST

KLAPMAN, LEON JASON, DPM (E 4433), Northridge, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, insurance fraud, repeated negligent acts, dishonesty or corruption, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in his care and treatment of three patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years’ probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course, obtaining a practice/billing monitor, and pay restitution to Medicare and others. January 20, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=E&licenseNumber=4433
MBC Meetings — 2017

July 27-28, 2017: San Francisco Area
October 26-27, 2017: San Diego Area

All meetings of the Medical Board of California are open to the public. To the extent possible, meetings will be webcast and offered via teleconference. To watch the meetings streamed live and/or to find the telephone number to phone in a question, visit the Board's website at http://www.mbc.ca.gov.

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Medical Board of California

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Fictitious Name Permits
License Renewals
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Business and Professions Code § 2021(b) and (c) require physicians to inform the Medical Board in writing of any name or address change. Go to: http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Address_of_Record.aspx.