

Medical Memo

STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

A report on Board activities prepared as an information service for licensees

1020 N STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

JUNE, 1975

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS INCREASE SHARPLY

The table below indicates a significant increase in the number of disciplinary cases processed by the Board in 1974 compared to preceding years. The total number of accusations pending at the beginning of this year is double that of last year. The average number of pending investigations in 1974 increased by 214 cases compared to 1973 and the total number of accusations filed in 1974 was 93 compared to 70 in 1973. This upward trend is continuing this year and is not expected to decrease.

Assemblyman William Campbell, of Los Angeles, will introduce legislation to increase the number of members on District Review Committees to handle the increasing case loads. A public member will also be added to each DRC under this proposed legislation.

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REVIEW SESSION - Members of the District III Review Committee are shown at a recent disciplinary hearing. Left to right, are: J.O. Gibson, M.D., W. Nilssen, Jr., M.D., Chairman; Gilbert E. Elmore, State hearing officer; Herlan O. Loyd, M.D., and George Snively, M.D.

SUMMARY OF DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Accusations Pending as of January 1 of each year	93	70	94	75	150
Accusations Filed	75	82	71	70	93
Statement of Issues (applicants)	7	12	10	16	17
Licenses Revoked	18	14	20	15	21
Licenses Revoked, Revocation Stayed, Probation	56	21	40	45	67
Licenses Suspended	0	4	2	1	2
Licenses Suspendd, Stayed, Probation	6	4	9	3	10
Miscellaneous Penalties*	6	8	11	20	33
Dismissed	12	7	8	12	7
Revocations based on gross negligence or gross incompetence	5	2	5	2	1
Average number of pending investigations		600	800	1,512	1,726

*Miscellaneous Penalties include the results of: Petitions for Modification of Probation or Restoration of Certificate and Reprimands.

BOARD REPORTS ON MALPRACTICE

The Board of Medical Examiners is required under the Business and Professions Code to submit reports to the Legislature on all malpractice settlements and judgments reported by insurance companies. The statistical summary below reflects the information supplied to the Board over the past four years.

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., called a special session of the legislature on May 19 to study the current malpractice insurance situation and propose legislation to ease the crisis. Approximately 25 bills have been introduced during this session dealing with professional liability.

Financial Awards Double

Malpractice claims settlements have been steadily increasing since 1971. Only 503 settlements were awarded in 1971 compared to 869 in 1974. Financial awards for all settlements have more than doubled in the last four years. Total claims in 1971 amounted to \$15,169,935.00 compared to \$32,819,024.72 in 1974.

Insurance company claims have re-
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BOARD BUSINESS

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS — JANUARY 25, 1975 - MARCH 21, 1975

Donald K. Blake, M.D., Pomona, CA — Suspended 60 days, stayed, 5 yrs. probation with terms and conditions 3-3-75
 Everett Wallace DeLong, M.D., Beverly Hills, CA — All right, title and interest in restoration of license as a physician and surgeon in CA revoked 2-28-75
 Milton E. Denmark, M.D., San Jose, CA — Revoked 3-12-75
 Terry Alan Dichter, M.D., Beverly Hills, CA — Revoked, stayed, 5 yrs. probation with terms and conditions 3-3-75
 Edward H. Fradkin, Los Angeles, CA — Revoked, stayed, 5 yrs. probation with terms and conditions 3-4-75
 William Ernest Gray, Jr., M.D., Davis, CA — Revoked 3-10-75
 Donald W. Grimes, M.D., Bellingham, WA — Revoked, stayed, 5 yrs. probation 1-29-75
 John Shriver Gwynne, M.D., Santa Ana, CA — Revoked 3-3-75
 Edwin Dallas Hersh, M.D., Huntington Beach, CA — Revoked 3-14-75
 William Harry Perloff, M.D., Santa Barbara, CA — Revoked, stayed, 5 yrs. probation with terms and conditions (surrender BNDD certificate) 3-3-75
 Percy A. Rivers, M.D., Oroville, CA — Revoked, stayed, 5 yrs. probation with terms and conditions 2-27-75
 Richard L. Rubottom, M.D., Beverly Hills, CA — Revoked, stayed, 10 yrs. probation with terms and conditions 2-19-75
 Charles Richard Scott, M.D., Carmichael, CA — Revoked, stayed, 5 yrs. probation with terms and conditions 3-12-75
 Frank B. Wisner, M.D., San Diego, CA — Revoked, stayed, 5 yrs. probation with terms and conditions 3-3-75
 Marion Eugene Yandell, M.D., Lawndale, CA — Revoked, stayed for 5 yrs. with 5 yrs. probation on condition no provisions of the Medical Practice Act of Calif. be violated 2-27-75

Application for Restoration of Revoked Certificate Denied — 1; Application for Termination of Probation Granted — 1.

MEETING AND EXAMINATION DATES
June and July 1975

District Review Committee I, July 8, 9, 10	San Francisco
District Review Committee II, July 15, 16, and 17	Los Angeles
District Review Committee V, June 23, 24, 25	Los Angeles
Physical Therapy Written Examination, June 27	Los Angeles
Podiatry Meeting, July 25	Los Angeles
Speech Pathology & Audiology Committee Meeting, July 31	Los Angeles

Eligible applicants will be notified several weeks before every examination about the date, days, time and place where each test will be held.

INCREASE NOTED IN DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

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District Review Committees hear disciplinary cases, which require medical knowledge, and recommend proposed decisions to the Board. Each Committee

represents a separate geographical area of the state. Members of DRC's are appointed by the Governor and serve four-year terms.

**MEDICAL BOARD ISSUES
 MALPRACTICE STATISTICS**

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mained fairly steady over the past several years. Only six more companies reported in 1974 compared to 1973.

M.D. Claims Increase

Claims by licensed M.D.'s have risen \$16,176,810.22 since 1971 and the total number of claims has increased by 370 cases since 1971. Statistics for M.D. claims for 1974 show an increase of \$7,959,553.86 over the preceding year and 208 more claims were awarded.

Podiatry Claims Decrease

The total number of claims for podiatrists has decreased since 1971 and 1972. Only one case was awarded in 1973 (\$75,000.00) and 1974 (\$6,000.00). The number of institutional claims have also decreased since 1972 but financial awards have increased. In 1971, eight claims were awarded totalling \$193,000.00. However, in 1974 six claims were awarded amounting to \$1,696,779.50.

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DEPARTMENT OF **Consumer Affairs** Board of Medical Examiners
 1020 N Street
 Sacramento, California 95814

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