Medical Board of California

Newsletter

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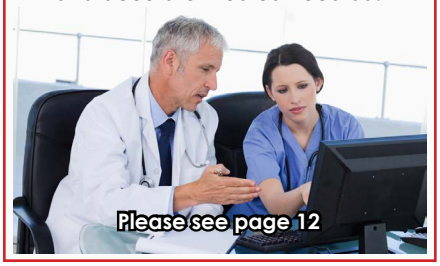
IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	3
Dispensing Antibiotics to Patients' Sex Partners	5
Legislator Profile	6
UC Davis Training Primary Care Providers in Psychiatric Care	7
You Asked For It	9
News to Use / Tech Med Corner	10
Steven M. Thompson Loan Repayment Program Recipient	11
Importance of Keeping Accurate and Adequate Medical Records	12
Important Notice from CDPH	14
New Resources for Physicians Treating Alzheimer's Diseases	16
Administrative Actions	17
Board Members and Executive Director	34
Contact Us	34
Meetings	34

How important is it to keep adequate and accurate medical records?



Please see page 12

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Healthcare providers are responding to California's STD crisis with various educational outreach efforts. This billboard by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation was recently spotted by Dr. Heidi Bauer in Oakland. (Photo courtesy of AIDS Healthcare Foundation)

No End in Sight for California's Skyrocketing STD Rates

By Susan Wolbarst

California leads the nation in the total number of bacterial sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

According to the Executive Summary of a report discussing the epidemic titled, "*Sexually Transmitted Diseases in California*", "California continues to be ranked first among all states in 2015 based on preliminary CDC data for the total number of cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and congenital syphilis."

In 2015, according to data from CDPH, California residents experienced the following STDs:

- 4,890 cases of primary and secondary syphilis (up 27% from 2014)
- 142 babies born with congenital syphilis (up 39% from 2014)
- 54,255 cases of gonorrhea (up 20% from 2014), and
- 189,937 cases of chlamydia (up 9% from 2014).

"We've been seeing these increases year after year," stated Dr. Heidi Bauer, chief of the STD Control Branch in the California Department of Public Health.

STD Rates *(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.

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Submission of original-written articles is welcome, but all submissions become the property of the Board and are subject to editing.

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Newsletter Survey

Medical Board of California

Please take a moment to share your thoughts about the Medical Board's Newsletter. Do you have a particular section that you like or an idea on how to improve our publication? We want to hear from you! Click the link below to take the survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mbc_newsletter_survey

This edition of the Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Cassandra Hockenson.

Editor's Spotlight

By Susan Wolbarst

Our cover story this quarter highlights the rapid and pervasive spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the golden state. An associated piece on page ***5*** is a reminder that physicians can dispense antibiotics needed to clear up these infections in the partners of infected patients. Some say this law is an underused tool in the arsenal needed to fight this epidemic.

A new program training primary care providers to recognize symptoms of common psychiatric conditions, complete a quick and targeted assessment, and provide evidence-based treatment using cognitive therapy techniques, motivational interviewing and appropriate medications is discussed on page ***7***.

Medical records violations remain one of the most common causes of disciplinary actions imposed by the Medical Board of California. These violations can range from gross or repeated negligence to incompetence, and may result in a citation and fine up to $2,500 with a requirement to take and pass a mandatory records keeping class at the practitioner's expense, or formal disciplinary action. Learn more about the importance of keeping adequate and accurate medical records on page ***12***.

Need A Speaker?

If you would like a speaker from the Medical Board of California to address your organization, please write to *Webmaster@mbc.ca.gov* with your contact information. Include any information (such as date, time and location) that is known about the proposed speaking engagement. A Board representative will get back to you promptly.

President's Message

Dr. Dev GnanaDev

The Medical Board of California (Board) has devoted a significant amount of time and energy over the past several months to the Board's sunset review. The Assembly Business and Professions (B&P) Committee and the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee held joint sunset review oversight hearings to review the boards and bureaus under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), including the Board. The sunset review process provides an opportunity for the DCA, the Legislature, the boards, and interested parties and stakeholders to discuss the performance of the boards and make recommendations for improvements.

Some new issues the Board has submitted in its 2016 Sunset Review Report to the Legislature include: language changes to accommodate the continuing evolution of medical training, improving efficiencies in the Board's Licensing and Enforcement Programs, and most importantly, enhancing consumer protection. The Board's sunset bill, SB 798 (Hill) would extend the Board's sunset date another four years, until January 1, 2022.

Board Vice President Denise Pines and I testified at the Assembly and Senate B&P Committees' sunset review hearing. In addition, I have testified at bill hearings for the Board's sunset bill and have met with legislative members on the Board's sunset. I continue to work with the Legislature to get it accomplished this year

As many of you know, the Medical Board has been working to create a Physician Health and Wellness Program (PHWP) to address the issue of substance abuse in the physician community. Consideration of the regulations necessary to implement the PHWP is ongoing. As staff attorney Kerrie Webb noted at the Board's July 28 meeting in San Francisco, part of the discussion is looking at whether the Uniform Standards for substance-abusing licensees should be modified so the PHWP can be updated to include current technologies available for testing for the use of prohibited substances.

Current plans include one more "interested parties" meeting before the regulations are presented to the Board for review at a future Board meeting. The Board will continue its work to ensure the PHWP is created to provide an avenue for physicians to receive assistance.

Cassandra Hockenson, the vivacious public affairs manager of the Medical Board of California (Board), passed away unexpectedly on August 9, 2017. During the four years Ms. Hockenson managed the Public Affairs Office, the Board benefited greatly from the experience she gained during her previous career as a television producer. She received awards from the State Information Officers Council for public service announcements she produced drawing attention to California's opioid crisis. Additionally, she produced website tutorials in English and Spanish, and spearheaded the Board's ongoing outreach campaign teaching the public how to use the Board's website to "Check up on Your Doctor." Many people throughout the state know her from these outreach efforts. She previously worked as a public information officer for the Air Resources Board and the Department of Corrections. Before joining state government, Ms. Hockenson worked for KOVR-CBS13, where she produced investigative consumer reports for the station's "Call Kurtis" segments. Before that, she was a producer at KCRA-TV working on its consumer advocacy program, "Call 3." The Board dedicates this issue of the Newsletter to her.

STD Rates *(continued from page 1)*

While the 2016 numbers have not yet been finalized, Dr. Bauer said the same trend of steeply increasing rates is continuing, with over 200 of the state's babies born last year with congenital syphilis.

Persons most likely to catch an STD are "sexually active folks under the age of 29," Dr. Bauer said, especially those with multiple partners or those whose partners have multiple partners. Those at highest risk are gay or bisexual men. "Folks who have an STD have a high likelihood of getting another," she said.

For many years, the state saw the vast majority of syphilis cases confined to the communities consisting of men having sex with men (MSM). Then, about three years ago – for reasons that are not clear – the CDPH began seeing a surge in syphilis cases among young women, especially in the Central Valley. This is especially concerning, Dr. Bauer explained, because when women who have syphilis become pregnant, their babies are at risk of being born with congenital syphilis, which can be fatal.

In some states – including California – all pregnant women must be tested for syphilis at their first pre-natal visit. Treating the mother early in pregnancy can result in 98% prevention of congenital syphilis in the fetus, Dr. Bauer explained. But some women don't seek pre-natal care and show up at the hospital just in time to give birth. By then, it is too late to save their babies from the severe effects of congenital syphilis, which can include premature birth, low birth weight, birth defects, blindness, hearing loss, stillbirth or infant death. These tragedies are "almost all preventable," Dr. Bauer said.

Some people who have an STD do not know it because they are not experiencing symptoms. Left untreated, syphilis infection can lead to long-term health problems, including brain disease, according to the CDPH website. Regarding gonorrhea, infection can lead to serious reproductive health problems, such as pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and infertility. Gonorrhea can also cause infections in newborn babies, according to CDPH. Chlamydia, which often exhibits no symptoms, causes the same kinds of damage as gonorrhea.

CDPH cited some disease-specific hotspots for incidence of STDs (number of reported cases taking population size into account):

Dr. Heidi Bauer
Chief of the STD Control Branch at the California Department of Public Health

- San Francisco, Kern and Fresno counties ranked first, second and third for chlamydia.
- San Francisco, Lake and Shasta counties had the highest rates of gonorrhea.
- San Francisco, Fresno, Los Angeles and Kern counties ranked highest for early syphilis (includes primary, secondary and early latent stages).
- Kern and Fresno counties ranked highest for congenital syphilis.

The CDPH has not been able to point to any single cause of the rapid STD spread. "We do see evidence that some groups are using condoms less," Dr. Bauer said, noting that gay and bisexual men may not be using condoms because they are taking HIV preventive medication. "More availability and access to testing" may be a key reason for the rising numbers of cases being reported, she said.

What is the most important thing physicians can do to stem the tide of the STD epidemic?

STD Rates *(continued on page 5)*

Dispensing Antibiotics to Patients' Sex Partners

Health and Safety Code section 120582 allows physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants to prescribe or dispense oral antibiotics to treat the sexual partner(s) of patients with a sexually transmitted disease (STD) without examining the patient's sexual partner(s). The original law was applicable only to those infected with chlamydia; it was later amended to include gonorrhea or other sexually transmitted infection. Such treatments may prevent the patient from becoming re-infected. Incidence of STDs is on an upward trend statewide, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

STD Rates *(continued from page 4)*

Dr. Bauer suggested that creating a safe, non-judgmental environment is important, as is "normalizing and having conversations with patients about sex." The most important question a physician can ask a patient in the primary care setting is an open-ended one, she said, such as "Do you have any concerns today about your sexual health?"

Even if a patient did not come in that day with the goal of getting tested, she suggested asking if the patient is interested in an HIV test or an STD test. National guidelines published by the CDC offer specifics about how often to test specific populations for the different STDs and note that some STD testing should be done at more than one site. For example, a sexually active MSM should be tested for gonorrhea at least annually at sites of contact (urethra, rectum, and pharynx). The tests are usually covered by health insurance, Dr. Bauer noted, and, "in terms of medical services, California has fewer uninsured people than ever."

Dr. Bauer pointed to what she called an "underutilized" ***Health and Safety Code section 120582***, which allows physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants to prescribe and dispense oral antibiotics to treat the sexual partner(s) of patients with an STD without examining the patient's sexual partner(s). The original law was applicable only to those infected with chlamydia – it was later amended to include gonorrhea or other sexually transmitted infection. Such expedited treatments for partners may prevent a patient from becoming re-infected.

Dr. Bauer encouraged physicians to work with local health departments, which can be helpful in confidential notification of sexual partners of patients infected with STDs or HIV and in getting patients back in for follow up and doing follow up on expedited partnership treatments.

Note that California law requires that all syphilis infections, including neurosyphilis, ocular syphilis, and congenital syphilis, be reported to the local (local to the patient's place of residence) health department within 24 hours of diagnosis. In addition, HIV, including acute infection; gonorrhea and disseminated gonococcal infections; and chlamydia, including lymphogranuloma verereum, must be reported within seven calendar days. Reporting requirements for PID were recently eliminated.

Legislator Profile: Senator Jean Fuller

Prior to her historic legislative tenure where she served as the first female Senate Republican Leader, Jean Fuller served over 30 years as an educator. For a significant portion of her career in education she managed the largest K-8 school district in California. In this role, she was responsible for improving the educational experience for 28,000 students, managing 3,500 staff, and administering annual budgets of more than $100 million.

As a result of her effective leadership, Senator Fuller was named the Association of School Administrators' California Superintendent of the Year while at Keppel Union School District.

Senator Fuller's commitment to providing both a safe and constructive environment for her students, ability to balance large-scale budgets, and pragmatic approach on issues has underlined her success as a Member of the California State Legislature.

First elected in 2006 to the State Assembly, then to the Senate in 2010, her successful administrative and managerial experience led to Senator Fuller being recognized as a leader by her legislative colleagues.

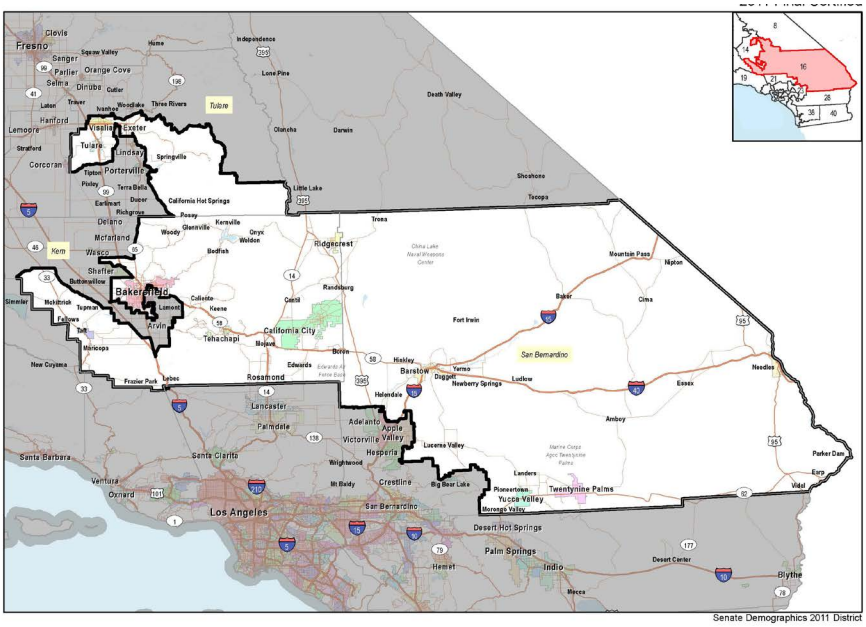
On behalf of her constituents, Senator Fuller has worked tirelessly toward a more affordable California. Her efforts have been recognized by several groups, including: the California Water Agencies, the Utility Reform Network, California Business Properties Association, and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. She is also held in high regard by the California Chamber of Commerce, the California Manufacturers and Technology Association, and the National Federation of Independent Business for her support for job creation and commitment to small business growth.

A California native, Senator Fuller was born in Bakersfield. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of California at Santa Barbara, participating in seminars and course work at the University of Southern California, Harvard University, and Exeter College at Oxford University in England.

As the Senator for California's 16th State Senate District, Senator Fuller represents parts of the San Joaquin Valley, Indian Wells Valley, and Morongo Basin.

Senator Fuller and her husband, Russell Fuller, a retired administrator, pilot and family farmer, have been married for over 40 years and continue to call Bakersfield home.

Senate District 16



Meeting the Need: Why UC Davis Is Training Primary Care Providers in Psychiatric Care

Dr. Robert M. McCarron
Co-director, UC Davis TNT PCP Fellowship

Deborah Anderluh
Communications Director, Steinberg Institute

Most of us are familiar with the recent reports on the alarming disconnect between supply and demand for psychiatric services in the United States. Many of us grapple with the consequences in our day-to-day practice. Here are some numbers to consider: According to a 2017 report by the National Council for Behavioral Health, the ratio of psychiatrists to population in the U.S. declined by 10 percent between 2003-2013. Nearly half the nation's psychiatrists are private practitioners who operate on a cash-only basis. Another recent study found 55 percent of counties in the continental U.S. have no psychiatrists, and 77 percent have a severe shortage.

Meanwhile, demand for mental health services is on the rise. Depression is now a leading cause of disability in the U.S. Estimates indicate one in four families are struggling with some aspect of mental illness. A recent Milbank Memorial Fund report said among children ages 9 to 17, as many as one in five may have a diagnosable psychiatric disorder.

Primary care practitioners are living with the fallout. An estimated 40 percent of patients seen in a primary care setting on any given day have an active psychiatric problem. Meanwhile, half the patients referred by a primary care provider for psychiatric treatment are unable to access services.

Exacerbating the gap in appropriate care: The vast majority of primary care providers have suboptimal training in psychiatric diagnosis and treatment.

The UC Davis Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences has taken the lead on a novel effort to expand the workforce equipped to provide basic psychiatric treatment. We call it the Train New Trainers (TNT) Primary Care Psychiatry (PCP) Fellowship. The idea is to train front-line providers in the essentials of primary-care-based psychiatry. We train primary care providers to recognize symptoms of common psychiatric conditions, complete a quick and targeted assessment, and provide evidence-based treatment using cognitive therapy techniques, motivational interviewing and appropriate medications.

Are we creating a replacement for psychiatrists? No. Our fellows are trained in the basics of treating mild to moderate illnesses, including anxiety and depression. Patients with more serious conditions still would be referred to specialists.

UC Davis launched the fellowship in 2016, enrolling 35 fellows from around California. This year, we've increased the class to 49. It's a year-long program, designed so fellows can complete the training while continuing to work. Fellows attend two intensive weekends of instruction with our faculty, all of whom have dual training in psychiatry and primary care. The rest of the course is completed remotely, and involves biweekly web-based instruction; an hour of individual training each month with a mentor; and regular call-in office hours with faculty.

The cost of the program is $15,000 per fellow and we discourage providers from paying out of pocket. What we're finding is that health plans see the value, and have stepped forward to cover the costs.

Psychiatric Care *(continued on page 8)*

Expert reviewer applications are accepted continuously!

If you live in California and have a full-time active practice in California, **the Medical Board of California (Board) encourages you to apply to be an expert reviewer (expert).** 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, 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 or internal or psychiatry; colon/rectal surgery; dermatology; family medicine; gastroenterology; 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; plastic surgery (with expertise in Neograft hair transplant and gender reassignment); psychiatry (forensic and addiction); surgery (general and endocrine surgery); thoracic and cardiac surgery; urology (general and gender reassignment); and vascular surgery; as well as licensed 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, have been practicing 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. Licensed Midwives must have an active midwifery practice for the past two years, have no current complaints, have 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***.

Psychiatric Care *(continued from page 7)*

As the program continues, we'll be actively measuring outcomes. Our expectation is to see fewer hospitalizations for psychiatric issues, a decrease in suicides, a decrease in opioid use, and an increase in appropriate use of prescriptions for psychotropic medications.

For now, UC Davis is the only health system in the country offering this brand of cross-training. We plan a partnership with UC Irvine that will expand our reach in Southern California and are in discussions with medical centers in other states about replicating the model.

In addition, a bill pending in the California Legislature would help ensure that general practitioners are trained to recognize the signs of mental illness. The Steinberg Institute, a nonprofit public policy institute dedicated to improving mental health care, is sponsoring Assembly Bill 1340 by Assemblymember Brian Maienschein. The bill would amend California's Business and Professions Code to require that the Medical Board of California consider including in its continuing medical education requirements a course on integrating mental and physical health care in primary care settings, especially as it pertains to children.

We're on the front end of what we hope will be a nationwide movement to grow our mental health workforce and provide a quality system of integrated care. Additional information:

- ***TNT Fellowship***
- ***Steinberg Institute***

You Asked For It

Questions Received from the Web

By Christine Valine, Public Information Analyst

Q. I found out today that my license expired one month ago because I forgot to answer a question on the renewal form. I never received a letter or an email notifying me of this. Why?

A. A letter is sent out when a renewal is not complete. Be sure your address is current with the Board. If you renew online, you should verify that your license is renewed by checking your physician profile on the Board's ***website***. If your license has not been updated to the new expiration date, please contact the Board at (800) 633-2322 or ***webmaster@mbc.ca.gov***.

Q. I became board certified in internal medicine last month. How do I update this information in my profile on the Board's website?

A. You can update or correct your physician profile information by logging into your BreEZe account. The option to update your survey information is on the Quick Start Menu under "Manage your license information."

Q. I am a California licensed physician who recommends medical cannabis and would like to own or share ownership in a cannabis dispensary. Is this permitted?

A. No. Per ***Business and Professions Code section 2525.4***, it is unprofessional conduct for any attending physician recommending medical cannabis to be employed by, or enter into any other agreement with, any person or entity dispensing medical cannabis.

Q. I registered with CURES 1.0 and am confused about the new CURES 2.0. What am I supposed to do?

A. As of March 5, 2017, CURES 1.0 was decommissioned and all users must update their browsers to a secure web browser, such as Microsoft Internet Explorer 11.0 or higher, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, or Apple Safari to access CURES 2.0. For more information, visit the California Department of Justice at ***oag.ca.gov/cures-pdmp/faqs*** or contact the CURES helpdesk at (916) 227-3843 or ***cures@doj.ca.gov***.

Q. My office staff is receiving phone calls from patients asking for my medical license number. Do I have to release this information to patients?

A. Yes. Your medical license number is not confidential. Your staff should provide your license number to patients who request it so patients can verify your license status on the Medical Board's website.

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.

CDC Releases Guide on Establishing Pharmacist-Physician Linkages

Community-clinical linkages between pharmacists and physicians can help improve patient care and ensure that individuals have access to the resources to best manage their conditions in both community and primary care settings. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, in collaboration with the American Pharmacists Association and the American Medical Association, released a guide on establishing these linkages between community pharmacists and physicians. The guide aims to ensure that pharmacists' education and training are fully utilized through their "Participation in and contribution to team-based care, disease management, and the provision of wellness services."

New Investigational Drug Tool for Physicians

The Reagan-Udall Foundation, in collaboration with patient advocacy groups, the pharmaceutical industry, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and others in the federal government, recently launched the Expanded Access Navigator (***http://navigator.reaganudall.org***). This online tool guides physicians and their patients through the process to request single-patient expanded access for unapproved investigational drugs.

When patients have serious or immediately life-threatening diseases or conditions for which there are no FDA-approved treatments, they may be able to gain access to investigational drugs through the FDA Expanded Access process. This process permits the manufacturer, with FDA authorization, to provide an investigational drug, even if the drug is in development or under review for FDA approval.

The first step for the physician is to ensure that the manufacturer is willing to provide the investigational drug for expanded access use. The Expanded Access Navigator provides information in a single online location, including a directory where companies can submit public links to their expanded access policies, criteria used by companies to determine whether to make a drug available through expanded access, and contact information.

The FDA is encouraging manufacturers to make public their contact information and Expanded Access policy, process, or criteria. For more information, please visit: The FDA Voice Blog - Expanded Access Navigator.

Tech Med Corner

Free Suicide Prevention App Available

A new suicide prevention app for mobile phones and optimized for tablets, called Suicide Safe, was designed to help providers integrate suicide prevention strategies into their practices and address suicide risk among patients. Developed by the SAMHSA, (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the app lets physicians explore interactive sample case studies; access and share information such as crisis lines, fact sheets and treatment resources; locate treatment options filtered by type and distance; and browse conversation starters that provide sample language and tips for communicating with patients who may need suicide intervention. Suicide Safe is available for iOS® and Android® mobile devices at Apple's App Store or Google play. More information is at ***https://www.samhsa.gov/suicide-prevention***.

FDA Offering RSS News Feeds

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is offering RSS (Real Simple Syndication) News Feeds about various topics, including: What's New: Drugs, MedWatch Safety Alerts, FDA Drug Shortages, and Tainted Products That are Marketed as Dietary Supplements, among others. In RSS Feeds, content is updated frequently and updated information is automatically downloaded to a subscriber's computer. Content can be viewed using Internet Explorer and other programs. For more information, or to subscribe, visit ***https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/ucm136245.htm***. Scroll down to News Feeds.

Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program Recipient

Joe Anthony Sepulveda, M.D., is a Latino psychiatrist who works for Family Health Centers of San Diego (FHCSD). FHCSD is a private, nonprofit community clinic organization whose mission is to provide caring, affordable, high quality healthcare and supportive services to everyone, with a special commitment to uninsured, low income and medically-underserved persons.

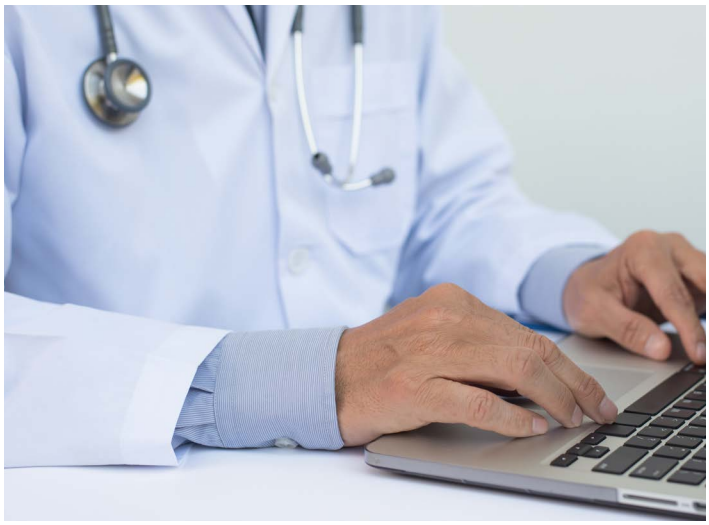
Dr. Sepulveda came from humble beginnings. His father worked in construction and his mother was a homemaker. As a high school freshman, Dr. Sepulveda participated in the Summer Science Enrichment Program for minority students at the University of Southern California (USC). This experience sparked his interest in science, which paved the way to his engaging in basic science research at the Huntington Medical Research Institute. As a teenager, participating in various community health fairs where care was provided to the underserved, he met physicians from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), who encouraged him to continue working toward his goal of becoming a doctor.

In 1998, Dr. Sepulveda became the first person in his family to graduate from high school and begin attending a four-year university -- UCLA. In college, he continued to develop his interest in improving health disparities affecting the underserved. While at UCLA, Dr. Sepulveda met his mentor, Adrian M. Casillas, M.D., and began working with Dr. Casillas in researching how technology, specifically how artificial intelligence, could be used to improve the asthma management strategies of inner-city children in Los Angeles. Dr. Sepulveda then attended the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, followed by a year at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where he further developed his clinical research interest. He then completed his residency in psychiatry at Stanford University Hospital and Clinics. While at Stanford, he worked at Momentum for Mental Health in San Jose as an outpatient psychiatrist and at various crisis residential facilities, where he provided psychiatric care to the underserved prior to joining Family Health Centers of San Diego.

Fluent in English and Spanish, Dr. Sepulveda continues providing outpatient psychiatric clinical care at several mental health clinics in the San Diego area. In addition, he has taken on numerous leadership roles in recent years, including starting the psychiatric nurse practitioner program, service on the Medical Leadership Council, and developing the medication-assisted treatment program needed to address and treat the current opioid epidemic.

"I'm extremely grateful for having received the Steven M. Thompson Loan Repayment Award. This award has allowed me to focus my efforts on not only treating patients but also on improving and expanding access to much needed mental health and addiction services for those most in need," Dr. Sepulveda said.

The Importance of Keeping Adequate and Accurate Medical Records



By Britt Durham, M.D.
Health Quality Investigation Unit
Tustin Field Office

The Medical Board of California (Board) has always stressed the importance of adequate and accurate medical records. Complete medical records are necessary to document the quality of care and to facilitate the continuity of care. ***Business and Professions Code (B&P) section 2266*** states that the failure of a physician to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of service to his or her patients constitutes unprofessional conduct.

Even in the era of electronic records, medical records violations remain one of the most common causes of disciplinary actions imposed by the Board. These violations can range from gross or repeated negligence to incompetence, and may result in citation and fine up to $2,500 with a requirement to take and pass a mandatory records keeping class at the practitioner's expense, or formal disciplinary action.

In addition to the issues of maintaining accurate records, the physician may be found guilty of inappropriate altering of records, creating false or fraudulent records, or failure to provide records to patients upon request. ***California Health and Safety Code (H&S) section 123100*** establishes a patient's right to see and receive copies of his or her medical records. Physicians must permit the patient to have access to their records after receipt of a written request under ***H&S section 123110(a)***. A patient must be permitted to see his or her records within five working days of the physician receiving the patient's written request.

Under ***H&S section 123110(b)***, physicians must provide copies of a patient's medical records within 15 days of receiving a written request for the copies. Physicians are allowed to charge a fee (not to exceed 25 cents per page or 50 cents for records that are copied from microfilm) plus a reasonable fee for clerical costs. The willful violation of the patient's access to his or her health records may constitute unprofessional conduct and grounds for action by the Board.

Almost all investigations by the Board involve the review of relevant medical records. As the central focus, the evaluation of the adequacy and quality of the medical records becomes incorporated into the routine investigation process. Failure to have and keep medical records to be produced upon subpoena for an investigation by the Board is a record keeping violation. The adequacy and accuracy of the records are evaluated by expert reviewers based on the standard of care. Deficiencies and violations in record keeping may lead to the finding of additional violations during the course of an investigation.

Medical records may be general reports such as progress notes, SOAP notes, history and physical exams, telemedicine evaluations, telephone conversations records, informed consent, DNR documentation, physician orders and supervision attestation documentation. Some records are specialty-specific such as anesthesia reports, operation notes, informed consent and surgical procedure notes. These records are evaluated for accuracy and adequacy by the corresponding specialty-specific reviewer.

Medical Records *(continued on page 13)*

Medical Records *(continued from page 12)*

Many medical record violations are discovered after undercover investigations in which the medical encounter is recorded on video and, when compared to the associated medical records, indicate inaccurate or fraudulent documentation. These are common occurrences, especially with medical marijuana, overprescribing, and workers' compensation cases. Physicians have been disciplined for dishonesty for generating fake medical records.

Although there is no general law requiring a physician to maintain medical records for a specific time period, there are situations or government health plans that have agency-specific requirements. In workers' compensation cases, qualified medical evaluators must maintain medical-legal reports for five years. ***H&S section 123145*** indicates that providers who are licensed under section 1205 as a medical clinic shall preserve the records for seven years. The statute of limitations in most Board cases is seven years.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) offers protection for personal health information and establishes a series of privacy standards for health care providers. Physicians should be aware of their responsibility in maintaining adequate HIPAA-compliant medical records. Providers that do electronic billing and or electronic record transmission should be HIPAA compliant as described under ***H&S section 130300***.

The use of electronic records has improved the maintenance, storage, and legibility of medical records. However, the volume of complaints regarding inaccurate medical records has increased. Some of the documentation is often entered into the record as a default normal. With one click, a provider can enter a standard normal physical exam. Many times this default normal exam will enter an overly comprehensive normal exam into the record. A patient may present for an isolated complaint such as hip pain but the record shows a default exam that includes normal examinations of the eye, neck, head, lungs and heart, which were not examined.

Likewise, a provider may enter a normal default review of systems that may actually contradict the complaints in the history of present illness. In addition, the electronic record may generate inaccurate diagnostic billing codes that result in billing discrepancies and unintended recorded clinical impressions. Patients do have the right to ask that addendums be placed in their record if they believe their medical record is inaccurate or incomplete.

Accordingly, if you have room for improvement in your medical record-keeping skills, consider taking a continuing education course on this topic. Information on providers who offer classes on medical record keeping is on the Board's website at ***http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Enforcement/Approved_Courses/courses_provider-info.pdf***.

Complete medical records are required to document the quality of care and to provide continuity and efficiency of patient care.

New Opioid Guideline Mobile App from CDC

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) introduced a free Opioid Guideline Mobile App that allows users ready access to the agency's recommendations on pain management and opioid treatment. According to the CDC, "The purpose of the app is to provide health care professionals and patients with quick reference materials on the prescription opioid overdose crisis and help them make informed clinical decisions." A Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME) calculator for drugs such as hydrocodone, transdermal fentanyl, and other opioids is included. The app also includes a glossary and an interactive motivational interview feature designed "to help providers practice effective communications skills and prescribe with confidence." The app can be downloaded free from the Apple App Store, the iTunes store, and the Google Play store by searching for CDC Opioid Guideline. The Medical Board of California also has helpful prescribing guidelines available on its website at ***http://www.mbc.ca.gov/licensees/prescribing/pain_guidelines.pdf.***

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency

California Department of Public Health

KAREN L. SMITH, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

July 13 2017 Clinical Advisory – Immunize to Prevent and Control Hepatitis A Outbreaks

Outbreaks of hepatitis A disease are currently ongoing in two California counties in persons who are homeless and/or using illicit drugs. In San Diego County at least 228 cases and 5 deaths have been reported since November 2016. In Santa Cruz County at least 27 cases have been reported since April 2017. Cases due to the same strain of hepatitis A virus (HAV) have been identified in both counties as well as in Arizona and Utah. Transmission is presumed to occur person-to-person; no commercial product has been identified as being contaminated. Based on current information, all populations who are homeless or using injection and noninjection illicit drugs can be considered at risk of outbreaks if exposed to HAV. The California Department of Public Health recommends:

To prevent and control hepatitis A outbreaks, offer HAV vaccine to persons who are homeless or might be using illicit injection or noninjection drugs.

In jurisdictions with hepatitis A outbreaks, also offer HAV vaccine to persons who have frequent close contact with persons who are homeless or using illicit drugs (e.g., in homeless shelters, jails, food pantries, drug rehabilitation programs, etc.).

HAV vaccine is routinely recommended for:

- Persons with chronic liver disease, including those with hepatitis B or C virus (HBV or HCV) infection
- Users of injection and noninjection illicit drugs
- Men who have sex with men
- Persons traveling to or working in countries that have high or intermediate levels of HAV transmission
- Any person wishing to obtain immunity to HAV
- Persons who have been exposed to HAV in the prior 2 weeks and are not known to be immune (immune globulin is an alternative to vaccine or given in addition to vaccine in some instances).

Additional information

- For Medi-Cal patients (Fee-for-Service or Managed Care), HAV vaccine given in a provider's office or network pharmacy is covered without prior authorization. Call the Plan's member services number (on the back of the patient's Medi-Cal Benefits ID Card) to locate a network pharmacy and confirm availability of vaccination at the pharmacy. Local health departments can help identify resources for uninsured persons.
- The first dose of single-antigen HAV vaccine appears to provide protection to more people than the first dose of the combined HAV/HBV (Twinrix®) vaccine (see Table 3, product insert). This apparent advantage disappears when the respective series are completed. Providers should consider the short-term risks of exposure to HAV, the likelihood of follow-up to complete multidose immunization and the need for protection from HBV when selecting vaccines for those at risk. Immunization against HAV with existing supplies should not be delayed to obtain a different formulation of vaccine.
- HBV vaccine is also recommended for injection drug users who are not known to be immune. A complete vaccination series is needed for full protection.
- Serologic testing for HAV infection is not recommended for asymptomatic people, nor is serologic testing for HAV immunity recommended as screening before vaccination.

Immunization Branch / Division of Communicable Disease Control
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Bldg. P, 2nd Floor, Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 620-3737 ♦ FAX (510) 620-3774 ♦ Internet Address: www.getimmunizedca.org

Magellan Diagnostics' LeadCare® Analyzers

The U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a warning about the use of Magellan Diagnostics' LeadCare analyzers (Lead Care, LeadCare II, LeadCare Ultra and LeadCare Plus) with venous blood samples, because their use might cause falsely low blood lead test results. The information provided by the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) follows an investigation into the performance of Magellan LeadCare® analyzers, whether the patient is a child or an adult.

At this time, the warning does not apply to capillary blood lead test results collected by fingerstick or heelstick using Magellan Diagnostics' LeadCare® analyzers. This health advisory does not apply to laboratory tests analyzed by inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) or graphite furnace atomic spectrometry (GFAAS), (also known as electrothermal atomic absorption spectrometry (ETAAS).

The CDC recommends that health care providers re-test patients who:

1) are younger than 6 years (72 months) at the time of the alert (May 17, 2017); and
2) had a venous blood lead test result of less than 10 micrograms per deciliter (mcg/dL) analyzed using a Magellan Diagnostics' LeadCare® analyzer at an onsite (e.g., health care facility) or at an offsite laboratory.

The CDC also recommends that health care providers re-test currently pregnant or lactating women who had a venous blood lead test performed using a Magellan Diagnostics LeadCare® analyzer.

For additional information, please see:

- ***https://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/Safety/AlertsandNotices/ucm558733.htm***
- ***https://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm558988.htm***
- ***http://www.leadcare2.com/getmedia/2fd8a90f-5c64-4058-b6ab-5db13512f0fe/Letter-to-our-customers-5-17-17.pdf.aspx***

For information on childhood lead exposure and lead testing please see:

- ***www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/clppb*** or contact the California Department of Public Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (CLPP) Branch at (510) 620-5600 or your local CLPP Program.

Please Take Our Survey

Please take a moment to share your thoughts about the Medical Board's Newsletter. Have a particular section that you like or an idea on how to improve our publication? We want to hear from you!

Click the link below to take the survey:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mbc_newsletter_survey

New Resources for California Physicians Treating Alzheimer's Disease

The California Department of Public Health released its 2017 Alzheimer's Clinical Care Guidelines, which were developed by an interdisciplinary workgroup representing academia, research, specialty medicine, primary care and social work. The workgroup made key recommendations in four areas: assessment, care planning, education and support, and legal considerations. All recommendations were based on recent scientific literature, evidence-based research and best practices in Alzheimer's disease management

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia and disproportionally impacts many Californians. Dementia is a general term for memory loss and other impairments serious enough to interfere with daily life. Alzheimer's accounts for 60 to 80 percent of dementia cases and currently impacts an estimated 610,000 Californians, a number projected to grow to 840,000 by 2025. Alzheimer's is the 5th leading cause of death in California and the only condition in the top 10 without a known cause, cure or prevention.

More women than men have Alzheimer's disease and other dementias such as vascular dementia and dementia with Lewy bodies, among others. Almost two-thirds of Americans with Alzheimer's are women, as are the majority of family caregivers. Older African Americans and Hispanics are more likely than older whites to have Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, with African Americans at twice the prevalence rate and Hispanics one and one-half times the rate.

This 2017 update reflects new evidence, as well as improved practice and changes in law. This is the 4th edition of the California Alzheimer's Clinical Care Guidelines, first published in 1968 and revised in 2002 and 2008. The 2017 update specified in statute (***SB 613, Chapter 577, 2015***) addresses changes in scientific evidence, clinical practice, and state and federal law.

For additional information contact Susan DeMarois, State Policy Director, Alzheimer's Association at (916) 447-9231 or ***sdemarois@alz.org*** or visit ***www.caalz.org***.

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***.

Administrative Actions

February 1, 2017 – April 30, 2017

Physicians and Surgeons

ADAMS, ALFRED EUGENE (G 51928), Oakland, CA
No admissions but charged with unprofessional conduct for failing to attend and participate in an interview by the Board, failing to provide the Board with an accurate address of record, and failing to file a proper and current mailing address with the Board; and charged with gross negligence, violating statute regulating controlled substances, and prescribing controlled substances for himself. Revoked. February 17, 2017. Judicial Review Pending.
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=51928

AFFUE, THEODORE, M.D. (G 85320), El Centro, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of one patient; and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of another patient. Physician must complete an education program and a clinical competence assessment program. Public Reprimand. April 28, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=85320

ALONZO-DOWALTER, JENNIFER HOMILLANO, M.D. (A 96391), Mountain Center, 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 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 obtaining a practice monitor. March 3, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=96391

ALVAREZ, CARLOS A., M.D. (A 42986), Bakersfield, CA
No admissions but charged with unprofessional conduct 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, a medical record keeping course; and obtaining a practice monitor. April 20, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=42986

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.

AWAD, YOUSSEF BEHNAM, M.D. (A 52194), Long Beach, 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 one patient. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course and a prescribing practices course. Public Reprimand. April 20, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=52194

BALFOUR, GLENN MARK, M.D. (A 86632), Oceanside, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, excessive prescribing, prescribing, dispensing, or furnishing dangerous drugs without an appropriate prior examination and a medical indication, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of three 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 controlled substances except for those drugs listed in Schedule III, IV and V, maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed and any recommendation or approval for marijuana, completing a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, a professional boundaries program, a clinical competence assessment program; and prohibited from prescribing narcotic drugs and opiates listed in Schedule III. March 29, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=86632

BENJAMIN, DAVID STEPHEN, M.D. (G 75256), Folsom, CA
No admissions but charged with using alcohol to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself or others, and practicing under the influence. Revoked, stayed, placed on 7 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, 60 day suspension, abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol, completing an ethics course, prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine, completing a clinical diagnostic evaluation, submitting to biological fluid testing, notification of employer, attending substance abuse support group meetings; and obtaining a worksite monitor.
February 3, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=75256

BENNETT, MARTIN, M.D. (A 31783), Encino, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, prescribing without an appropriate examination or medical indication, excessive prescribing, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of seven patients; and prescribing to addicts in the care and treatment of three 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 controlled substances in Schedule II and III, except for Suboxone, Vyvanse, and Xanax during the first three 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, a medical record keeping course, an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor, and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine, except for three patients.
February 10, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=31783

BENTON, ALPHONSO BRENELL, M.D. (A 72741), Chino Hills, 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 one patient, for failing to diagnose the patient with sepsis. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course and a clinical competence assessment program. Public Reprimand. February 3, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=72741

BOWMAN, PHILLIP JAMES, M.D. (A 73152), Beverly Hills, CA
Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for failing to document ongoing contact with a patient's treating psychotherapist, failing to keep the laboratory reports for three drug tests in the medical record, failing to obtain a CURES report and failing to have a treatment contract for prescribing buprenorphine, in the treatment of a patient with opiate dependence. April 13, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=73152

BREWSTER, MARY KAY MARINA, M.D. (G 84568), Monterey, CA
Convicted of two felony counts for stalking, one felony count for vandalism, and one misdemeanor count for unauthorized entry of a dwelling. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing 20 hours of community service, completing an ethics course, obtaining a practice monitor; and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. March 2, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=84568

BRIDGES, MARY FRANCES, M.D. (G 65326), Sherman Oaks, CA
No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Michigan for certifying a patient for the Medical Marijuana Program without adequately evaluating the patient, failing to document a full assessment of the patient's medical history, failing to document follow-up care, and failing to properly assess and document the patient's complaints of severe and chronic pain. Public Reprimand. February 3, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=65326

BROLASKI, GEORGE R., JR. (A 20748), Encinitas, CA
Respondent is unable to practice medicine safely due to a mental illness or physical illness affecting competency. Surrender of License. March 28, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=20748

BUNCKE, ADELE CONSTANCE (G 72447), San Mateo, CA
Engaged in dishonest acts and violated the terms of her Board-ordered probation by testing positive for a controlled substance without notifying the Board of such use or providing the Board with a prescription. Surrender of License. April 6, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=72447

BUNKER, STEPHEN RAYMOND, M.D. (G 36647), Horseshoe Bay, TX
Charged with being disciplined by Texas for failure to adequately document the extent of venous disease which formed the basis of his recommendation of vein procedures. Public Reprimand. February 17, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=36647

CHIU, ARTHUR KWOK-KWONG, M.D. (G 56073), North York, Ontario, Canada
No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Ontario with limitations placed on his surgical practice and additional terms and conditions. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a clinical competence assessment program, obtaining a practice monitor; and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. April 14, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=56073

CHUKWUDI, UCHE AUSTINE (A 105496), Gardena, CA
Charged with one felony count for conspiracy to engage in health care fraud, and six felony counts for felony health care fraud. Respondent failed to appear at his trial and is a fugitive at large. Revoked. March 30, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=105496

CHUN-BRODIE, JENNIFER ANN, M.D. (A 124733), Chico, CA
Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for failing to review and analyze the cerebrospinal fluid study results from the lumbar puncture, failing to perform a complete neurological examination for admission, and failing to document a discharge examination in the care and treatment of one patient. February 24, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=124733

CHUNG, BENJAMIN DALHYUN, M.D. (G 70147), Los Angeles, CA
No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of six patients. Physician must complete an education course and a clinical competence assessment program. Public Reprimand. March 10, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=70147

CLINTON, EDMOND JACKSON, III (G 29665), Pasadena, CA
Committed acts of gross negligence by kissing a patient, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records. Surrender of License. March 6, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=29665

COUCH, JOHN PATRICK (G 82209), Mobile, AL
Disciplined by Alabama for prescribing controlled substances for no legitimate medical purpose and violated the terms of his Board-ordered probation. Revoked. April 7, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=82209

DRISCOLL, PETER VAIL, M.D. (A 72379), Los Angeles, CA
No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Texas for failing to meet the standard of care in his treatment of three patients. 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, a clinical competence assessment program; obtaining a practice monitor, and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. April 27, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=72379

EBERT, WILLIAM KENNETH, M.D. (G 77739), Santa Cruz, CA
No admissions but charged with unprofessional conduct, gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, excessive prescribing, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of three patients; prescribing without an appropriate medical examination and medical indication in the care and treatment of two patients; and prescribing to an addict in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 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, an ethics course; and obtaining a practice monitor. March 3, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=77739

EHLING, DETLEF K., M.D. (A 66608), Concord, CA
No admissions but charged with using alcohol to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious 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, completing an ethics course, notification of employer, submitting to biological fluid testing, attending substance abuse support group meetings; and obtaining a worksite monitor. April 27, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=66608

FETT, DAVID RICHARD (A 37237), Los Angeles, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, excessive prescribing or treatment, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of four patients. Surrender of License. February 17, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=37237

FISHER, FRANK BENSELL, M.D. (G 48224), Rio Dell, CA
No admissions but charged with unprofessional conduct, gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical 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, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, an ethics course, a clinical competence assessment program; and obtaining a practice monitor. March 10, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=48224

FOGEL, BARUCH (A 44758), Laguna Beach, CA
Convicted of willful failures to file reports of foreign bank and financial accounts. Surrender of License. March 27, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=44758

GANAL, BESOSIE MALVAR, M.D. (A 31358), San Jose, CA
Committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an ethics course, a clinical competence assessment program, and a medical record keeping course. March 3, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=31358

GARCIA, REYNALDO YCOY, M.D. (A 89529), Porterville, CA
Committed acts of unprofessional conduct, gross negligence, excessive prescribing, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of four patients; and incompetence in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, restriction on prescribing only Schedule V drugs, 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 competence assessment program; and obtaining a practice monitor. April 7, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=89529

GOLDBERG, MICHAEL JAY, M.D. (A 25404), Tarzana, CA
Violated the terms of his Board-ordered probation by failing to successfully complete a clinical competence assessment program. One additional year of probation and written informed consent required for all new patients. February 9, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=25404

GOULD, ROBERT NORMAN (G 41372), Hemet, CA
Respondent is unable to practice medicine safely due to a mental illness or physical illness affecting competency. Surrender of License. March 21, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=41372

GUPTA, VIVEK, M.D. (A 118825), Lomita, CA
Convicted of a misdemeanor for driving with a blood alcohol content of .08 percent or higher, and used alcohol to an extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself or others. Public Reprimand. February 3, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=118825

GUZMAN, RENATO FRANCISCO (A 24088), Desert Hot Springs, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of one patient who died from peritonitis due to a small bowel perforation that occurred during surgery. Surrender of License. February 17, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=24088

HARPER, DAN ORVILLE, M.D. (C 51231), Solana Beach, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence 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 3 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor, and prohibited from using, creating or administering ozone in the care and treatment of his patients unless such use is accompanied by the simultaneous use of a destructor unit within the same room. March 3, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=51231

HENDRICKS, JAMES GREGORY, M.D. (G 84825), Napa, CA
Violated the terms of his Board-ordered probation by testing positive for alcohol. Revoked, stayed, placed on 2 years' additional probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of alcohol, submitting to biological fluid testing, completing a clinical diagnostic evaluation, notification of employer, obtaining a worksite monitor, attending support group meeting; and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. February 3, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=84825

HOLDEN, CHRISTOPHER, M.D. (G 75635), Orange, 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 one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course and a medical record keeping course. March 24, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=75635

HONNER, SAMANTHA KAY, M.D. (A 93611), Berkeley, CA
Convicted of a misdemeanor for driving with a blood alcohol content of .08 percent or higher and used alcohol to an extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to herself or others. Public Reprimand. April 14, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=93611

ITURZAETA, NENITA FLORES (A 31024), Corona, CA
Respondent is unable to practice medicine safely due to a mental illness or physical illness affecting competency. Revoked. March 24, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=31024

JAMES, DWIGHT, M.D. (G 40223), Porterville, CA
Committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence, prescribing dangerous drugs without an appropriate prior examination and medical indication, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of four patients; as well as violating laws regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances. Revoked, stayed, placed on 7 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, an ethics course, a clinical competence assessment program; and obtaining a practice monitor. March 15, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=40223

KAHLON, RAVINDER SINGH, M.D. (A 125871), Sacramento, CA
Convicted of driving with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 percent or higher twice in three years and used alcohol to an extent, or in such 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 education course, notification of employer, submitting to biological fluid testing, attending substance abuse support group meetings, and obtaining a worksite monitor. February 17, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=125871

KANCHANANAKHIN, PHACHARAWUT JOE, M.D. (A 91530), Granite Bay, CA
No admissions but charged with unprofessional conduct for attempting to kick and hit a mental health patient after the patient had been restrained. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an anger management course, an ethics course; and obtaining a practice monitor. April 21, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=91530

KASCHAK, THOMAS JOSEPH, M.D. (G 67586), Stateline, NV
Committed acts of gross negligence and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient; and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of another patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a medical record keeping course; and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. March 3, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=67586

KATSIYIANNIS, PETER THOMAS, M.D. (G 88008), Temecula, 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 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 obtaining a practice monitor. April 28, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=88008

KENNY, ROSE JEANNINE, M.D. (A 69759), Redmond, OR
No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Oregon for ordering unnecessary laboratory tests, provided treatment that was not medically indicated to two patients, and inappropriately prescribed antibiotics and opioids to additional patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, attending a clinical competence assessment program, completing an ethics course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, an education course; obtaining a practice monitor, and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. February 3, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=69759

KIMBER, NANCY DIANE, M.D. (A 65877), Los Alamitos, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course, an education course, and an ethics course. Public Reprimand. April 21, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=65877

KLOSS, HERBERT (G 59044), Mercer Island, WA
No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Washington for allowing a Nursing Assistant-Registered to provide anesthesia services beyond the scope of her credentials, for administering anesthesia to a pediatric patient while another pediatric patient was in recovery without monitoring, for leaving the operating room when patients were under general anesthesia to take telephone calls or use a computer, and for violating a prior agreement to continuous monitoring and being physically present and available during the administration of anesthesia. Surrender of License. February 17, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=59044

KUKREJA, NAVRAJAN (C 51462), Colonia, NJ
Disciplined by New Jersey for his care and treatment of a patient at a surgery center, facilitating the unlicensed practice of medicine while employed at the surgery center, having multiple violations and citations at a surgery center; and having his temporary privileges terminated at a medical center. Revoked. April 7, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=51462

KWON, YOUNG-JAE, M.D. (A 37514), Long Beach, 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 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 obtaining a practice monitor. March 3, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=37514

LEONI, JAMES FRANCIS, M.D. (G 56154), Petaluma, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence 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, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course; and obtaining a practice monitor. March 17, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=56154

LONG, JOSEPH EVERETT (G 87494), Pacifica, CA
Committed acts of unprofessional conduct, gross negligence, sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a patient, and sexual exploitation of a patient. Charged in Superior Court with two counts of sexual exploitation by a physician. Surrender of License. March 7, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=87494

LOUIS, JOANNA ROBERTA, M.D. (G 43299), Leucadia, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence, excessive prescribing, prescribing without an appropriate examination and medical indication and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of three patients and physician suffers from 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, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing or possessing any controlled substances except those 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 a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, a professional boundaries program, a clinical competence assessment program; obtaining a practice monitor, and prohibited from providing any treatments or prescriptions including opiate-based prescriptions to any patient for the purpose of treating his or her pain. March 24, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=43299

LUDERS, JAMES ROBERT (G 48265), Santa Rosa, CA
Respondent is unable to practice medicine safely due to a mental illness or physical illness affecting competency. Surrender of License. April 20, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=48265

LUU, TRAMI SUSAN THI (A 40540), Bakersfield, CA
Respondent is unable to practice medicine safely due to a mental illness or physical illness affecting competency. Surrender of License. March 8, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=40540

MANI, NASRIN, M.D. (A 40473), Chula Vista, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, lack of outpatient setting accreditation, violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, a provision of the Medical Practice Act, dissemination of false, fraudulent, misleading or deceptive statements, claims or images, and unprofessional conduct for permitting procedures to be conducted under conscious sedation in an unlicensed, unaccredited, or uncertified outpatient setting. Public Reprimand. March 2, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=40473

MATHY, CHRISTIAN BERNARD, M.D. (A 66142), Burlingame, CA
No admissions but charged with violating statutes regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances, engaging in dishonest acts, and false documents for writing prescriptions for controlled substances for persons he knew to be fictitious, signing false documents, creating false medical records with fraudulent intent, and prescribing controlled substances for himself. 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 any controlled substances except during a colonoscopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy, upper endoscopy, endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatograpy, upper and lower endoscopic ultrasound, percutaneous liver biopsy, percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy tube placement, 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. February 3, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=66142

MATTIELLO, JULIAN ANTONY, M.D. (A 124846), Lansdowne, PA
No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Pennsylvania for performing a surgical procedure in a manner that was beneath the standard of care. Public Reprimand. February 3, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=124846

MCGUCKIN, JAMES FREDERICK, M.D. (G 87992), Downey, CA
Disciplined by Washington for performing a procedure without ensuring that the appropriate approval was obtained from the FDA. Public Reprimand. March 1, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=87992

MCLEOD, JASMINE JOY, M.D. (G 64127), La Jolla, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence, and general unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete an education course. Public Reprimand. February 10, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=64127

MEHRIZI, NASSER, M.D. (A 48610), Paramount, CA
Violated the terms of his agreement with the Board by failing to comply with the recommendation of the clinical competence assessment program in the time frame provided. Physician must complete the Osler Institute's Surgery Board Course or the American College of Surgeons' Comprehensive General Surgery Review Course. Public Reprimand. April 6, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=48610

MOBLEY, ELIJAH, M.D. (G 81875), Fontana, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence and repeated negligent acts 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 clinical competence assessment program and obtaining a practice monitor. February 24, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=81875

MONTEGUT, WALTON JAMES, M.D. (A 60845), Newport Beach, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence 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, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, an ethics course; and obtaining a practice monitor. February 3, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=60845

MORGAN, PHILIP JAMES, M.D. (G 56468), Ventura, CA
Failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of seven patients. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course. Public Reprimand. March 1, 2017. Judicial Review Pending.
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=56468

MURNANE, THOMAS J. (G 11890), Delmar, NY
Disciplined by New York for prescribing opioid medications to two patients without adequate medical indication, in dosage amounts that were not medically indicated, and without documenting such medical indication. Revoked. March 24, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=11890

MURPHY, MARY CHARLENE (G 74754), San Diego, CA
Committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, in the care and treatment of two patients; and violated the terms of her Board-ordered probation by failing to obey all laws. Revoked. February 3, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=74754

NG, YOLANDA WAI, M.D. (A 131737), San Jose, CA
Disciplined by Washington for refusing to complete inpatient treatment for marijuana dependence after being found to be impaired and unable to practice medicine safely due to misuse of marijuana. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances, completing a clinical diagnostic evaluation, notification of employer, submitting to biological fluid testing, attending substance abuse support group meetings; and obtaining a worksite monitor. March 16, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=131737

OBASI, PATRICK CHIDI, M.D. (C 134433), Plano, TX
Disciplined by Texas for engaging in unprofessional conduct by failing to properly evaluate a patient prior to elective surgery, resulting in multiple complications, further surgery, and ultimately the patient's death. Physician must complete an education course. Public Reprimand. March 10, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=134433

PALAFOX, MARCOS, JR., M.D. (A 80142), Corona, CA
Convicted of a misdemeanor for driving with a blood alcohol content of .08 percent or higher, used alcohol to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous and injurious to himself or others, engaged in dishonest acts, and unprofessional conduct by giving a false statement to Board investigators. 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, completing an ethics course, undergo a medical evaluation and treatment, notification of employer, submitting to biological fluid testing, attending substance abuse support group meetings, obtaining a worksite monitor; and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. April 7, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=80142

PERO, JAMES EDWARD (G 70281), Thousand Oaks, CA
Violated the terms of his Board-ordered probation by testing positive for alcohol. Revoked. February 10, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=70281

PON, DAVID M. (G 53071), Leesburg, FL
Disciplined by Florida for his conviction on multiple counts of health care fraud. Revoked. February 17, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=53071

POSSELT, ANDREW MARK, M.D. (G 81075), San Francisco, CA
Convicted of driving with a blood alcohol content of.08 percent or higher and driving with a blood alcohol content of .08 percent or higher with a minor in the vehicle; and used alcohol to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself or others. Physician must complete an ethics course. Public Reprimand. March 8, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=81075

RAI, NIRMAL S. M.D. (A 49025), Modesto, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, creating false records, signing false records, submitting false claims to Medi-Cal and creating false treatment records to support those claims, engaged in dishonest acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of five 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, a medical record keeping course, an ethics course, a clinical competence assessment program; and obtaining a practice/billing monitor. April 14, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=49025

RODRIGUEZ, FRANK (G 65514), West Palm Beach, FL
No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Florida for unprofessional conduct for leaving a foreign body in a patient during a pregnancy termination procedure, and failing to keep adequate surgical operative reports of the procedure. Surrender of License. February 17, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=65514

ROYER, LYLE WESLEY (C 34553), Culver City, CA
Failed to comply with the terms of his Board-ordered probation. Revoked. February 10, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=34553

SESSIONS, SCOTT CLARK, M.D. (G 84594), La Mesa, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of two patients; and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical 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; obtaining a practice monitor, and prohibited from performing any procedures requiring any form of sedation in a non-accredited surgery center. February 2, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=84594

SHAH, UMESH C., M.D. (A 34147), Chino, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course, an education course, and an ethics course. Public Reprimand. April 7, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=34147

SHAHEEN, JOHN ANTHONY, M.D. (G 78334), Monterey, CA
Committed repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical 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 an ethics course and a clinical competence assessment program. March 15, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=78334

SHARMA, ANAMIKA, M.D. (A 88454), Fremont, CA
No admissions but charged with unprofessional conduct, gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a clinical competence assessment program. Public Reprimand. April 5, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=88454

SILVA, MELINDA LLANES, M.D. (A 54611), Chula Vista, CA
No admissions but charged with being convicted of misdemeanors for treating the sick/afflicted without a certificate – conspiring, unprofessional conduct and violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, a provision of the Medical Practice Act 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 ethics course, obtaining a practice monitor, prohibited from holding any type of ownership interest in more than one medical practice or medical spa; and completing 40 hours of community service. February 23, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=54611

STERNER, ROBERT FULTON (G 51708), San Diego, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records; and violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, a provision of the Medical Practice Act in the care and treatment of one patient; and physician suffers from a mental illness that renders him unable to practice medicine safely. Surrender of License. April 17, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=51708

TANGUMA, MANUEL, III (A 101646), Encinitas, CA
No admissions but charged with sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a patient and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of nine patients; gross negligence and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of seven patients; and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of five patients. Surrender of License. April 17, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=101646

THOMASHEFSKY, ALLEN JAN (G 22085), Ashland, OR
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence, aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine, failure to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of multiple patients, for reusing syringes, failure to use standard precautions when injecting patients, administering procedural sedation without vital sign monitoring equipment; gross negligence in the treatment of a patient's thyroid disorder; and employing an unlicensed person to practice medicine. Surrender of License. March 14, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=22085

THONGTRANGAN, ISSADA, M.D. (A 96742), Phoenix, AZ
No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Arizona for providing a patient with prescriptions for controlled substances in exchange for sexual favors, and prescribing pain medication to two patients without performing physical examinations or generating appropriate records. 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 a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, an ethics course, a professional boundaries program; obtaining a practice monitor and a third party chaperone. March 10, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=96742

THOTA, NAGA RAJA (A 53526), El Cajon, CA
Pled guilty to distributing and dispensing controlled substances without legitimate medical purpose. Surrender of License. March 22, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=53526

TRUONG, SON NGOC, M.D. (A 97261), Westminster, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, violating extraction and postoperative care standards for liposuction procedures outside of a hospital, and failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of three patients; and engaging in dishonest acts by maintaining a website with claims of performing thousands of surgeries, of having a celebrity client list and a worldwide reputation, none of which was accurate. 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, an ethics course, a clinical competence assessment program; obtaining a practice monitor, and prohibited from performing extracting procedures involving body liposuction and related procedures (including mini-tummy tuck) during probation. March 30, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=97261

WARDEN, NANCY ANNE, M.D. (G 47331), Citrus Heights, CA
Respondent is unable to practice medicine safely due to a mental and/or physical illness and/or the use of alcohol affecting competency. 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, obtaining a worksite monitor for substance abusing licensees; and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. March 29, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=47331

Physicians with an email address are required (per Business and Professions Code section 2021(d)) to report it to the Medical Board of California. The email address shall be considered confidential and not subject to public disclosure.

WEISSMAN, KENNETH R., M.D. (G 85232), Carlsbad, CA
Disciplined by Colorado for excessive use or abuse of alcohol and controlled substances rendering him unable to practice medicine safely. Probationary license issued, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of alcohol and controlled substances, completing a clinical training assessment program, completing a clinical diagnostic evaluation, notification of employer, submitting to biological fluid testing, attending substance abuse support group meetings, obtaining a worksite monitor, obtaining a practice monitor; and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. March 17, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=85232

WILCOX, MOSES E., M.D. (G 62509), Nederland, TX
No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Texas for failing to consult a general surgeon to consider whether more conservative treatment options were viable for one patient, and incorrectly managed another patient's lesion outside the accepted standard of care. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, obtaining a practice monitor; and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. April 28, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=62509

WINDSOR, ROBERT EARL (C 55007), Marietta, GA
Disciplined by Georgia based on a guilty plea for false billing charges for surgical monitoring performed by a medical assistant; engaged in dishonest acts and convicted for one felony count of health care fraud. Surrender of License. March 22, 2017.
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=55007

WILLIAMS, MARK DWIGHT, M.D. (A 80386), Los Angeles, CA
Convicted of misdemeanors for violating a criminal protective order in 2013 and vandalism and a violation of a court order in 2012; engaged in dishonest acts, made false representations of facts, and committed unprofessional conduct during an interview with investigators. Revoked, stayed, placed on 2 additional years' probation to run concurrent to the previous probation, with all terms and conditions previously ordered in the previous case. February 16, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=80386

WOGU, CAMELIA CRISTINA, M.D. (A 102408), Riverside, CA
Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of six patients. March 2, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=102408

WONG, DEBORAH FONES (G 64641), Oakdale, CA
Respondent is unable to practice medicine safely due to a mental and or physical illness affecting competency, used controlled substances to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to herself or others; committed gross negligence by prescribing dangerous drugs to two patients; and created false records in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked. April 7, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=64641

XIONG, SHIQUAN, M.D. (A 102651), Bakersfield, CA
No admissions but charged with violating her Board-ordered probation by failing the clinical competence assessment program; and physician suffers from a mental illness that renders her unable to practice medicine safely. Revoked, stayed, placed on an additional 5 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, six month suspension, completing a professional enhancement program, abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol, submitting to biological fluid testing, completing an education course, a clinical competence assessment program (condition precedent); obtaining a practice monitor; and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. April 14, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=102651

YAMANE, ROBERT YOJI, M.D. (G 56063), Ashland, OR
Disciplined by Oregon with conditions on treating chronic pain patients. Public Reprimand. March 3, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=56063

YANG, CHI HONG (C 38890), San Gabriel, CA
Convicted of a felony count of conspiracy to commit a crime, engaged in dishonest acts, and committed unprofessional conduct for participating in a scheme to commit insurance fraud by presenting multiple claims for payment to insurance companies for the health care benefits not used by the claimants; and failed to report the conviction to the Board. Surrender of License. March 16, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=38890

ZAIDI, SYED, K., M.D. (A 104652), Orangevale, CA
Committed repeated negligent acts for failing to protect two female patients' modesty during integrated skin examinations and engaged in dishonest acts by charting that a medical assistant was present during all exams when a medical assistant was not always present. Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, an ethics course, a professional boundaries program (condition precedent), a clinical competence assessment program (condition precedent), obtaining a practice monitor, prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; and obtaining a third party chaperone. March 8, 2017. Judicial Review Pending.
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=104652

ZAND, KAMBIZ KARIMI, M.D. (A 38205), Los Gatos, CA
No admissions but charged with unprofessional conduct and incompetence in the care and treatment of a liposuction patient. Physician must complete an education course. Public Reprimand. March 30, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=38205

ZHONG, ZHI JIAN (A 90017), San Francisco, CA
Convicted of spousal battery, engaged in dishonest or corrupt acts; and failed to attend a Board interview. Revoked. February 24, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=90017

ZORMEIER, MICHELLE MARIE, M.D. (A 76795), Healdsburg, 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 six patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a clinical competence assessment program, an ethics course, a medical record keeping course, and an education course. March 9, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=76795

Physician Assistants

DEL REAL, JEFF, P.A. (PA 54302), Redlands, 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 or until Applicant is successfully discharged from the Diversion Program plus one year, whichever is later, beginning on the date the probationary license was issued, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of alcohol and controlled substances and dangerous drugs, completing the board's drug and alcohol recovery monitoring program, submitting to biological fluid testing, completing an ethics course, notification of employer, and approval of supervising physician. March 16, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PA&licenseNumber=54302

PORTER, HEATHER SMITH, P.A. (PA 11995), Lancaster, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, prescribing without an examination or medical indication, excessive prescribing, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, and providing medical services without adequate supervision in the care and treatment of four patients; and prescribing to an addict in the care and treatment of three patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, controlled drugs – no administering, issuing a drug order or handing to a patient any Schedule II drugs, maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered or possessed, and any recommendation or approval for marijuana, completing a medical record keeping course, an education course, prescribing practices course (condition fulfilled), maintaining patient medical records, obtaining approval of supervising physician, and notification of employer. February 8, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PA&licenseNumber=11995

RAMIREZ, ANTONIO, P.A. (PA 15666), Oxnard, CA
No admissions but charged with being convicted of a misdemeanor for driving with a blood alcohol content of .08 percent or higher and use of alcohol to the extent, or in a such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself or others. Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, 40 hours of community service, completing an ethics course, abstaining from the use of alcohol, submitting to biological fluid testing, obtaining approval for a supervising physician, and notification of employer. April 7, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PA&licenseNumber=15666

ROBERSON, DESHAWN MICHAEL, P.A. (PA 54384), Van Nuys, CA
Convicted of reckless driving. Probationary license issued, placed on 5 years' probation or until Applicant is successfully discharged from the Diversion Program plus one year, whichever is later, beginning on the date the probationary license was issued, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of alcohol and controlled substances and dangerous drugs, completing a drug and alcohol recovery monitoring program, submitting to biological fluid testing, obtaining approval of a supervising physician, and notification of employer. April 28, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PA&licenseNumber=54384

SCHMIDT, MELODY ANN, P.A. (PA 12008), La Canada, 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 one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on 2 years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, 180 day suspension, completing a medical record keeping course, an education course, having 30 percent of Respondent's records reviewed and dated at least weekly by a supervising physician; and the supervising physician must be on site at least 50% of the time Respondent is practicing; and notification of employer. The Board must approve the supervising physician. February 10, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PA&licenseNumber=12008

Podiatrist

EBAUGH, JOHN EDWARD, DPM (E 4495), Indio, 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 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 competence assessment program; and obtaining a practice monitor. April 14, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=E&licenseNumber=4495

Polysomnographic Technologist

HACKLER, MATTHEW LORNE (PTGL 528), Citrus Heights, CA
Committed sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a patient and failure to maintain national accreditation. Revoked. March 17, 2017
http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PTGL&licenseNumber=528

A 2016 training for active Expert Reviewers, pictured at right, received high ratings from physician attendees, with 40 percent of them saying it exceeded their expectations. The Expert Reviewers praised the segment on testifying techniques, said the class addressed issues that create confusion and called the interactive portions enjoyable.

SAVE A DATE

Medical Board of California

Offering two Expert Reviewer Training Opportunities

STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS 1876 MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Thursday, September 28, 2017
Sacramento, California

or

Thursday, November 2, 2017
Sylmar, California

FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
CME CREDITS OFFERED

Pre-register at:

MBCMEDICALEXPERTPROGRAM@MBC.CA.GOV

Department of Consumer Affairs
Medical Board of California
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95815

Medical Board Quarterly Meetings

October 25-27, 2017	San Diego Area
January 18-19, 2018	Northern California
April 19-20, 2018	Los Angeles Area
July 26-27, 2018	San Francisco Area
October 18-19, 2018	San Diego Area

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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.

Contact Us:

Medical Board of California

For questions or assistance with the following:	**(800) 633-2322 or (916) 263-2382**
Consumer Complaints/Information	
Applications	
Health Facility Discipline Reports	
Fictitious Name Permits	
License Renewals	
BreEZe Assistance	
For questions or assistance with the following:	
Continuing Education	(916) 263-2645
Expert Reviewer Program	(818) 551-2129
Publications/Outreach	(916) 263-2466
Affiliated Healing Arts Professions	
Midwives - all inquiries	(916) 263-2393
Physician Assistants	(916) 561-8780
Department of Consumer Affairs	
Healing Arts Board and Bureau Complaints	(800) 952-5210

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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.***

Medical Board of California, Executive Director — Kimberly Kirchmeyer
Summer 2017 — Medical Board of California Newsletter — Susan Wolbarst, Editor (916) 263-2480
Contact us by email: ***webmaster@mbc.ca.gov***