

Medical Memo

STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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

1020 N STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

DECEMBER, 1974



AT BOARD SEMINAR — Members of the Board of Medical Examiners and its associated committees recently held a day-long seminar in San Diego exchanging information and views about mutual concerns. Giving their full attention to a speaker are, from left, Elta L. S. Pfister, Ed.D., Psychology Examining Committee; Gary S. Nye, M.D., Board of Medical Examiners; Wallace V. Lockwood, Psychology Examining Committee; and Sherwin L. Memel, J.D., Board of Medical Examiners.

New Health Care Measures Enacted

The following bills originating in the State Assembly during the 1974 session have been signed into law by Governor Ronald Reagan. These laws affect health care in California:

AB 1595, Assemblyman Gordon Duffy. Requires Board of Medical Examiners to prepare a statistical report every two years regarding licentiates. The report will include the following licensee information: total number of Board licensees; number of inactive; full-time and part time employment status; number of California licensees practicing in other states; specialties; number of licensees who graduated from California, foreign and out of state medical schools; ages and sexes and several other statistical areas.

AB 1841, Assemblyman Duffy. Medical schools conducting research on acupuncture must report results of their research annually. Requires the Board of Medical Examiners to provide grants for research projects on acupuncture. The Board will review current studies of the therapeutic value of acupuncture techniques, and propose methods of certifying and licensing acupuncturists. The Board

will report the results of the review to the Legislature by January 1, 1976.

AB 3567, Assemblyman Walter Ingalls. Effective January, 1975, all monthly reports listing Schedule III drug purchases must be submitted to the Department of Justice instead of the Board of Pharmacy. Theft or loss of any Schedule III drug must be reported to the Department of Justice within three days of discovery. Any discrepancy between quantity of Schedule III drugs shipped and those received must also be reported.

AB 4469, Assemblyman Henry Waxman. Revises law on revocation or suspension of licenses issued under the State Medical Practice Act. Fraudulent alteration of medical records by any licensee shall constitute a misdemeanor. Such alteration makes licensee subject to disciplinary action by Board of Medical Examiners, including imposition of \$500 fine. Includes ordinary incompetence as grounds for disciplinary action by Board. Strengthens other grounds for disciplinary action, such as conviction of crime, misuse of drugs and mental illness.

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DR. WILKINS TESTIFIES ON BOARD ACTIVITIES

Dr. Harold E. Wilkins, President of the Board of Medical Examiners, provided testimony before the Assembly Select Committee on Medical Malpractice on November 8, in Los Angeles. A portion of his testimony included a re-cap of Board and licensee activities in recent years. Highlights of Dr. Wilkins comments included the following:

The number of physicians licensed by the Board in 1967 was 51,873. Today the number of licensees is 67,695, an increase of 30 per cent. The number of physicians currently practicing in California is 41,873. Complaints against physicians, investigations of physicians by the Board, and the number of disciplinary hearings resulting from these investigations have all increased since 1967. The Board currently has an average 1,500 investigations of physicians pending compared with 450 pending at the same time in 1967.

The number of disciplinary hearings has also increased. The Board of Medical Examiners has five District Review Committees throughout California which hear cases assigned to them by the Board. Last year the Review Committees met a total of only 17 days. So far this year, they

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Harold E. Wilkins, M.D.

BOARD BUSINESS

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS – September 1974 - October 1974

- Louis M. Barber, M.D., Vacaville, CAOctober 25, 1974
Revoked
- Edward H. Fredkin, M.D., Los Angeles, CASeptember 4, 1974
Revoked, stayed 5 years Probation, Terms and Conditions
- Georgia B. Jordan, PT., Los Angeles, CAOctober 25, 1974
Revoked, stayed 5 years Probation, Terms and Conditions
- Nelson N. Kauffman, M.D., Los Angeles, CASeptember 2, 1974
Revoked
- Devere J. Lancaster, Hollywood, CASeptember 4, 1974
Suspended for 30 days

There were also two applications for licenses denied, eight fully restored, two modification of probations, one probation for termination denied and one probation for termination granted.

Correction to September Medical Memo Disciplinary Actions

Dr. Ralph G. Korljan and Dr. Woodrow Weiss are in good standing with the Board of Medical Examiners as of November 25, 1974.

MEETING AND EXAMINATION DATES

January and February 1975

- Board Meeting, January 24-27 Sacramento
- Physical Therapy Meeting, January 24 San Francisco
- Podiatry Meeting, February 13 and 14 Los Angeles
- Psychology Meeting, January 11 and 12 Monterey
- Psychology Meeting, February 8 and 9 San Diego

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

HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW

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AB 2098, Assemblyman Dixon Arnett. Exempts physicians and podiatrists employed by designated community clinics from certain name and ownership requirements involved in obtaining fictitious name permits.

AB 3429, Assemblyman Bob McLennan, M.D. Nonsubstantive revisions concerning podiatry, midwifery, drugless practitioners, and psychologists; authorizes appointment of exempt assistant secretary by Psychology Examining Committee; increases certain fees.

LICENSE RENEWAL

The Board reminds all licensees that the law requires physicians and surgeons to notify the Board of Medical Examiners of any change in address. Those who do not notify the Board of change in address may not receive license renewal notices. Licensees are advised to check pocket certificates for renewal dates.

Dr. Wilkins Represents Board at Assembly Malpractice Hearing

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have held 42 days of hearings on 28 individual disciplinary cases. Disciplinary actions are also heard by the Board itself, or by a hearing officer from the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Physicians disciplined by the Board, who do not have their licenses revoked, are put on probation with specified terms and conditions. There are currently 170 licensees on probation, who are required to report annually to the Board. Probationers may petition the Board to restore their certificate or to modify some or all of the terms and conditions of probation. The Board has heard 39 such petitions this year compared to 19 last year. The Board also has the responsibility under Section 800 of the Medical Practice Act to investigate malpractice judgments reported by insurance companies.

In February, the Board of Medical Examiners will again submit its annual report to the Legislature. The report will contain recommendations for additional legislation in the health care area.

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**DEPARTMENT OF
Consumer Affairs**

Board of Medical Examiners
1020 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

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