



Medical Board of California Newsletter

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Through Your Patient's Eyes

Note from the Executive Director:

For the past three years, the Medical Board of California (Board) has made it a priority to address the epidemic of deaths related to overprescribing and misuse of controlled substances. The Board held a Joint Forum with the State Board of Pharmacy, initiated a Prescribing Task Force that was instrumental in revision of the Board's [Guidelines for Prescribing](#)



Photo by Charlotte Clark

[Controlled Substances for Pain \(Guidelines\)](#) released in November 2014, produced public service announcements (PSAs) for both the public and physicians about the importance of safe prescribing and opioid use, and took enforcement actions against physicians who departed from the standard of care when prescribing opioids to patients. The Legislature also believes this issue is important and passed legislation that requires any physician who is authorized to prescribe, order, administer, furnish, or dispense Schedules II, III, or IV controlled substances to be registered with CURES (Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System) by July 1, 2016.

However, despite all the outreach and education regarding this issue, the Board continues to receive complaints and file accusations against physicians for inappropriate prescribing to patients. A recent letter to the Board providing a different perspective on this issue is printed here in an effort to further educate physicians on the importance of appropriately prescribing controlled substances. The letter has been edited for length and is being published anonymously at the request of its author.

A Patient's Story

"Over the last 12 years, eight physicians have prescribed or attempted to prescribe Vicodin to me or my children. (As) the wife of a retired internist (and) daughter

Through Your Patient's Eyes (continued on page 6)

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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All editions are available as digital publications via email or viewable on the Board's website: <http://www.mbc.ca.gov>. Additionally, the Winter edition is printed in hard copy for distribution via U.S. Postal Service to those physicians or interested parties without an email.

To subscribe or unsubscribe, please use the following link: <http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Subscribers/>. Submission of original-written articles is welcome, but all submissions become the property of the Board and are subject to editing.

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 Investigations 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/Public/Bulletin.aspx?examCD=5CACC>). If you have any questions, please contact Division of Investigation, Health Quality Investigation Unit Commander Laura Gardhouse at (909) 476-7146.

Interested in becoming an expert reviewer?

If you are actively practicing in California and interested in becoming an expert reviewer (expert), applications are accepted continuously. The Medical Board of California established its Expert Reviewer Program in July 1994 as an impartial and professional means to support the investigation and enforcement functions of the Board. Experts assist the Board by providing reviews and opinions on Board cases and conducting professional competency examinations, medical and psychiatric evaluations.

The Board is currently looking for experts **in the following specialties:** addiction medicine with added certification in family medicine or internal medicine or psychiatry, dermatology, family medicine, neurological surgery, neurology, ob/gyn, pathology, pain medicine, pediatric cardiac surgery, plastic surgery, psychiatry, surgery and urology, as well as midwife reviewers.

Actively practicing physicians from all other specialties not listed above are also welcome to apply and participate in the review process. 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 to testify in court. Midwives must have an active midwifery practice for the past two years, have no current complaints, no prior discipline, and must be willing to testify in court.

For more information regarding compensation and how to apply, please visit: http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Enforcement/Expert_Reviewer/ or contact the Board's expert program at: MBCMedicalExpertProgram@mbc.ca.gov.

Editor's Spotlight

By Susan Wolbarst

Spring has arrived, providing a renewed sense of purpose along with the joy of witnessing so much that is beautiful and new.

Speaking of which, the Medical Board of California welcomes fresh perspectives provided by three new Board members. (Please see page 8.)

March was Prescription Drug Awareness Month, commemorated with a "Dose of Awareness" 5K Walk and Health Expo. Please see page 27 for more on the event, organized by the National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse. April is Donate Life Month (please see page 10), a chance to remind readers to register to donate organs and tissue when renewing a driver license at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Other articles in this issue include a reminder that Utilization Review is the Practice of Medicine (page 11) by Senior Staff Counsel Kerrie Webb and a look at how Senate Bill 396 enhances consumer protection in outpatient surgery settings (page 12) by Licensing Program Manager Natalie Lowe.

Hope you enjoy this issue. Please contact me at Susan.Wolbarst@mbc.ca.gov if you have any ideas for future articles.

Need A Speaker?

If you would like a speaker from the Medical Board of California to address your organization, please contact Public Affairs Manager Cassandra Hockenson at Cassandra.hockenson@mbc.ca.gov.

President's Message



David Serrano Sewell, J.D.

On February 28, 2016, the Board had the honor of participating in the Second Annual National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse (NCAPDA) "Dose of Awareness" 5K Walk and Health Expo. The event, held in San Ramon, is not only to remember those we have lost to this terrible epidemic of prescription drug abuse and misuse, but to educate the public about the issues and alternatives to combat it.

California's CURES (Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System) database 2.0 is designed to assist in addressing this issue by tracking Schedules

II, III, and IV controlled substance prescriptions dispensed in California. Access to CURES is limited to licensed prescribers and licensed dispensers strictly for patient care, and regulatory board staff and law enforcement personnel for oversight and investigatory purposes. Any health care practitioner authorized to prescribe these controlled substances must register with CURES by July 1, 2016. The hope is this program will help California prescribers and dispensers obtain the information they need to help prevent inappropriate prescribing.

That said, it is still important to treat chronic pain, and the Board's [*Guidelines for Prescribing Controlled Substances for Pain \(Guidelines\)*](#), which were revised in November 2014, is available on the Board's website to assist physicians in prescribing and caring for these patients. The Board's mission of consumer protection is always paramount. The Board strives to assist and educate physicians and allied health care providers so they can provide quality health care to their patients. This not only achieves the Board's ultimate mission of

consumer protection, but protects the nature and quality of the medical profession.

There are several articles in this issue, including our front page story, as well as in some of our other Newsletters regarding this epidemic, with ways to assist in prescribing appropriately. I hope all physicians take some time to review the Board's Guidelines and read these articles.

Changing Locations?

Remember: a change of address of record must be reported to the Medical Board of California within 30 days at http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Address_of_Record.aspx.

(Business and Professions Code section 2021(b))

Do I Need to Register for CURES?

If you are authorized to prescribe, order, administer, furnish, or dispense Schedules II, III, or IV controlled substances in California (regardless of whether you actually perform the functions), you are required to register for CURES by July 1, 2016.

For more information, contact the California Department of Justice at cures@doj.ca.gov.

MBC Newsletter 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

Legislator Profile

Senator Patricia Bates



For some, “conservative social worker” may sound like an oxymoron, but it helps describe Patricia “Pat” Bates. Elected to the California State Senate in 2014, Bates represents South Orange and North San Diego counties, with Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton located in the heart of the coastal 36th Senate District.

Graduating from Occidental College with a psychology degree, Bates started her career as a Los Angeles County social worker, assigned to some of the county's most underprivileged neighborhoods. In her position, she helped people cope with many challenges and was exposed to both the capabilities and limitations of government.

"What I learned as a social worker was that government must not rob people of their self-esteem and initiative," said Bates. "Government has an

important role in protecting public safety and health through agencies like the Medical Board, but it must act within the limits placed upon it by the people.”

While Bates is relatively new to the Senate, she is not new to the Legislature or to politics. After settling down in Orange County to raise a family with her husband, John, Bates became active in what was then unincorporated Laguna Niguel to ensure that basic services were adequately provided to her community.

Bates became the driving force behind Laguna Niguel's campaign for cityhood and became its first mayor upon the city's incorporation in 1989. She served four terms as mayor and was later elected to the State Assembly in 1998.

In the Assembly, Bates served as Vice Chair of the Appropriations and Health committees, and was the founding Chair of the Republican Women's Caucus, ensuring that women from across the political spectrum were fully represented.

After completing her Assembly tenure, Bates went on to win a seat on the Orange County Board of Supervisors in 2006. She has brought to the Senate her priorities such as protecting taxpayers, championing job creation, upgrading transportation infrastructure and keeping communities safe.

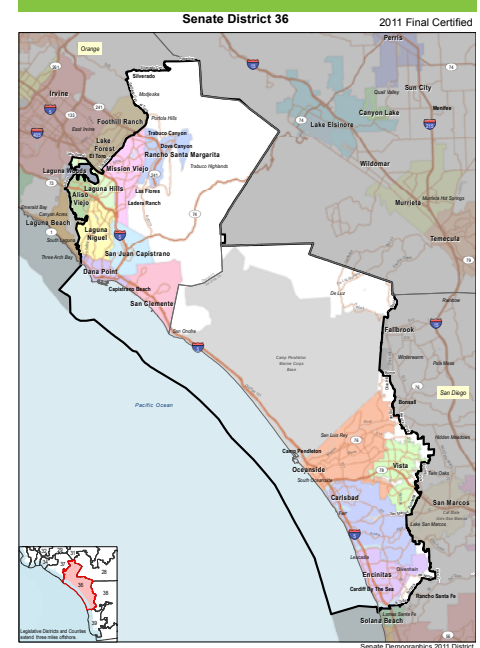
But Bates has not forgotten her social worker roots. Another of her priorities

is addressing homelessness. She authored Senate Bill 659 to help fund successful non-profits that provide shelter and services to adults and children in a sober environment. The bill has helped to jumpstart a conversation among her colleagues on how to effectively address homelessness.

Bates currently serves as Vice Chair of the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee, which oversees the Medical Board. She also serves as Vice Chair of the Appropriations Committee and is a member of the Environmental Quality and Transportation and Housing committees.

Bates and her husband have two adult children and four grandchildren.

District Map



You Asked For It

Questions received from the Web

By Christine Valine, Public Information Analyst

Q. How can I check to see if my license has been renewed or if my address of record is correct?

A. Your license information can be verified from the Medical Board's website (<http://www.mbc.ca.gov>) under your physician profile. Click on "License Search," then choose license type "Physician and Surgeon," and then "Search by Name" or "Search by License Number." Enter your name or the numerical portion of your license number. You should periodically verify the accuracy of this information.



Q. I am planning on leaving California; however, I would like to maintain my California license, as I plan to return to California at a later date. Is there an option to maintain my California medical license without paying the full renewal fee?

A. You can change your medical license from active status to retired status before your current license expires. You do not pay the renewal fee; however, you must pay the mandatory \$25 Physician Loan Repayment Program (PLRP) fee and \$12 CURES fee (\$37 total) with each two-year renewal of your retired license. The form to change your status is located through the following link: <http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Forms/Licensees/07r-44.pdf>. The retired status applies only to your California medical license.

When the time comes that you wish to reactivate your medical license to active status, please submit the following form with the required documents and fee: <http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Forms/Licensees/res-1.pdf>

Q. I received an email about the CURES Program and I have a DEA number; however, since I do not prescribe controlled substances in my practice, am I required to register for CURES?

A. CURES is California's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) and is maintained by the California Department of Justice. The law states if you are authorized to prescribe, administer, or dispense controlled substances Schedules II, III or IV in California, you must register with CURES by July 1, 2016 whether you prescribe controlled substances or not.

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.

of an adult and child psychiatrist, ... I am certainly a fan of western medicine and physicians. But every physician, staff, and surgical facility I have dealt with as a patient or mother of a patient has been very pushy about our taking Vicodin for the following procedures." The letter lists a child's tonsillectomy, broken growth plate of a teen's thumb, a teen's bruised jaw with possible concussion, an adult's finger surgery, and a young adult's wisdom teeth removal.

"Most of these physicians do not know each other; they span three (wealthy) counties within the state. I have had concerns over this information since our first son's tonsillectomy – the first time a physician tried to convince me to fill a prescription for Vicodin. The recent attention to the role of physicians in heavy narcotic prescriptions for this particular patient base (wealthy, white, educated suburban families), prompted me to think that perhaps I should finally share my concerns.

... the staff literally laughed at my suggestion that I would rather not take Vicodin ...

"If I had filled a prescription for each of these visits, which average one every two years, we would have a dangerously ample supply of the drug in our house, and our children's brains would have had a disturbing level of repeated exposure to a highly addictive narcotic. It causes me to wonder how many Vicodin pills are on my street or in my children's dormitories.

"When the physicians each attempted to prescribe Vicodin to us, not one of them or their staff asked if there were any issues of addiction in our family history, ... nor were risks and the impact of addictive substances on the adolescent brain discussed, even when I inquired about them and asked specific questions about risks. Neither were general risks to adults discussed. With each query, the physician or staff response was that we did not have to use the drug if we did not want to but that we should have it on hand in case the pain was bad.

"In fact, the response I received from the surgery center and all support staff who dealt with me regarding my finger was quite unpleasant. They heavily pressured me to fill a prescription before going home. While I was lying on my back, ... the staff literally laughed at my suggestion that I would rather not take Vicodin and told me I would need it. It is the only time I can recall actually feeling bullied, and this by people who had in every other manner been absolutely wonderfully kind to me, providing excellent care. I conceded to taking a written prescription solely because of their tactics, but did not fill it, and most certainly did not need it, though they convinced me as best they could that I should take it.

"The good news is that each physician's skill and handiwork was quite fine and no such narcotics were needed or desired by any of us. The procedures performed ... were all superbly executed with little pain, speedy recoveries, and zero Vicodin. ...

"I share this because physicians need to remember that they are part of a larger medical community, which has great power over patients, and that there is often a cumulative effect on families you might not consider when wanting patients to avoid pain. It is understandable that physicians not want us to suffer pain after a procedure. After all, I fully understand patients would come whining to the physician first, likely at unpleasant hours, and will post positive reviews on websites if a procedure is pain-free. But, at a minimum, deeper discussion of what physicians are prescribing is warranted.

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"My experience with three different obstetricians at three different California hospitals, delivering babies (each weighing over nine pounds) vaginally was entirely different, with every detailed and respectful discussion (not monologues from the obstetricians of the risks, but two-way discussions about risks and benefits), resulting in very positive experiences for all three births. None of those physicians are on this list and yet women will often tell you

Through Your Patient's Eyes (continued on page 7)

there is little more painful than childbirth. (Yet) the ONLY physicians who have NOT pressured me to take Vicodin are obstetricians. In other words, this method of pushing the drug is endemic and pervades all other areas of practice, whether for adults or children. Perhaps the medical community as a whole could learn from obstetricians' methods of discussing pain management with patients.

"Last, please know that as the wife of a physician, I am often asked why physicians 'push' addictive narcotics. Patients (and mothers) ask me if physicians get kickbacks

from pharmaceuticals. I tell them no, but you can see the perception people are developing of the medical community. It is very sad."

Note: While the Board's **Guidelines** are intended to provide physicians with guidance on prescribing controlled substances in the long-term treatment of chronic pain, they also address acute pain. Specifically, they state, "[o]pioid medications should only be used for treatment of acute pain when the severity of the pain warrants that choice and after determining that other non-opioid pain medications or

therapies likely will not provide adequate pain relief. When opioid medications are prescribed for treatment of acute pain, the number dispensed should be for a short duration and no more than the number of doses needed based on the usual duration of pain severe enough to require opioids for that condition." The Board encourages physicians to use these Guidelines when prescribing controlled substances and to follow the standard of practice when prescribing controlled substances that are highly addictive and have a tendency for abuse.

Opioid Pain Medicines - FDA Warning

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning about several safety issues with the entire class of opioid pain medicines. These safety risks are potentially harmful interactions with numerous other medications, problems with the adrenal glands, and decreased sex hormone levels. The FDA is requiring changes to the labels of all opioid drugs to warn about these risks.

- Opioids can interact with antidepressants and migraine medicines to cause a serious central nervous system reaction called serotonin syndrome, in which high levels of the chemical serotonin build up in the brain and cause toxicity (see list of Serotonergic Medicines) <http://www.fda.gov/drugs/drugsafety/ucm489676.htm>.
- Taking opioids may lead to a rare but serious condition in which the adrenal glands do not produce adequate amounts of the hormone cortisol. Cortisol helps the body respond to stress.
- Long-term use of opioids may be associated with decreased sex hormone levels and symptoms such as reduced interest in sex, impotence, or infertility.

Patients and health care professionals are urged to report side effects involving opioids or other medicines to the FDA MedWatch program: www.fda.gov/medwatch, using the information in the "Contact FDA" box at the bottom of the page.

(from the FDA website)

Medical Board Welcomes Three New Members



Photo by Charlotte Clark

Katherine Feinstein

Katherine Feinstein retired as Presiding Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court after serving 12 years on the bench. As a trial judge, she presided over virtually every type of case to come before a state trial court. Concurrently, she served a four-year term on the Commission on Judicial Performance, the body responsible for the discipline of judges and justices.

Feinstein's past public service also includes membership on the San Francisco Police Commission and as Director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. Currently, she sits as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Edgewood Center for Children and Families, an agency dedicated to providing residential and community services for children suffering from the effects of abuse, neglect and a broad spectrum of mental illnesses.

Feinstein is a Phi Beta Kappa undergraduate of UC Berkeley and received her J.D. from UC Hastings College of the Law.



Photo by Charlotte Clark

David Warmoth

David Warmoth of San Diego was appointed to the Medical Board in 2016. A consistent campaigner for social and economic justice issues and HIV/AIDS policy, Mr. Warmoth attended Miami University and received his B.A. in Political Science – International Relations.

A pioneer in the nascent personal computer industry, as Director of Marketing, he participated in bringing the first integrated suite of software solutions to market in the early 1980s. As a consultant to government agencies at the Federal, State and local levels, he was able to reimagine processes and organizations to both improve quality of service and lower the cost of those services to taxpayers.

Mr. Warmoth was a leader in the Los Angeles chapter of The Names Project, the San Diego Men's Chorus and recently stepped down as a member of the San Diego LGBT Center's Community Leadership Council.



Brenda Sutton-Wills, J.D.

Brenda Sutton-Wills was appointed to the Medical Board in 2016. Ms. Sutton-Wills is Staff Counsel for the California Teachers Association. She is currently a member of the American Bar Association Employment Rights and Responsibilities Ethics Subcommittee. She has presented at the American Bar Association Labor and Employment Section on topics including the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Ethics and Professional Responsibility, the Impact of Public Pension Problems on Collective Bargaining, and Disability Discrimination.

She served as the 2012 Chair of the Labor and Employment Law Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA). She has also presented at the LACBA Labor and Employment Symposium on topics including electronic privacy in employment, social media, and the annual review of labor and employment law. She served as Chair of the Los Angeles Hotel Industry Diversity Taskforce.

Ms. Sutton-Wills is a graduate of Drake University and UCLA School of Law.

Steven M. Thompson Loan Repayment Program Recipient

Dr. A. Paul Kurkjian, a board certified psychiatrist, realized early in his career that he found great job satisfaction working with underserved patients in low income Spanish-speaking communities.

While earning his B.S. from the University of California San Diego, he participated with Chicanos for Creative Medicine in performing free cataract removals for individuals in Mexico through a partnership with The Flying Samaritans. As a student at Drexel University College of Medicine, Dr. Kurkjian helped run diabetes screenings at a local church in Pennsylvania with the Latino Medical Student Association. He performed screenings, education, and referrals for Mexican migrant workers and their families.

Dr. Kurkjian completed his Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship at Cedars Sinai, where he was Chief Fellow. He currently sees inpatients at Community Hospital Long Beach, where he is also the Director, and

offers consultation services at Miller Children's Hospital. Dr. Kurkjian also works in outpatient clinics such as Para Los Ninos, El Centro Del Pueblo, the Bickerstaff Pediatric HIV clinic and The Children's Clinic – all in Los Angeles and Long Beach counties – seeing mostly Spanish-speaking families of low socioeconomic status.

Dr. Kurkjian volunteers with various organizations through his wife's non-profit, a housing and counseling agency called Haven Neighborhood Services. He works with Haven to provide free psychoeducation at Animo Charter Schools in South Los Angeles and California State University Long Beach during their Parent Education classes, discussing mental illness, cultural stigma, and barriers to treatment with Spanish-speaking families.

Dr. Kurkjian, who holds board certifications in Child and Adolescent and Adult Psychiatry, is grateful that programs like the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan



Repayment award exist to incentivize physicians with specialties to practice in underserved areas. Dr. Kurkjian, who came from a low-income background, enjoys challenging the views of children about how life should or could be by sharing his life story with them. "I am living proof of the doubts that they can overcome. Thanks for helping me help others," he said.

April 30 is Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Saturday, April 30, 2016, is National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, a chance for consumers to rid their medicine cabinets of unused, expired or unwanted drugs which can otherwise wind up in the hands of others. According to the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

On last year's Drug Take-Back Day, Americans across the country discarded more than 350 tons of drugs, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), sponsor of the initiative. The excess medications were discarded at more than 5,000 collection sites across the country. Locations of collection sites for this year's event will be listed at http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/. Unwanted medications will be accepted from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The DEA has sponsored 10 Take-Back Days since September 2010. Cumulatively, these events have collected 5,525,021 pounds of drugs. "The numbers are shocking – approximately 46,000 Americans die each year from drug-related deaths. More than half of those are from heroin and prescription opioids," said Acting DEA Administrator Chuck Rosenberg. "With four out of five new heroin users starting with prescription medications, I know our take-back program makes a real difference."

The Gift of A Lifetime - Organ Donation

By Susan Wolbarst

Riggs Grassinger was a healthy kid for his first 17 and a half months.

Then parents Sarah and Mark noticed he “was acting funny” and his skin was turning yellow. “We didn’t really recognize the gravity of it,” Sarah said. A trip to the emergency room and a lot of laboratory tests were rapidly followed by hospitalization at University of California, San Francisco Medical Center, about 100 miles from home.

“That’s where we first heard the word ‘transplant,’” Sarah said. Riggs was evaluated to see if he was a candidate for the national list of patients waiting for organ transplants. Meanwhile, Sarah and Mark took turns holding and comforting their sick toddler. “You could feel him dying,” Sarah said.

Riggs was rush-listed onto the transplant list as a Priority 1A. A potential donor was located and the next day, two weeks after hospitalization, doctors transplanted one-third of a donated liver into Riggs. The remainder of the donated organ was transplanted into a 19-year-old woman named Alma. “Livers can be divided because each piece will regenerate,” Sarah explained.

After two weeks in the hospital, the family spent a week at the Ronald McDonald House before going home with an entire grocery bag full of medicines. Riggs was taking 46 doses of medicine a day, Mark recalled, noting that administering so many foul-tasting drugs to an 18-month-old is challenging.

Today, Riggs is a sturdy 5-year-old, tall for his age, who “works hard,” his mother said, attending school and therapy sessions.

The Grassingers have never met the family of the donor who saved Riggs’ life.

After Riggs’ transplant, Sarah and Mark discussed the possibility of one of them becoming a living donor. “I could not be around someone who needed a kidney in the



Photo by Susan Wolbarst

Liver transplant recipient Riggs Grassinger, 5, hangs out at home with big brother Simon, 13, and parents Mark and Sarah.

same way we had needed a liver for Riggs and not do something,” Sarah said.

She was in a wedding party with an acquaintance who needed a kidney and Sarah offered to donate one of hers. On Friday, November 13, 2015, Sarah donated her kidney. “After having done the donation, I feel a sense of peace,” she said, adding, “Everything has come full circle.”

How Great Is the Need?

- More than 121,000 people are on the national organ transplant waiting list; nearly 22,000 of them are in California.
- On average, 150 people are added to the national waiting list every day – one every 10 minutes.
- 22 people die each day because the life-saving organ they need did not become available in time.
- In addition to organs, tissue transplants save and heal lives. More than a million tissue transplants are done annually.
- Tissues needed for transplant are cornea, skin, heart valves, bone tissue, tendons, veins, ligaments and cartilage.

--Source: Donate Life California, www.donateLIFeCalifornia.org.

REMINDER:

Utilization Review is the Practice of Medicine

By Kerrie Webb
Senior Staff Counsel

Utilization Review (UR) functions in the Workers' Compensation and health plan arena to prospectively, retrospectively, or concurrently review and approve, modify, delay, or deny treatment recommendations by physicians based in whole or in part on medical necessity.

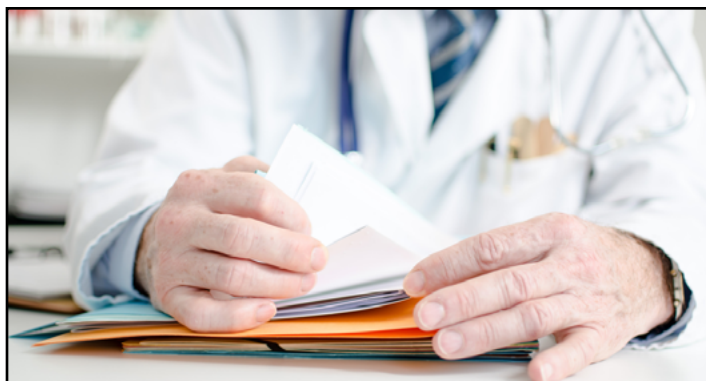
On May 9, 1998, the Medical Board of California (Board) adopted a resolution declaring, among other things, that: "The making of a decision regarding the medical necessity or appropriateness, for an individual patient, of any treatment or other medical service, constitutes the practice of medicine." The Board has consistently reaffirmed its position that UR is the practice of medicine, including at its April 25, 2013 and the October 30, 2015 Quarterly Board Meetings.

The Board receives complaints regarding UR from a variety of sources, including:

- *Patients whose recommended treatments were delayed, modified, or denied;*
- *Treating physicians whose recommended treatments for their patients were delayed, modified, or denied; and*
- *Representatives of managed care plans whose denial of benefit decisions have been overturned by UR reviewers.*

It is important to note that the Board has jurisdiction over the known California-licensed physician determining medical necessity, but not over whether insurance benefits will be paid. The Board's jurisdiction over medical directors overseeing the UR process is supported by statute. For instance, in the Workers' Compensation arena, California Labor Code section 4610(d) provides:

"The medical director shall ensure that the process by which the employer or other entity reviews and approves, modifies, delays, or denies requests by physicians prior to, retrospectively, or concurrent



with the provision of medical treatment services, complies with the requirements of this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed as restricting the existing authority of the Medical Board of California."

Moreover, pursuant to Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, section 9792.6(m), "The Medical Director is responsible for all decisions made in the utilization review process."

Similarly, in the health plan arena, medical directors must hold an unrestricted license to practice medicine in California, and the medical director must ensure that the process by which the plan reviews and approves, modifies, or denies requests from treating physicians based on medical necessity complies with the law. See Health & Safety Code section 1367.01(c). The criteria used by the plan to determine whether to approve, modify, or deny requests from treating physicians must be consistent with clinical principles and processes. See Health & Safety Code section 1367.01(f).

Accordingly, complaints to the Board regarding UR decisions alleging inconsistency with clinical principles and processes will follow the same review, investigation, and prosecution pathways as other complaints relating to deviations from the standard of care, as warranted.

To view a presentation on UR, please click http://www.mbc.ca.gov/About_Us/Meetings/2015/Materials/materials_20151029_enf-4.pdf.

Senate Bill 396 Enhances Consumer Protection in Outpatient Surgery Settings

By Natalie Lowe
Licensing Program Manager

On January 1, 2016, Senate Bill (SB) 396 (Hill, Chapter 287) went into effect, providing additional consumer protection elements to existing laws related to outpatient surgery settings in California.

The law now authorizes Accreditation Agencies (AAs) to conduct unannounced inspections subsequent to the initial inspection for accreditation, requires peer review evaluations for physicians and surgeons working in accredited outpatient surgery settings, and allows an accredited outpatient surgery setting or “Medicare certified ambulatory surgical center” to access reports filed pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 805 (805 report) from the Medical Board of California (Board).

The passing of SB 396 enhanced existing law by authorizing AAs to conduct unannounced inspections of an outpatient surgery setting after the initial inspection for accreditation. If the AA decides to perform an unannounced inspection, it must notify the outpatient surgery setting that the inspection will occur within 60 days. This 60-day notice applies **ONLY** to routine inspections. The law does not require unannounced inspections, but does allow an AA to conduct unannounced inspections if it so chooses.

Existing law requires members of the medical staff and other practitioners who are granted clinical privileges in an outpatient surgery setting to be professionally qualified and appropriately credentialed for the performance of privileges granted and requires the outpatient surgery setting to grant privileges in accordance with recommendations from qualified health professionals, and credentialing standards established by the outpatient surgery setting.

In addition to the existing requirement for credentialing, the law now requires that each licensee who performs procedures in an accredited outpatient surgery setting be peer reviewed, at least every two years, by licensees who are qualified by education and experience to perform the same types of, or similar, procedures. The peer review is defined as a process in which the basic



On Thursday, February 25, 2016, staff of the Medical Board of California (Board) toured the Fort Sutter Surgery Center to see firsthand the operations of an outpatient surgery setting. Pictured here are Board staff and staff from the Fort Sutter Surgery Center and the California Ambulatory Surgery Association.

qualifications, staff privileges, employment, medical outcomes, or professional conduct of a licensee is reviewed to make recommendations for quality improvement and education, if necessary. The law requires the findings of the peer review to be reported to the governing body, which shall determine if the licensee continues to be professionally qualified and appropriately credentialed for the performance of privileges granted.

This peer review process and the credentialing process are two separate processes. There is no requirement that they be done together. Thus, while each outpatient surgery setting is responsible for ensuring that each licensee is peer reviewed at least every two years, it is permissible for the credentialing process to occur every three years. Each AA, when conducting its survey, will be responsible for ensuring that the outpatient surgery setting is conducting the peer review process every two years, as outlined above, and also that appropriate action was taken, i.e., a determination was made to ensure the licensee continues to be professionally qualified for the performance of privileges granted. Outpatient surgery settings cited for deficiencies in the peer review process will be required to complete the AA's corrective action plan.

It is important to note that AAs have their own peer review timeframes required to maintain compliance with the

Senate Bill 396 (continued on page 13)

accreditation programs. Requirements outlined in California law do not exempt an outpatient surgery setting from the requirements set forth by an AA.

In addition to the changes made regarding unannounced inspections and peer review evaluations, the law also added outpatient surgery settings, and facilities certified to participate in the federal Medicare Program as an ambulatory surgical center, to the requirement to check with the Medical Board of California, the Board of Psychology, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, or the Dental Board of California, prior to granting or renewing staff privileges, to determine if any 805 report has been filed indicating that the applying physician and surgeon, psychologist, podiatrist, or dentist has been denied staff privileges, been removed from a medical staff, or had his or her staff privileges restricted.

The Board has a secure website that can be accessed to determine if any physician and surgeon has had an 805 report filed with the Board indicating he/she has been denied staff privileges, been removed from a medical staff, or had his or her staff privileges restricted. To obtain access to the Board's secure lookup system, accredited outpatient surgery settings will need to subscribe to the Board's License Verification System (LVS). To subscribe, accredited outpatient surgery settings will need to submit an LVS subscription service form and service agreement to the Board for approval. These forms and additional information may be accessed on the Board's website at <http://www.mbc.ca.gov/LVS/>.

The Board and AAs will continue to ensure outpatient surgery settings in California are meeting the highest standards of care in order to protect the consumers of the state. The current laws as well as additional information pertaining to outpatient surgery settings may be reviewed on the Board's website at http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Consumers/Outpatient_Surgery/. After review of the Board's website, if you have additional questions regarding outpatient surgery settings, please contact the Board at (800) 633-2322 or by email at webmaster@mbc.ca.gov.

State of California – Health and Human Services Agency

California Department of Public Health

IMPORTANT NOTICE

REGARDING NON-COMPLIANCE INDUCEMENTS

Background and regulations:

Business and Professions Code section 650 states in part that "... the offer, delivery, receipt, or acceptance by any person licensed under this division ... of any rebate, refund, commission, preference, patronage dividend, discount, or other consideration, ... as compensation or inducement for referring patients, ... to any person, ... is unlawful."

Violation of the above is punishable by imprisonment, a fine of up to \$50,000, or both. This law applies to referrals by physicians, dentists, nurses, and other health care professionals including chiropractors. The intent of the law is to protect the public from excessive health care costs, from referrals based on considerations other than the best interests of the patients, deceit and fraud, and payment to a licensee where professional services have not been rendered.

Pregnant Women Warned To Avoid Zika-infested Countries

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is warning pregnant women to avoid travel to South America, Central America and Caribbean countries such as Puerto Rico, where Zika virus has been associated with birth defects in developing fetuses. One such defect being seen is microcephaly, in which babies are born with “unusually small heads and incomplete brain development,” according to the CDC. There is no treatment for microcephaly.

Zika virus usually spreads through mosquito bites, after a mosquito bites an infected person then bites others. A pregnant woman can also contract the virus through having unprotected sex with a male partner who gets infected by a mosquito bite. The virus typically causes fever and rash to the person contracting it.

For additional information about Zika, please visit the CDC website for health care providers at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/index.html>. Free fact sheets and posters regarding mosquito bite prevention and Zika are available at the website. Most items are available in English or Spanish.

Vaccinating Preteens Against HPV Cuts Cancer Risk

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 27,000 men and women are affected by cancer caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) every year. HPV, a sexually transmitted disease, causes cervical cancer as well as cancers of the vulva, vagina, penis, anus and cancers of the back of the throat.

A three-dose vaccine introduced 10 years ago has reduced incidence of HPV in preteens by 64 percent. The first dose is given when children are 11 or 12 years old, followed by a second shot one to two months later and a third shot six months after the first dose.

In an interview on National Public Radio broadcast February 23, 2016, Dr. Joseph Bocchini, a pediatric infectious disease specialist, said many youngsters are not getting vaccinated against HPV. “The data that’s available indicates that some providers – some physicians and other vaccinators – are not making a strong recommendation for HPV vaccine or considering it sort of as an option at 11 or 12 rather than making a strong recommendation,” he said.

“Sexually transmitted disease does not need to be part of the conversation,” Dr. Bocchini said. “The conversation should be that we have a vaccine that could prevent cancer. You have an opportunity to prevent approximately 90 percent of cancers that are associated with human papillomavirus,” he said.

FDA’s Orange Book Goes Mobile.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has launched a mobile application (app) to put timely information about generic drugs in the hands of those using smartphones and tablets. The new app makes it easy and convenient to view “The Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations,” commonly known as the “Orange Book.” The Orange Book Express mobile app provides a mobile-friendly way to identify drug products approved by the FDA on the basis of safety and effectiveness and to obtain information about patents and exclusivity. To download the free app, visit <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ob-express/id1051007579?ls=1&mt=8> or <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.fda.fdaob>.

Apps Address Women Veterans’ Health Needs. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has introduced a pair of mobile apps targeting specific health care needs of women veterans. The apps are available to care team members working both inside and outside the VA health care network.

The Caring4Women Veterans app addresses topics such as screening and treatment guidelines for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Military Sexual Trauma (MST). Additionally, the app describes particular health issues and conditions common to a specific geographic area of service, including the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan. The app can be downloaded for use on Apple or Android mobile devices at <https://mobile.va.gov/training/caring-4-women-veterans>. A second app called Preconception Care supports the integration of preconception care into comprehensive primary care for women veterans of reproductive age. The app is available for download at <https://mobile.va.gov/training/preconception-care>.

Additional health care apps for women veterans are in development, according to the VA.

Online Learning: Website Helps Physicians Meet Special State CME Requirements with Programs That Are Proven Educationally Effective

**By Randa Kutob, MD: Interim Director, Office of Continuing Medical Education,
University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson**

The Virtual Lecture Hall® (<http://www.VLH.com>) is an educational website hosted by the University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson that helps physicians and physician assistants meet special state Continuing Medical Education (CME) needs, such as California's pain medicine, controlled substance prescribing, geriatric medicine, end of life care, and cultural competency CME requirements. All programs on the site provide a rich, interactive educational experience that is evidence-based and free from commercial support. User ratings and comments on all programs are publicly available. CME certificates can be printed/downloaded from the site.

MBC Newsletter readers (Physicians and Physician Assistants) can complete these programs at no cost by creating a complimentary account at <http://www.VLH.com> – use Special Registration Code 5053 (registration usually costs \$25). (PLEASE NOTE: If you wish to print a CME certificate, a \$25/credit charge applies for *AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credit*™.)

- **Improving Outcomes in Chronic Pain** – A comprehensive, multimedia, case-based program offering up to 14.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™ which was developed with National Institutes of Health (NIH) research support and was written by national pain experts and shown to be educationally effective in a randomized trial.¹ This course can be combined with other programs on The Virtual Lecture Hall to meet California's CME requirement for training in pain management and end of life care.
- **An Introduction to the Practice of Palliative Medicine** – Learn how to manage difficult symptoms commonly seen in palliative care and end of life patients, communicate bad news effectively, coordinate palliative care between professionals and across institutional settings, and refer a patient for hospice and end of life care. Physicians can earn 1 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*™ toward the geriatric.
- **Culture & End of Life Care Courses** – Learn cultural competency in an end of life and geriatric care setting in this series of courses developed with NIH support. This multimedia online program provides up to 4 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™ CME credits. These three case-based courses have been associated with increases in knowledge and self-reported cultural competence behaviors at nine-week follow-up. The courses help meet California's geriatric medicine CME requirement, as well as the end of life requirement.
- **Safe and Effective Opioid Prescribing While Managing Acute and Chronic Pain** – Learn how to manage acute and chronic pain while complying with current opioid risk-management practices, including the use of pain contracts, urine drug testing, and your state's prescription drug monitoring program. This course offers 2 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™ and helps meet California's controlled substance education CME requirement for physician assistants.

The Virtual Lecture Hall offers additional CME programs covering many state-required topics, including: medical errors prevention, patient relations/safety, professional responsibility, ethics, prescribing practices, patient communication, risk management, and child abuse.

¹Harris JM, Elliott TE, Davis BE, et al. Educating generalist physicians about chronic pain: Live experts and online education can provide durable benefits. *Pain Medicine*. 2008;9:555-563.



WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



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Submit both the [Standard State Application \(STD.678\)](http://jobs.ca.gov/pdf/std678.pdf) - <http://jobs.ca.gov/pdf/std678.pdf>
and
[Supplemental Application](http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/entres/pdf/DSS_MC_SUP_APP.pdf) -
http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/entres/pdf/DSS_MC_SUP_APP.pdf to:

FILE BY MAIL:

California Department of Social Services
Personnel Bureau, Exam Unit
PO Box 944243
Sacramento, CA 94244-2430

FILE IN PERSON:

California Department of Social Services
Personnel Bureau, Exam Unit
744 P Street, OB 8, 15th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Ruby Chin at (916) 285-7593 or Ruby.Chin@ssa.gov.

Are Wedding Bells in Your Future? Congratulations!!

If your marriage involves a name change, be sure to report it to the Medical Board of California within 30 days.

http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Name_Change.aspx

(Required by Business and Professions Code section 2021(c))



Administrative Actions: November 1, 2015 – January 31, 2016

Physicians and Surgeons

ABDEL-RAHMAN, JAMAL NASER, M.D. (A 53308)

Montclair, CA

Public Reprimand with terms and conditions

December 4, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=53308>

ATTARCHI SHAHAB, M.D. (A 83690)

West Hills, CA

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233

January 12, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=83690>

BARI, ALI SINA (A 104654)

Healdsburg, CA

License Surrendered

December 29, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=104654>

BEAUMONT, GRAHAM (A 24516)

San Francisco, CA

License Surrendered

January 5, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=24516>

BIESEN-BRADLEY, RITA, A. M.D. (C 42203)

Roseville, CA

Public Reprimand with terms and conditions

January 15, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=42203>

BONNI, ARAM, M.D. (A 66385)

Mission Viejo, CA

Public Reprimand with terms and conditions

December 10, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=66385>

BRIONES, FERMIN, JR. (A 104164)

San Antonio, TX

License Surrendered

November 12, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=104164>

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, five years probation on 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.

BUEKERS, KARL STEVEN (C 53172)

Boonton, NJ

License Revoked

December 24, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=53172>

CALMA, JACQUES MICHAEL, M.D. (G 33179)

Alameda, CA

Public Reprimand with terms and conditions

December 24, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=33179>

CARPENTER, THOMAS JOHN, JR., M.D. (G 53323)

Pasadena, CA

Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions including a condition precedent to the practice of medicine

November 6, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=53323>

CARTWRIGHT, KENNETH PAUL, M.D. (A 69363)

Clearlake, CA

Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 additional years' probation with terms and conditions, including a condition precedent to the practice of medicine

January 20, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=69363>

CASILLAS, ERNEST YBARRA (A 38017)

Montrose, CA

License Surrendered

November 6, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=38017>

CESIANO, LUCIEN MAYER (G 27338)

Englewood, NJ

License Revoked

December 24, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=27338>

CHANG, HELEN YUK YU (G 34578)

San Diego, CA

License Surrendered

November 1, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=34578>

CHAR, DAVID, M.D. (A 87937)

Roseville, CA

Public Reprimand with terms and conditions

January 8, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=87937>

COMDEN, SACHA SUSAN, M.D. (A 112824)

Santa Monica, CA

Revoked, stayed, placed on 6 years' probation, with terms and conditions, including a condition precedent to the practice of medicine

November 25, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=112824>

DATESHIDZE, KONSTANTIN (A 49295)

Browns Mills, NJ

License Surrendered

November 13, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=49295>

DERAKHSHAN, IRAJ (A 26416)

Charleston, WV

License Revoked

January 22, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=26416>

DESHADAREVIAN, JEAN-JACQUES, M.D. (A 33449)

Corte Madera, CA

Public Reprimand with terms and conditions

November 6, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=33449>

DIXON, GUS (G 50775)

Long Beach, CA

License Surrendered

November 19, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=50775>

EL-ROEIY, ALBERT, M.D. (A 46042)

Media, PA

Public Reprimand

November 12, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=46042>

FORT, GRADY REYNOLDS, M.D. (G 27353)

Dunsmuir, CA

Revoked, stayed, placed on 7 years' probation, with terms and conditions, including 30 days actual suspension
December 31, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=27353>

GAHLINGER, PAUL MARIA, M.D. (G 87166)

Saipan, MP

Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions
December 18, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=87166>

GAVEL, DAVID A., M.D. (A 97054)

Sierra Madre, CA

Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions
November 20, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=97054>

GELLER, HERMAN, M. (C 14968)

Pomona, CA

License Surrendered
November 12, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=14968>

GOLIAN, NADER, M.D. (A 98642)

Portland, OR

Revoked, stayed, placed on 7 years' probation with terms and conditions
November 4, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=98642>

HADWEH, YOUSSEF B., M.D. (G 74536)

Denair, CA

Revoked, stayed, placed on 2 years' probation with terms and conditions
January 14, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=74536>

HERMAN, DAVID JON, II, M.D. (A 140451)

West Hollywood, CA

Probationary License issued with 3 years' probation and terms and conditions
January 29, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=140451>

HONG, YOUNGPYO, M.D. (A 39690)

Los Angeles, CA

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233
January 26, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=39690>

JANARTHANAN, SAILAJAH (A 92162)

Phoenix, AZ

License Surrendered
December 28, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=92162>

KENNEDY, WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER (A 44991)

Torrance, CA

License Surrendered
November 12, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=44991>

KOOSHKABADI, ALI, M.D. (A 140452)

Fresno, CA

Probationary License issued with 3 years' probation and terms and conditions
January 29, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=140452>

KULDANEK, GREGORY ALAN, M.D. (G 130383)

Palm Springs, CA

Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions
November 20, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=130383>

MAHAJAN, SUMIT, M.D. (A 80732)

Yucca Valley, CA

Public Reprimand with terms and conditions
January 15, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=80732>

MARK, RON Y., M.D. (C 54605)

Jericho, NY

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233
December 29, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=54605>

MARKMAN, ROBERT STEVEN, M.D. (G 27953)
Northridge, CA
Revoked, stayed, placed on 7 years' probation with terms and conditions
December 24, 2015
<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=27953>

MCDONNEL, JAMES KIEFFER, M.D. (G 63465)
Bakersfield, CA
Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions, including a condition precedent to the practice of medicine
January 8, 2016
<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=63465>

MEHRTASH, ATA-OLLAH, M.D. (C 38016)
Paramount, CA
Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions
December 4, 2015
<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=38016>

MELENDEZ, PHILIPP RAMON, M.D. (A 51130)
Bakersfield, CA
Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions
November 13, 2015
<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=51130>

MISRA, RICHA, M.D. (A 107554)
Nashville, TN
Public Reprimand with terms and conditions
December 4, 2015
<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=107554>

NELSON, BRUCE ALBERT, III, M.D. (G 36931)
Simi Valley, CA
Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions
November 18, 2015
<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=36931>

NEWSOME, LARS R., M.D. (C 42281)
San Diego, CA
Revoked, stayed, placed on 4 years' probation with terms and conditions
December 18, 2015
<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=42281>

NJOKU-ANIMASHAUN, ADAKU NWAKEGO, M.D. (A 123292)
Travis AFB, CA
Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions
November 20, 2015
<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=123292>

O'DORISIO, JAMES EDWARD, M.D. (A 44147)
Santa Rosa, CA
Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions
November 2, 2015
Judicial Review Pending
<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=44147>

O'LAUGHLIN, THOMAS JAMES, M.D. (G 71958)
Fresno, CA
Public Reprimand with terms and conditions
November 18, 2015
<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=71958>

OLSSON, ROGER BRYANT, M.D. (G 89405)
Mukilteo, WA
Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions including a condition precedent to the practice of medicine
November 23, 2015
<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=89405>

OURY, JAMES H. (C 28108)
Rapid City, SD
License Revoked
December 24, 2015
<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=28108>

PAIK, PHILLIP CHUNG PIL, M.D. (A 50381)
San Diego, CA
Public Reprimand with terms and conditions
December 4, 2015
<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=50381>

PETTINGER, CLAIR L. (G 29874)
Clovis, CA
License Revoked
January 14, 2016
<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=29874>

PHAM, CHI MANH, M.D. (C 40215)

Houston, TX

Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions

November 12, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=40215>

POURMOGHADAM, KAMAL KHALILI, M.D. (G 87459)

Orlando, FL

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233

January 20, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=87459>

POWELL, FRANK CURTIS (A 71547)

Spring, TX

License Surrendered

November 20, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=71547>

PRATHIPATI, LAKSHMI, M.D. (A 47821)

San Diego, CA

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233

November 6, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=47821>

PUIG, LOUIS FRANK (C 41107)

Pasadena, TX

License Surrendered

January 21, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=41107>

RAUF, KHALID, M.D. (A 63120)

Madera, CA

Public Reprimand with terms and conditions

December 24, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=63120>

REDJAL, HAMID REZA, M.D. (A 99471)

Santa Barbara, CA

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233

November 10, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=99471>

RESNECKSANNES, LARRY DAVID, M.D. (G 25952)

Scotts Valley, CA

Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions

November 6, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=25952>

RO, PETER JAECHOONG, M.D. (A 140454)

Salinas, CA

Probationary License issued with 3 years' probation and terms and conditions

January 29, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=140454>

ROBLEDO, JOSE LUIS (C 53738)

Phoenix, AZ

License Surrendered

January 21, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=53738>

RODRIGUEZ, HECTOR FERNANDO, M.D. (A 92346)

Los Angeles, CA

Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions

January 29, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=92346>

RUIZ, GONZALO FLORES (G 75692)

Lamont, CA

License Revoked

January 15, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=75692>

RUSSAKOV, ALAN DAVID (G 75606)

Trent Woods, NC

License Surrendered

November 20, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=75606>

RUTHERFORD, KEINO ANDRE, M.D. (A 80432)

Sherman Oaks, CA

Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions

November 6, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=80432>

SALEHANI, FOAD (A 54079)

Los Angeles, CA

License Surrendered

November 10, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=54079>

SARABOSING, LUCIANO JO, JR. (A 49117)

Victoria, TX

License Revoked

January 8, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=49117>

SHUBHAKAR, S.N., M.D. (A 33936)

Porterville, CA

Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions

December 17, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=33936>

SOMERO, MICHAEL STEPHEN, M.D. (G 77068)

Miami Beach, FL

Public Reprimand with terms and conditions

January 13, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=77068>

STRUVEN, CHRISTIAN PAUL, III, M.D. (G 65315)

Plainfield, IL

Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions

January 29, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=65315>

STUBBLEFIELD, MATTHEW SINCLAIR, M.D. (G 72442)

Palo Alto, CA

Revoked, stayed, placed on 2 years' probation with terms and conditions

November 20, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=72442>

SUCHY, MICHELLE CHRISTINE, M.D. (A 106586)

Fresno, CA

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233

November 25, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=106586>

TERAN MIRANDA, CARLOS GUSTAVO (A 119549)

Merced, CA

License Revoked

January 6, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=119549>

THIO, ANDREW HOK-SAN, M.D. (G 75296)

Murrieta, CA

Revoked, stayed, placed on 35 months' probation with terms and conditions

January 13, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=75296>

TRINH, KIM ANH, M.D. (A 87296)

Fountain Valley, CA

Public Reprimand with terms and conditions

November 25, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=87296>

VELIGANDLA, HIMACHALA RAO, M.D. (C 54061)

Prestonsburg, KY

Revoked, stayed, placed on 35 months' probation with terms and conditions

November 20, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=54061>

VERMA, ADITYA, M.D. (C 50526)

Visalia, CA

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233

December 28, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=50526>

WASSERMAN, DON H. (G 10754)

Palm Desert, CA

License Surrendered

January 20, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=10754>

WATERBURY, JUDE THADDEUS, M.D. (A 90991)

Elk Grove, CA

Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 additional years of probation with terms and conditions

December 24, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=90991>

WIJEGOONARATNA, SRI JAYANTHA (A 100580)

Anaheim Hills, CA
License Revoked
January 14, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=A&licenseNumber=100580>

WILLIAMS, DANIEL ATHERTON, JR., M.D. (G 37614)

Alturas, CA
Revoked, stayed, placed on 7 years' probation with terms and conditions
November 20, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=G&licenseNumber=37614>

WILLIAMS, SAM, JR. (C 24782)

San Diego, CA
License Surrendered
December 9, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=C&licenseNumber=24782>

Physician Assistants

ARAPIAN, JENNIFER ERIN, P.A. (PA 53148)

Columbia, MD
Probationary License issued with 2 years' probation or completion of diversion program plus 1 year, whichever is longer, as well as terms and conditions, including a condition precedent to the practice of medicine
January 12, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PA&licenseNumber=53148>

ELOWE, AN SONG, P.A. (PA 53049)

Arcadia, CA
Probationary License issued with 2 years' probation and terms and conditions
November 13, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PA&licenseNumber=53049>

LOVATO, GAETH ANDREW, JR., P.A. (PA 17005)

La Quinta, CA
Revoked, stayed, placed on 2 years' probation with terms and conditions, including a condition precedent to the practice of medicine
November 19, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PA&licenseNumber=17005>

ORTIZ, DAVID (PA 11186)

Winton, CA
License Revoked
December 16, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PA&licenseNumber=11186>

RANDLE, JOANIE VANESSA, P.A. (PA 12437)

Compton, CA
Public Letter of Reprimand
November 19, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PA&licenseNumber=12437>

SHURNEY, DARRELL ELLERSTON, P.A. (PA 10503)

Pasadena, CA
Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions, including a condition precedent to the practice of medicine
January 8, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=PA&licenseNumber=10503>

Podiatrists

LAROSE, JAMES RICHARD, DPM (E 1467)

Upland, CA
Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years' probation with terms and conditions, including 14 days' suspension
December 17, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=E&licenseNumber=1467>

SHOCK, THOMAS GRANT, DPM (E 3241)

Lodi, CA
Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years' probation with terms and conditions
January 22, 2016

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=E&licenseNumber=3241>

Registered Spectacle and Contact Lens Dispensers

SILVA, ELEAZAR LULE (SL 6194)

Imperial, CA
Registration Revoked
November 6, 2015

<http://www2.mbc.ca.gov/BreezePDL/default.aspx?licenseType=SL&licenseNumber=6194>

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS –
November 1, 2015 – January 31, 2016**

The actions taken include charges or findings based on the following:

Physicians and Surgeons

- Administered a wide variety of drugs to the physician's daughter in a treatment room in their home without an adequate treatment plan
- Allowed a patient to stay in the physician's home for two days and failed to follow prescriber dispenser laws in ordering and dispensing controlled substances from the office
- Committed gross negligence in the care and treatment of a patient by entering into the intrathecal space with a spinal needle during a Spinal Cord Stimulator (SCS) procedure in the thoracic region and injected Marcaine with epinephrine into that space. Also, took six hours and twelve minutes to complete a SCS procedure on another patient
- Committed gross negligence in the care and treatment of a patient by failing to review and/or document review of the patient's spinal imaging prior to performing lumbar epidural spinal injections and utilize imaging guidance during the procedures
- Committed gross negligence in the care and treatment of a patient by re-operating at short intervals without allowing sufficient healing time and removing an implant from an infected pocket and replacing it with a new implant, despite the likelihood that the procedure would result in another infection
- Committed gross negligence in the care and treatment of a patient by selecting and performing a surgery that was not indicated for the patient's primary presenting complaint, stress urinary incontinence
- Committed gross negligence in the care and treatment of a patient with a swollen neck by failing to secure the patient's airway and prepare for the possibility of a difficult intubation
- Committed gross negligence in the care and treatment of a patient with the BRCA 2 gene mutation by failing to remove the fallopian tubes and collect the peritoneal washings during surgery
- Committed gross negligence in the care and treatment of three patients: failed to stop the surgery when it was ascertained that the first patient had developed sepsis, failed to turn off the light source while disconnecting it from the cystoscope resulting in a third degree burn to the second patient and failed to properly secure and manipulate the light source resulting in a deep second degree burn of the third patient
- Concealed a small video device within a floral arrangement in the bathroom of a pediatrics department
- Consumed alcohol in a dangerous manner by reporting to work intoxicated and driving home instead of taking a taxi
- Continued to use Metformin on a patient with progressive renal insufficiency and failed to maintain adequate medical records
- Convicted of a felony violation for distribution of Hydrocodone
- Convicted of eight felony violations of conspiracy to commit health care fraud, and conspiracy to pay and receive health care kickbacks
- Convicted for conspiracy to manufacture marijuana
- Convicted of domestic battery on a spouse and intimidating or threatening a witness
- Convicted of driving with a blood alcohol level of .08% or more; blood alcohol level measured .19/.20%
- Convicted of substance abuse-related reckless driving and committed dishonest acts by denying the use of medications and alcohol during an investigatory interview with the Board; biological fluid test results were positive for two benzodiazepine medications and alcohol
- Created boundary violations by providing psychotherapy to 8-10 patients at public locations
- Demonstrated incompetence by misinterpreting a blood culture as containing Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) bacteremia when it did not
- Diagnosed three patients with chlamydia, pneumonia, human herpes virus 6 and chronic fatigue syndrome with no medical basis to support these diagnoses
- Disciplined by another state based on concerns relating to competency
- Disciplined by another state for allowing an unlicensed nurse to inject a non-FDA approved cosmetic filler into a patient's face
- Disciplined by another state for disruptive behavior and refusal to take a drug test and committed dishonest acts by failing to disclose the discipline taken by that state on an application for medical privileges at a hospital in California

-
- Disciplined by another state for engaging in an inappropriate sexual relationship with a patient and prescribing or administering a dangerous drug or controlled substance without a legitimate medical purpose
 - Disciplined by another state for entering into a business agreement with an unlicensed person and prescribing Suboxone to two patients without examining the patients in person
 - Disciplined by another state for failing to correctly interpret a patient's screening mammogram as positive for breast cancer
 - Disciplined by another state for failing to disclose involvement in several criminal and civil matters, malpractice cases, and a conviction for violating a protection order; had a substantial break in the practice of medicine which would prevent the safe practice of medicine
 - Disciplined by another state for failing to make and maintain adequate medical records
 - Disciplined by another state for failing to properly interpret and report radiology tests for two patients and missing key medical findings
 - Disciplined by another state for failing to report surrender of Drug Enforcement Administration certificate
 - Disciplined by another state for failing to undergo fingerprinting and submit to a criminal background check
 - Disciplined by another state for improperly performing and/or billing 11 patients for the same medical tests and procedures multiple times without medical necessity and not keeping adequate medical records
 - Disciplined by another state for improperly prescribing testosterone to self and a relative, failing to maintain adequate medical records for patients, and improperly delegating clinical duties to another who was not licensed to practice in that state
 - Disciplined by another state for performing an unauthorized mitral valve implant in an improper position on a patient instead of properly implanting a mechanical aortic valve and failing to keep legible medical records that justified the course of treatment by failing to document, in the patient's treatment records, that the incorrect valve was implanted in an incorrect position during the procedure
 - Disciplined by another state for prescribing controlled pain medications to patients, despite the state prescription system showing patients were obtaining controlled substances from multiple prescribers, and engaging in selling, prescribing, giving away or administering drugs for other than lawful diagnostic or therapeutic purposes
 - Disciplined by another state for prescribing opioids and other controlled substances without proper justification, failing to take standard precautions to limit patients' potential abusing and diversion of medications, failing to monitor those patients and failing to maintain adequate and complete medical records
 - Disciplined by another state for seeking and acquiring the medical records of a former patient after termination of the physician/patient relationship without the patient's consent, and altering, or causing to be altered, the patient's previously executed release by removing the date of execution and other pertinent limitations on its use to obtain the referenced records
 - Disciplined by another state for writing a prescription for Adderall for a patient without an examination
 - Entered into an inappropriate social relationship with a patient
 - Failed to comply with the terms and conditions of probation
 - Failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records
 - Failed to maintain adequate anesthesia and medical records, failed to accurately record the dosage of medicine administered and events as they occurred, and failed to include a postoperative summary of the patient's intraoperative course
 - Failed to obtain a consent form for the planned procedure of aortography; used undersized stents to perform a coronary artery stenting resulting in stent thrombosis, repeat stenting and subsequent myocardial infarctions; and failed to take an angiographic imaging of the femoral artery site where the arterial catheter was placed prior to placing a vascular closer device
 - Failed to properly manage a high-risk pregnancy with a prior classical cesarean section
 - Failed to recognize a hip fracture in an obese male adolescent, provide an urgent referral to an orthopedic surgeon, restrict the patient's activity or provide crutches or a wheel chair, and failed to keep adequate and accurate records
 - Failed to refer patient to a specialist in pain management and/or addiction medicine, despite the patient's report of an arrest for marijuana distribution, theft and loss of pain medications, and both verbal and physical fighting with friends and family

- Failed to rule out a cardiac origin for a middle-aged patient with cardiac risk factors who presented with chest pain and tachycardia
- Failed to supervise a physician assistant in the care and treatment of four patients
- Lacked professional knowledge and judgment related to the management of labor and delivery, displayed poor professional knowledge regarding a patient's ability to progress through labor, and lacked professionalism
- Overprescribed to patients
- Performed liposuction surgery on two patients that were poor candidates for body contouring using liposuction, failed to counsel the patients that they were poor candidates, and failed to perform and document a detailed history and physical exam prior to the procedure
- Prescribed Chantix to a patient with a serious psychiatric illness and previous suicide attempts, despite the Black Box warning, and failed to timely complete and sign the medical record
- Prescribed controlled substances without a documented medical indication, failed to conduct an adequate history and physical exam, failed to record a complete treatment plan, failed to pursue any further diagnostic evaluations or therapeutic treatment options, failed to evaluate the patient's progress toward treatment objectives and adapt the treatment plan accordingly, and failed to maintain accurate and complete medical records
- Practiced medicine without a valid, unrevoked or unsuspended certificate while on a board-ordered probation
- Prescribed controlled substances and other dangerous drugs without performing an exam or without a medical indication
- Prescribed prescription drugs or controlled substance to patients who the physician knew were using or would use the drugs for a nonmedical purpose
- Prescribed Pyrazinamide to an atypical tuberculosis patient for an extended period of time, causing liver damage to the patient, and failed to follow up on important laboratory results which could have aided in the re-evaluation of the treatment plan
- Prescribed Septra to a patient who was allergic to sulfa, after having failed to verify the existence of any allergies prior to issuing the prescription, and knowingly signed another physician's name to a prescription in order to bill Medicare or Medi-Cal
- Unable to practice medicine safely due to cognitive

impairment

- Unable to practice medicine safely due to dementia
- Unable to practice medicine safely due to multiple diagnoses of chemical dependence
- Unable to practice medicine safely due to psychiatric/mental health issues
- Used or administered Propofol, marijuana and cocaine to self while at the hospital

Physician Assistants

- Convicted of driving while impaired by alcohol and negligently drove a vehicle in a careless and imprudent manner, endangering property, life and person
- Convicted of driving with a blood alcohol content level of .08% or more; blood alcohol content measured greater than .15%
- Convicted of endangering the welfare of children
- Disciplined by another state for practicing with a lapsed license
- Engaged in sexual misconduct with a patient and failed to obtain patient-specific authorization from another physician for several controlled substance prescriptions prior to prescribing controlled substances to the patient
- Prescribed Prednisone and/or Solu-Medrol to five patients without clinical or diagnostic support and failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records

Podiatrists

- Committed gross negligence in the care and treatment of a patient by failing to review and prepare for invasive treatment and failing to identify the proper surgical site, demonstrated incompetence in failing to perform post-operative examinations and follow-up for the patient and failed to properly review radiographs of the patient's right foot
- Committed gross negligence in the care and treatment of a patient with an ingrown toenail and subsequent infection

Registered Spectacle and Contact Lens Dispensers

- Convicted of lewd act upon a child under the age of 14 and sexual abuse of a child under the age of 14

Got Email? Any physician with an email account is required to notify the Medical Board of his or her email address. http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Forms/Applicants/address_change_request.pdf (Business and Professions Code section 2021(d))

“Dose of Awareness” Educating on the Dangers of Prescription Drug Abuse



Photos by Cassandra Hockenson

On February 28, 2016, the National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse (NCAPDA) held its 2nd Annual “Dose of Awareness” 5K Walk and Health Expo at the Iron Horse Middle School in San Ramon. Hundreds attended and participated in this family-friendly event designed to help educate the public on the dangers of prescription drug misuse and abuse through a number of booths and presentations highlighting everything from where to drop off unwanted prescription drugs to alternatives in pain management and how to get help for an addict. The Medical Board of California’s Public Affairs Manager Cassandra Hockenson gave a presentation, provided materials and answered questions about the Board on how to check up on a doctor’s license and how to file a complaint.

Each participant in the walk was asked to carry a picture of someone who died due to the misuse or abuse of prescription drugs. The Lost Loved Ones Memorial lists all those who have lost their lives to prescription drugs. April Rovero, the founder of NCAPDA, was presented with a proclamation from Senator Steve Glazer, recognizing her work. Assemblywoman Catharine Baker also spoke at the event.

A CHILD'S BRUISE ... AN ACCIDENT
OR SOMETHING MORE?



*Do You Know What, When
& How to Report?*

Take this **complimentary
online course** and:

- Learn essential signs that should be reported
- Earn continuing education credits
- Share with your colleagues.

 Institute for Medical Quality

Pre-register for this free course at:
<http://www.imq.org/education/caprrc.aspx>

Free Online Course on Child Abuse Prevention, Recognition and Reporting

The Institute for Medical Quality (IMQ) is pleased to offer an excellent course on Child Abuse Prevention, Recognition and Reporting. This 75-minute course, created by the Child Abuse Prevention Center in Sacramento, is designed for physicians, nurses and other health care professionals who are mandated by law to report suspected child abuse and neglect, but who may not be as familiar with the signs and symptoms or may not know what, when and to whom to properly report findings. Upon completion of the course, learners will receive continuing education credits commensurate with their degree.

The course is offered free of charge, through a grant to IMQ from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and is available exclusively to licensed California physicians, nurses and other health care professionals. Under the terms of the grant, a **pre-registration** is required that includes Name, Degree (e.g., MD, DO, RN, PhD, LCSW, MSW), License Number and Email address. After entering this information, an email is sent with the link to the full registration and access to the course.

If you have questions about the course, please contact Leslie Anne Iacopi, MBA, Manager, Medical Staff Survey Program and Professionalism Program at liacopi@imq.org.

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

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

MBC Meetings — 2016

May 5-6 2016: Los Angeles, CA

July 28-29, 2016: San Francisco Area

October 27-28, 2016: San Diego Area

All meetings are open to the public. To the extent possible, meetings will be webcast and offered via teleconference.
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Medical Board of California

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For questions or assistance with the following:

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Expert Reviewer Program (818) 551-2129
Publications/Outreach (916) 263-2466

Other 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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