



# Medical Board of California Newsletter

Volume 147 | Summer 2018

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## THE BOARD'S MISSION

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 professionals 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.

## Medical Board of California Releases Innovative App for Apple iOS Devices

By Carlos Villatoro  
Public Information Manager

California health care consumers now have a powerful new tool at their disposal to make better-informed decisions about their doctors. The Medical Board of California (Board) released its license alert mobile app over the summer for Apple iOS devices including iPhone and iPad, enhancing consumer protection for Californians.

This app furthers the Board's goal of promoting the services of the Board, which started with the **Check Up on Your Doctor's License** campaign. This first of its kind app makes California's Medical Board the only board in the country to have a mobile app dedicated to providing such notifications.

"The Board is incredibly excited about the app and believes it takes great strides in meeting the Board's mission of consumer protection and enhancing transparency to consumers," said Kimberly Kirchmeyer, the Board's Executive Director.

Using the Board's new app, consumers can follow up to 16 doctors' licenses and create customizable 'following' lists. The app uses Apple's proprietary technology known as background fetch, which allows the app to regularly 'fetch' changes on the



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Kimberly Kirchmeyer, Executive Director  
Carlos Villatoro, Public Affairs Manager  
Alexandria Schembra, Public Information Analyst  
Kerrie Webb, Staff Counsel  
Susan Wolbarst, Managing Editor

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



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## Newsletter Survey

Medical Board of California

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

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/  
mbc\\_newsletter\\_survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mbc_newsletter_survey)

## Editor's Spotlight

By Susan Wolbarst

Starting October 2, 2018, prescribers will face significantly different requirements for consulting CURES 2.0. Prepare for upcoming changes by reading the particulars on [page 15](#).

Almost any physician must overcome difficulties to become a doctor, but few have faced experiences as harrowing as Dr. Vincent Soun, profiled on [page 4](#). Dr. Soun, a recipient of a Steven M. Thompson Loan Repayment Award, surmounted high hurdles to become a physician, a career he never considered until he became fascinated by disease at the cellular level.

Some physicians are so passionate about their work that they continue practicing long after their contemporaries have retired. Such late-career work can trigger concerns regarding age and whether the doctor can safely perform surgery, diagnose patients, prescribe, or engage in other critical job duties. But developing policies regarding physician aging is no simple task as Stanford University School of Medicine discovered. Please see [page 18](#) to learn more.

Read about studies involving cannabis conducted through the Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research on [page 12](#).

Wondering how prescriptions are interacting with cannabis in your patients who are cannabis users? An informative presentation from Washington D.C.'s Department of Health clears the air on that topic, [page 13](#).

### Need A Speaker?

If you would like a speaker from the Medical Board of California to address your organization, please contact Public Affairs Manager Carlos Villatoro at [Carlos.Villatoro@mbc.ca.gov](mailto:Carlos.Villatoro@mbc.ca.gov).



# President's Message



Dr. Dev GnanaDev

This is my last column as president of the Medical Board of California (Board). I have enjoyed serving as president, and am happy to hand off the gavel to our new president, Denise Pines, who has served with me as vice president for my two terms as president. I know she will do a terrific job.

In this final column, I'm excited to announce a new way California consumers can receive enhanced protection by using an app developed by the Board's Information Systems Branch.

With the release of the Board's Apple iOS app, consumers are more empowered than ever to make informed decisions about their doctors.

iPhone or iPad users who download the Medical Board of California App can opt in to receive alerts on their devices whenever something changes on their doctor's profile page on the Board's website. The app alerts users when a doctor has changed his or her name or address, added a new specialty certification, and of course, when there has been a disciplinary document uploaded to the doctor's profile.

Apple users can "follow" the profiles of up to 16 doctors and customize the way that the doctors are displayed.

So far, the response to the app has been overwhelmingly positive.

During the Board's Annual Legislative Day held at the state Capitol back in May, my fellow board members and I had the opportunity to meet with state legislators to talk about some of the issues that the Board is working on and to show them

the proposed app on our phones. The legislators seemed genuinely impressed by the app and commended the Board for taking proactive steps to inform California consumers about their doctors.

For now, the app is available only on the Apple App Store; however, the Board will work on a version of the app for Android devices in the future. No app would be possible without the dedication, commitment and talent of the Board's staff.

Like the Board that they work for, they are highly dedicated to protecting California consumers and the development of the app is a testament to that.

I would like to thank them for all of their hard work on the app and look forward to the next innovative project that they develop for the Board.

## MBC Newsletter Survey

Please take a moment to share your thoughts about the Medical Board's Newsletter. We want to hear from you! Click the link below to take the survey:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mbc\\_newsletter\\_survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mbc_newsletter_survey)

## Did you know...



Physicians with an email address are required to report it to the Medical Board? The email address shall be considered confidential and not subject to public disclosure.



# From Cambodia to Imperial County: A Physician's Globe-Crossing Journey

By Susan Wolbarst  
Public Information Officer

With seven small children in tow, Vincent Soun's parents left their Cambodian homeland in the middle of the night to escape Pol Pot's notoriously brutal Khmer Rouge regime. They ran through rice fields to the safety of a refugee camp on the Thai-Cambodian border called Khao-I-Dang Holding Center. Five-year-old Vincent and his family spent the next five years in the camp until a family in Utah sponsored their immigration to the United States.

Back then, the possibility of becoming a doctor was the furthest thing from his mind, said Dr. Soun, now an Imperial County physician. After a few years in Utah, his family moved to Southern California. Vince attended Santiago High School in Garden Grove. At California State University, Fullerton, he studied mathematics and computer science before discovering biochemistry.

"Class discussions on DNA, protein folding, genetic defects and how it related to human diseases immediately captured my attention," he said. "I was captivated, and my curiosity about the human body and its disease processes became stronger and stronger the more I learned."

Studying biochemistry triggered the idea of becoming a doctor. But instead of going directly from college to medical school, he pursued a master's degree in epidemiology at the State University of New York. The degree led to jobs at the New York State Department of Public Health and New York State Department of Agriculture, studying and

analyzing West Nile virus data. The goal of becoming a physician solidified after volunteering with LIGA (Flying Doctors of Mercy). He joined a group of physicians traveling to the rural town of El Fuerte in Sinaloa, Mexico to provide free medical services. He was moved by the selfless

commitment of all the medical providers and impressed by the positive medical impact they had on townspeople.

Later, on a visit to relatives in Cambodia with his mother, "I saw a lot of very poor and unfortunate

people who could not afford decent medical care. These two experiences inspired me greatly to pursue medicine."

He moved to the Caribbean island of Dominica to spend two years attending Ross University School of Medicine. Dr. Soun did clinical clerkships in Miami, Florida, and at several New York City hospitals, then a residency at Adventist Hinsdale Family Medicine in Hinsdale, Illinois. Dr. Soun now makes his home in Imperial County, where he is the only solo practitioner in Holtville, a desert city of about 6,000 people located some 125 miles east of San Diego near the Mexican border.

"There is no typical day. Every day is different and interesting," he said. His office is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. "with full after-hours support." His patients range from five-year-olds to geriatrics.

"I welcome all patients, all types of insurance, including those without insurance," he said.







*Continued from page 1*

doctors' profiles stored in the Department of Consumer Affairs' search system, explains Sean Eichelkraut, the Board's Information Systems Branch manager.

If the app finds changes on the license profile of a doctor being followed, it sends a notification alert to the consumer. Born out of a shared interest in programming and technology, the app began its development in early 2018.

"The Board's mission is to protect health care consumers," programmer Frank Eslami said. "One avenue of protecting them is by keeping them informed about changes to their physicians' profiles. We automated this process so consumers do not have to go to the Board's website and check if the

status of their physician has changed. The app will not only increase public awareness, but also enable consumers to proactively receive information from the Board."

### **How it works**

The app has several features that optimize the information presented on the Board's website. For starters, the app features a streamlined version of the Board's website to maximize the display of the iPhone and iPad.

"It tailors our website and refactors it in a way that's mobile friendly," Eichelkraut said. "It strips out the header information, pulls out the data and puts it in there with a nice tabbed layout."

*Continued on page 7*



# SAVE A DATE

## Medical Board of California

Offering two Expert Reviewer Training Opportunities



**Saturday, September 22, 2018**

Los Angeles, CA

OR

**Saturday, October 6, 2018**

Sacramento, CA

From 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

CME Credits Offered

Register at:

[www.mbc.ca.gov/ExpertReviewerTraining](http://www.mbc.ca.gov/ExpertReviewerTraining)

If you are actively practicing in California and interested in becoming an expert reviewer (expert), applications are accepted continuously.

The Medical Board of California (Board) 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, colon/rectal surgery, dermatology, family medicine, gastroenterology, neurological surgery, neurology, ob/gyn, pathology (anatomic/clinical), forensic pathology, pain medicine; pediatric gastroenterology; pediatric surgery; pediatric cardiac

surgery; pediatric pulmonology; plastic surgery (hair transplant expertise); addiction psychiatry; forensic psychiatry; surgery; urology; and vascular surgery.

The Board also needs licensed 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 an administrative hearing.

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 an administrative hearing. For more information about compensation and how to apply, please visit:

[www.mbc.ca.gov/enforcement/expert\\_reviewer/](http://www.mbc.ca.gov/enforcement/expert_reviewer/)

or contact the Board's expert program at:

[MBCMedicalExpertProgram@mbc.ca.gov](mailto:MBCMedicalExpertProgram@mbc.ca.gov).



*Continued from page 5*

To receive notifications, the app must be either open or running in the background on the iPhone or iPad. If the app is closed, the user will need to re-open the app to receive the notification, explains Eichelkraut.

Rather than searching for their doctor each time they want to check up on their license, consumers can click on the doctor stored in their follow list to get instant access to the doctor's profile page.

But perhaps the most consumer-friendly feature of the app is the ability to receive notifications whenever the Board disciplines a doctor.

The app is currently available to download free on Apple's App Store. Eichelkraut said the team is working to optimize the iOS app before it tackles an Android version of the app.

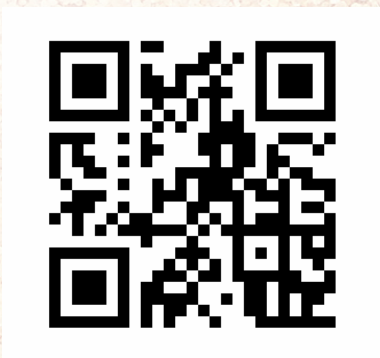
"As a member of society and a software developer, having had the opportunity to work so hard on something that could potentially make people's lives better is a humbling experience and I'm blessed to have had the opportunity to contribute," Eslami said.

For more information about the app, visit [www.mbc.ca.gov/About\\_Us/iOs](http://www.mbc.ca.gov/About_Us/iOs)

## How to Download the App

1. Visit the App Store on your iPhone or iPad
2. Search for "Medical Board of California"
3. Click on "GET"
4. Allow notifications when prompted

If you need assistance, send an email to  
[webmaster@mbc.ca.gov](mailto:webmaster@mbc.ca.gov)



You can also scan the above  
QR Code to download the app





# INTRODUCING Med Board CA

An app for iOS!

Quick, Optimized Access to Website Content

Follow up to 16 Doctors' Licenses

Immediate Profile Access to the Doctors you Follow

Free, Automated License Update Notifications

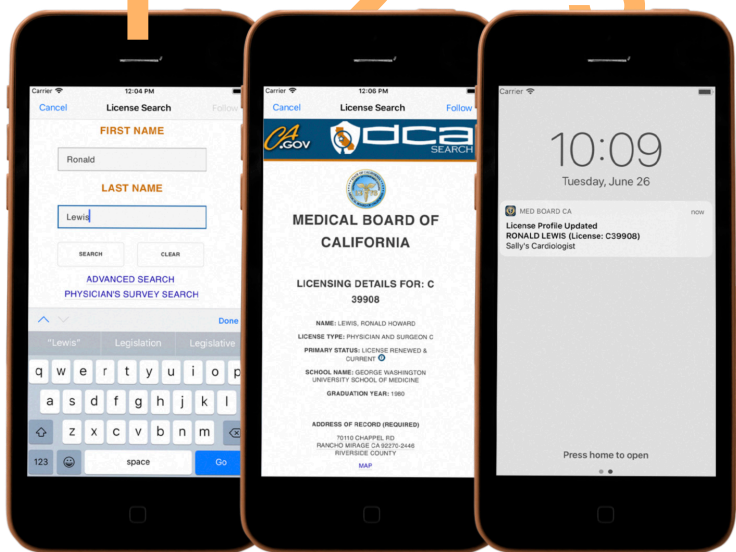


it's  
AS EASY AS

1

2

3



Access to information on your doctor at your fingertips, 24/7. Developed by the Medical Board of California as part of their ongoing commitment to protecting California's health care consumers. Making informed health care decisions has never been easier.

Receive notifications when a doctor's name, address, practice status, license expiration, or survey data changes, and when administrative actions and enforcement documents are added to a doctor's profile. This information includes notification when a doctor is suspended, revoked, or placed on probation.

Get yours now!





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 the 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.

## *Utilization Review is the Practice of Medicine*

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 Worker's 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.

If you have any questions regarding Utilization Review, please contact the Board by sending an email to [webmaster@mbc.ca.gov](mailto:webmaster@mbc.ca.gov) or via phone at (800) 633-2322

*This article first appeared in the Board's Spring 2016 issue.*

# Warning Patients about Online Pharmacies

If your patients are turning to the internet in search of cheaper medications, they may not get what they expect.

Medications marketed by some internet pharmacies may be counterfeit, contaminated, substandard, expired, or otherwise unsafe. Drugs approved in other countries or manufactured by unknown sources may contain different ingredients or formulations that could cause a patient to get sicker, develop a medication resistance, or cause new side effects.

According to a 2018 report by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), a review of 11,749 internet sites selling prescription medications found 96 percent operated out of compliance with federal and state laws and/or NABP patient safety and pharmacy practice standards. Most of these noncompliant sites did not require a valid prescription.

The danger is especially great for consumers who buy opioids online. In June 2018, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned nine online networks that operate a total of 53 websites to stop marketing potentially dangerous, unapproved and misbranded versions of opioid medications, including tramadol and oxycodone.

## Canadian Pharmacies

Even so-called Canadian pharmacies – which many Americans believe sell safe medications at lower costs – can be dangerous. A 2017 NABP report found 74 percent of 108 pharmacy websites with Canada or Canadian in their name or web address sold drugs that originated outside Canada. Half of these websites sold drugs from India or a combination of other countries where counterfeit products are known to originate – and none of the websites required a valid prescription.

Finally, besides health risks, illegal internet pharmacies expose unwary shoppers to other types of problems – including credit card fraud, identity theft, internet scams and even computer viruses.

## Patients Likely to Buy Online

According to the FDA, individuals who may consider buying medications online include:

- Patients without adequate prescription insurance coverage.
- Low-income and older patients who need long-term maintenance drugs.
- People seeking “lifestyle” medicines, such as drugs for erectile dysfunction.
- People seeking financial assistance for prescription medications.
- Patients accustomed to home delivery who have met their prescription coverage limits.

## Safe Online Shopping for Medications

Doctors and pharmacists can educate patients and caregivers about the risks of buying prescription medications from internet pharmacies. If patients do plan to shop for medications online, advise them that legitimate internet pharmacies:

- Require a valid prescription for medications.
- Provide a physical address and valid telephone number in the United States.
- Are licensed in the state where they operate. (If a pharmacy is located outside California, it still must be licensed to ship into California. Consumers can verify pharmacies licensed in California at the [California State Board of Pharmacy website](#).)
- Have a pharmacist available to answer questions.

Also, refer consumers to the NABP website, [www.nabp.pharmacy](http://www.nabp.pharmacy), for information about shopping for prescription drugs online. NABP provides a .pharmacy (pronounced “dot pharmacy”) domain (like .com or .net) to be used in URLs for pharmacy and medication websites that are properly licensed and follow applicable laws and business best practices.

## For More Information

A California State Board of Pharmacy fact sheet about counterfeit prescription drugs that includes information about ordering prescription medications online can be viewed and [downloaded here](#). [BeSafeRx](#) is an FDA campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of buying prescription medicines from fake online pharmacies. The website includes educational materials for consumers and health care professionals that can be downloaded for printing.



# Alzheimer's Disease Program Provides Resources for Patients

An estimated 610,000 Californians suffer from Alzheimer's disease, a number that is expected to grow to 840,000 by 2025. It is the fifth leading cause of death in the state and the only one in the top 10 without a known cause, cure, or prevention, according to Terence Kelley, program manager of the California Department of Public Health's Alzheimer's Disease Program and Sarah Kremen, M.D., a neurologist at the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research at the University of California, Los Angeles. Mr. Kelley and Dr. Kremen presented these findings to the Medical Board of California during its April 2018 Board meeting.

Ten California Alzheimer's Disease Centers (CADCs) around the state provide diagnosis and treatment of patients as well as education and training of health professionals. The CADCs are located at UC Davis in Sacramento, UC Davis in Walnut Creek, UC San Francisco, UC San Francisco in Fresno, Stanford University, UC Los Angeles, University of Southern California, USC Rancho Los Amigos, UC Irvine, and UC San Diego.

The CADCs conduct research and provide clinical and diagnostic services to patients. Each CADC plays a critical role in building a workforce for the state's growing needs through residency and training programs for physicians, nurses, physician assistants, and other health care professionals and research investigators. The CADCs have collectively established nationally renowned training, education, and residency programs for new and practicing physicians in the fields of neurology, neuropsychiatry, and gerontology.

An Alzheimer's Disease Research Tax Check-Off Fund has provided more than \$24 million in research funds to university researchers, medical centers, health systems, and others. The program's Alzheimer's Clinical Care Guideline was recently updated for the fourth time.

The Guideline and other information about the program can be accessed at:  
[www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DCDIC/CDCB/Pages/AlzheimersDiseaseResources.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DCDIC/CDCB/Pages/AlzheimersDiseaseResources.aspx)





## CMCR Director Talks Cannabis Research

Igor Grant, M.D., director of the Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research (CMCR) at the University of California San Diego, provided a brief history of recent cannabis research at the April 2018 meeting of the Medical Board of California (Board).

The CMCR was created pursuant to California Senate Bill 847 (Vasconcellos, 1999), signed into law by then-Governor Gray Davis. The legislation called for objective medical research to “enhance understanding of the efficacy and adverse effects of marijuana as a pharmacological agent.”

Dr. Grant noted that there are various methods of ingesting cannabis (smoking, vaping, eating, etc.) and that cannabis contains many organic chemical compounds of pharmaceutical interest. One of these substances, cannabidiol (CBD) is the active ingredient in Epidolex, a prescription drug recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat certain childhood epileptic seizures. This is the first time the FDA has approved a prescription drug using an active compound extracted from cannabis.

*Continues on next page*



Dr. Grant said seven studies have been completed by CMCR, six on pain and one on multiple sclerosis spasticity. All demonstrated efficacy in the short term, a finding which he said surprised him because the results were more consistent than he expected.

He said the Institute of Medicine at the National Academy of Sciences has completed an encyclopedic review of the whole field that concluded there is substantial or conclusive evidence of cannabinoid efficacy in treating chronic pain, spasticity, and control of nausea.

## Guidance on Cannabis Adverse Effects and Drug Interactions

Physicians seeking information on how cannabis interacts with prescription medications a patient is taking may be interested in a slide show created by the District of Columbia's Department of Health ([www.doh.dc.gov](http://www.doh.dc.gov)).

To watch it, please go to [https://doh.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/Medical%20Cannabis%20Adverse%20Effects%20and%20Drug%20Interactions\\_0.pdf](https://doh.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/Medical%20Cannabis%20Adverse%20Effects%20and%20Drug%20Interactions_0.pdf).

The review also concluded that moderate efficacy in improving sleep in people whose situation is complicated by pain.

Current CMCR research activities include evaluating dronabinol and vaporized cannabis in neuropathic low back pain, evaluating field performance of healthy persons performing simulated driving tests to determine the effect cannabis use has on driving performance,

evaluating cannabis and endocannabinoids on HIV neuropathic pain, and a forthcoming study on potential efficacy of cannabidiol in managing certain features of autism.

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## Consider Patients When Selecting CME Courses

Under California law, the Medical Board of California (Board) is charged with adopting and administering standards for physician and surgeon continuing medical education (CME). Physicians and surgeons must complete at least 50 hours of approved CME during each biennial license renewal cycle. Some of these hours may be credited for activities such as publishing a paper, teaching a course that meets the CME requirement, or passing a specialty board examination.

Deciding which CME courses to take is generally left up to the physician, although most California-licensed physicians (pathologists and radiologists are exempted) have a one-time requirement to take 12 hours of CME units on pain management and the appropriate treatment of the terminally ill. Physicians must complete the mandated hours by their second license renewal date or within four years, whichever comes first.

All general internists and family physicians who have a patient population of which over 25 percent are 65 years of age or older are required to complete at least 20 percent of their mandatory CME in the field of geriatric medicine.

Although other selections are not mandatory, physicians are encouraged to look at the make-up of their patient populations and select CME consistent with providing the most competent patient care, thereby enhancing consumer protection. Physicians are encouraged to take a course in the special care needs of individuals and their families facing end-of-life issues, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

- Pain and symptom management.
- The psycho-social dynamics of death.
- Dying and bereavement.
- Hospice care.

More information on CME is available on the [Board's website](#).



# You Asked For It

## Questions Received from the Web

By Alexandria Schembra, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

**Q: I want to open a medical practice with another physician and we will need to get a fictitious name permit (FNP) from the Medical Board of California (Board). How can I tell if the name we want is taken, or if it is too similar to an existing FNP?**

**A:** Before selecting a fictitious name, visit the Board's License Search to determine the availability of a fictitious name. Try to avoid names that include initials, abbreviations, acronyms, symbols or misspellings. Stay away from names that only contain generic medical words or terms. If the name is common, chances are it has already been issued. Remember, you are competing with physicians not only in your immediate city or county, but the entire state of California.

After the application has been reviewed, the FNP will be issued and mailed to you or a notice will be sent indicating deficiencies that need to be corrected for the FNP to be approved. If the name you chose is not available, the Board will consider your second choice, then your third choice. If none of these are available, the Board will contact you.

**Q: I'm having trouble logging in to CURES. Can you help me?**

**A:** The Department of Justice handles technical issues involving the CURES database. For technical assistance with CURES, please call the CURES Help Desk at 916-227-3843 or send an email to [cures@doj.ca.gov](mailto:cures@doj.ca.gov).

**Q: I want to place my license in retired status. What do I need to do?**

**A:** A "Retired Physician Application for Exemption from Payment of Renewal Fee No Practice Allowed" must be completed and mailed to the Medical Board of California. Physicians who apply for a retired license still must pay the \$25 mandatory fee for the Physician Loan Repayment Program. Physicians with a retired license may not engage in the practice of medicine. If the physician owns or is a partner in a practice, he or she must close the practice, or remove his or herself from the partnership. For more information on closing a practice, please see [http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Close\\_Practice.aspx](http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Close_Practice.aspx).

### ***Have a question?***

If you have a question, write to [Webmaster@mbc.ca.gov](mailto: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.

### Wedding Bells in Your Future? Congratulations!

And remember, if your marriage involves a name change, please don't forget to report it to the Medical Board of California within 30 days.



Visit: [http://www.mbc.ca.gov/licensees/name\\_change.aspx](http://www.mbc.ca.gov/licensees/name_change.aspx)



# CURES 2.0

## MANDATORY USE BEGINS OCTOBER 2

### What do I need to know?



Beginning October 2, 2018, California physicians and other authorized health care providers (prescribers) must consult the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES 2.0) database within 24 hours (or the prior business day) before prescribing, ordering, administering, or furnishing a Schedule II, III or IV controlled substance for the first time to any patient unless one of the exceptions below applies. Prescribers must consult CURES 2.0 at least once every four months thereafter if the substance remains part of the patient's treatment.

([\*Health and Safety Code section 11165.4\(a\)\*](#))

Exceptions include:

- While a patient is admitted to, or during an emergency transfer between a licensed clinic, outpatient setting, health facility, or county medical facility.
- In the emergency department of a general acute care hospital and the controlled substance does not exceed a non-refillable seven-day supply.

- As part of a patient's treatment for a surgical procedure, and the controlled substance does not exceed a non-refillable five-day supply when the surgical procedure is performed at a licensed clinic, outpatient surgery setting, health facility, county medical facility, or place of practice as specified by law..
- The patient is receiving hospice care.

Further, if one of the exceptions did apply, the prescriber must check CURES to review the patient's controlled substance history before subsequently prescribing a Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV controlled substance to the patient and at least once every four months thereafter if the substance remains part of the patient's treatment.

#### **What is CURES 2.0?**

CURES 2.0 is a database of Schedule II, III, and IV controlled substance prescriptions dispensed in California. The current version of the database is known as CURES 2.0. CURES was created to reduce prescription drug abuse and diversion without affecting legitimate medical practice or patient care. CURES 2.0 is administered by the California

*Continued on page 16*



# FDA Cautions about Dietary Supplements

Those dietary supplement products your patients may be taking in addition to medications you prescribed for them could be medically counterproductive and even harmful.

Dietary supplements can contain ingredients that have strong biological effects that may conflict with a prescription medication or a medical condition. Products containing hidden drugs are also sometimes falsely marketed as dietary supplements, putting consumers at even greater risk. Supplements can also contain contaminants such as toxins, pesticides, and heavy metals.

Some dietary supplements have been associated with unproven or fraudulent claims and/or serious adverse health consequences. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued several Consumer Updates identifying products in these categories containing potentially harmful ingredients that have been linked to serious reactions:

- Body-building products
- Cancer "cures"
- Autism treatments
- Diabetes treatments
- Impotence treatments

For full details see: [www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm153239.htm](http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm153239.htm).

If you think a patient has suffered a serious harmful effect or illness from a dietary supplement, please report this by submitting a report through the Safety Reporting Portal or calling FDA's MedWatch hotline at 1-800-FDA-1088.

Your patients may not be aware that, unlike drug products that must be proven safe and effective for their intended use before marketing, dietary supplements need no premarket approval. There are no provisions in the law for the FDA to "approve" dietary supplements for safety or effectiveness before they reach the consumer.

Instead, FDA must show that a dietary supplement is "unsafe," before it can take action to restrict the product's use or removal from the marketplace. Manufacturers are responsible for ensuring that their products are safe before they are marketed. Click here to receive updated information from FDA about clinically important safety information via email, Twitter, or RSS Feed.

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## *Continued from previous page*

Department of Justice (DOJ). The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and confidentiality and disclosure provisions of California law cover the information contained in CURES 2.0. Access to CURES 2.0 is limited to licensed prescribers and licensed pharmacists for patients in their direct care, and regulatory board staff and law enforcement personnel for official oversight or investigatory purposes.

### **What Is in a CURES Report?**

Checking the CURES database will reveal a patient's past history of receiving controlled substance prescriptions from any prescriber in the state.

CURES contains the following information for each prescription: patient name, patient date of birth, patient address, prescriber name, prescriber Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) number, pharmacy

name, pharmacy license number, date prescription was dispensed, prescription number, drug name, drug quantity and strength, and number of refills remaining. If CURES cannot be consulted, a prescriber may provide a five-day, non-refillable prescription:

- If a physician cannot reasonably access the information in CURES in a timely manner (for example, during a power outage or due to technical issues) and another individual with access to CURES is not available, or
- If a physician determines that consulting CURES would result in a patient's inability to obtain the prescription in a timely manner and thereby adversely affect the patient's medical condition.

In either case, the prescriber must document in the patient's medical records why CURES was not consulted. Further, a prescriber must, without undue

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*Continued on page 19*



## Newborns at Risk for Pertussis – First Death in 2018 Reported

Infants too young to be immunized are at greatest risk of hospitalization and death from pertussis (whooping cough), according to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). One baby died in San Bernardino County in July, 2018. Pregnant women should be encouraged to receive pertussis vaccine (Tdap) at the earliest opportunity between 27 and 36 weeks gestation of every pregnancy. Pertussis antibodies transferred from vaccinated mothers to their infants help protect babies until they are old enough to be vaccinated, CDPH said. In 2017, 2,925 pertussis cases with a 2017 onset were reported to CDPH, for a state rate of 7.4 cases per 100,000 population, a 51 percent increase over 2016, a low incidence year. The hardest-hit county was San Diego, with 1,011 cases reported in 2017, for an incident rate of 30.6 per 100,000 persons.

## Colorectal Cancer Increasing in People Under 50

The American Cancer Society (ACS) is recommending that patients get screened for colorectal cancer beginning at age 45 in response to an increasing number of deaths from colon and rectal cancers among men and women under age 50. Colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer death in the United States. “We just don’t know why it’s increasing,” said Dr. Richard Wender, chief cancer control officer of the ACS. Over the last 10 years, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York has seen 4,000 new colorectal cancer patients under 50. “Many of them did not have traditional risk factors such as obesity, smoking, alcohol, physical inactivity or a diet high in fat or low in fiber,” according to an ACS press release on the subject. A first cancer screening does not have to be a colonoscopy. The ACS recommends six screening tests, of which three are at-home kits that check stool for blood. Despite the high cure rate when colon cancer is detected early, only two-thirds of Americans over 50 get screened.

## Tech Med Corner

### UC Davis Pilot Program Gives Free Lyft Rides to the Hospital

A University of California, Davis pilot program will cover the cost of Lyft rides to and from the hospital for expectant parents lacking transportation. When a doctor suspects a complication, patients may be referred to a major facility for testing, but, “If they can’t get there, the testing isn’t done,” states Amy Powne, a UC Davis nurse specializing in fetal care. To qualify, the patient must have a referral to UC Davis Children’s Hospital and need transportation. Doctors with qualifying patients call UC Davis to set it up and the hospital handles logistics. The pilot program is funded by Children’s Miracle Network. (Capitol Public Radio, May 21, 2018.)

### Keeping Donor Organs Warm Before Transplantation

TransMedics of Andover, Massachusetts, recently received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to market its Organ Care System (OCS) Lung System, which keeps lungs at body temperature during their journey from donor to recipient. Previously, all types of organs, including lungs, selected for donations were packed in ice. The new technology keeps the lungs in a portable enclosure where they are supplied with oxygen and nutrients through ventilation and perfusion as they travel. The technology reportedly keeps the organs viable longer, resulting in fewer rejections by surgeons when the organs arrive at the transplantation facility. The end result could be more organs available for transplant, as well as surgeries in the daytime instead of the middle of the night.



# The Challenge of Screening Aging Physicians

By Susan Wolbarst

How old is too old to practice medicine safely?

No single age can be cited, as Stanford University School of Medicine Professor Ann Weinacker, M.D., stated during her presentation to the Medical Board of California (Board) in April 2018. She discussed the issues Stanford faced developing a policy regarding “late career physicians.”

Crafting such a policy proved controversial at Stanford and Dr. Weinacker warned, “It is neither easy nor cheap.”

In a presentation called “Evolving Considerations for Late Career Practitioners,” Dr. Weinacker noted that 20-25 percent of U.S. doctors are older than 65.

“Age by itself does not result in decline of cognitive function,” she said, noting that age and experience can increase important aspects of a physician’s practice such as knowledge, compassion, stress tolerance, and dealing with emergencies of a kind they have experienced previously.

New situations, on the other hand, may prove more challenging.

When developing Stanford’s process, Dr. Weinacker said they always put patient care first. They were sensitive to the reputation and self-esteem of the physician. “Our goal is to support people and help them practice to the best of their ability,” she said.

Stanford’s policy, adopted by the medical staff in 2012 and put into place in 2013, requires all medical staff members age 75 or older to undergo a peer clinical skills assessment and a health screen

every two years addressing competence to perform the clinical privileges requested (for example, a radiologist might not need steady hands, but a neurosurgeon does).

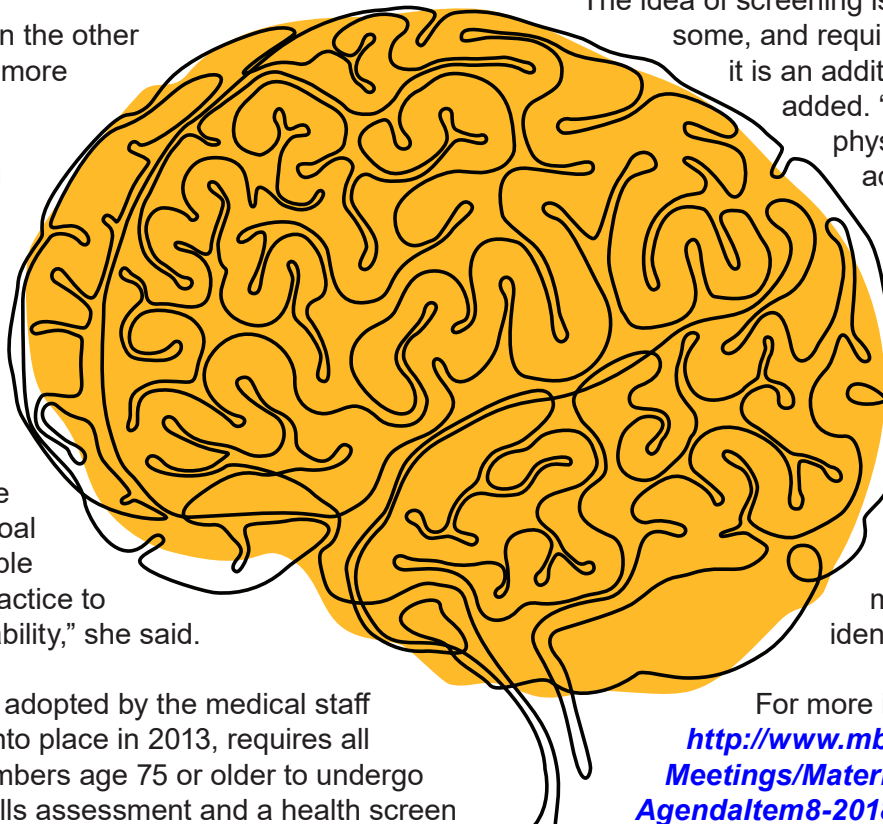
There is no cognitive screen in the current policy. The policy can be applied to practitioners of any age if concerns are raised.

Since implementation, about 60 physicians have been screened under the policy. Over half of them have been screened more than once. Three physicians were identified for further testing with a cognitive screening. One of them received help to continue working at Stanford and two chose to retire. Another 10-15 percent of late-career physicians chose to retire without going through the screening process.

Stanford’s process has served as a model for some other institutions. A key consideration for any organization considering implementing such a policy is “Who will pay for the process?” Dr. Weinacker said.

“The idea of screening is uncomfortable for some, and requiring them to pay for it is an additional burden,” she added. “We have had very few physicians who needed additional screening, and standardization of our approach is still a bit of a work in progress. We have typically worked with the individual’s department to pay for the cognitive screen, but (if necessary) have relied on the individual to fund more extensive evaluation and mitigation of challenges identified,” she said.

For more information, visit  
[http://www.mbc.ca.gov/About\\_Us/Meetings/Materials/291/brd-AgendaItem8-20180419.pdf](http://www.mbc.ca.gov/About_Us/Meetings/Materials/291/brd-AgendaItem8-20180419.pdf).





*Continued from page 16*

delay, seek to correct any cause of the temporary technological or electrical failure that is reasonably within his or her control.

A prescriber experiencing technical difficulties with CURES should contact the DOJ CURES Help Desk at 916-210-3187 or [cures@doj.ca.gov](mailto:cures@doj.ca.gov) for assistance.

## **Training on CURES 2.0**

The DOJ is offering webinars on new features of CURES 2.0 for prescribers and dispensers. Attendees will learn about patient safety alerts, compacts, and peer messaging. Step-by-step instruction on how to access CURES Patient Activity Reports and how to re-set passwords will be included. To review and sign up for scheduled webinars, physicians should log into their account at <https://cures.doj.ca.gov> and refer to the CURES 2.0 Webinars and Training Bulletin. Information and instruction for joining the webinar will be sent via a confirming email. CURES 2.0 Training Videos are also available at <https://oag.ca.gov/cures/publications>.

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*Continued from page 4*

His clientele includes border patrol staff, farmers, law enforcement, both employees and former inmates of the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (CDCR), veterans, and homeless people.

"I treat a great deal of diabetes," he said. "Other services include management of hypertension, coronary artery disease, psychiatric conditions, pain management, post-hospital visits, preoperative evaluations, minor surgeries, vaccinations, and many others."

His favorite part of his job is spending time with patients, he said.

"Patients come to their doctors' offices for various reasons," he said. "Sometimes, it is not all about physical ailments. Sometimes they just need a doctor to listen to what is on their mind. I never feel like I have to rush through my patient care or worry about the maximum number of patients I have to see for that day. Maintaining high quality medical care is of utmost importance."

His least favorite thing about his job is the lack of communication between providers and the few specialists in his area, he said. Dr. Soun would like to see better continuity of care between offices and hospitals. Dealing with insurance companies, low reimbursement rates, and detailed documentation take too much time from patient care.

"Becoming a medical doctor is my greatest personal achievement," Dr. Soun said.

However, he had to accumulate \$300,000 in debts to do it. Being given the Steven M. Thompson Loan Repayment Award "helps ease my financial burden without sacrificing my need to maintain high quality medical care to all my patients," he said.

Dr. Soun holds the rank of major in the U.S. Army Reserve Unit in San Diego, where he has served as a primary care physician, treating fellow soldiers and their families, for the past seven years.

"It is an honor I hold dear to help take care of the men and women who protect this great country of ours," he said.

Dr. Soun would like to dedicate this article to his beloved parents, Sarin Hang and Tao Soun, who both recently passed away.



# Board Elects Denise Pines as its President

The Medical Board of California's (Board) held elections for officers at its July 2018 meeting in South San Francisco. The Board elected Denise Pines as its new president, Dr. Ronald H. Lewis as its vice president, and Dr. Michelle Anne Bholat as its secretary.

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. appointed Ms. Pines, of Los Angeles, as a public member to the Board in 2012. She previously served as a Board officer in the positions of vice president and secretary.

Ms. Pines is an award-winning marketer and serial entrepreneur who has participated in 10 startups, including multimedia companies and foundations. She has been a creative consultant with PBS and NPR for several talk shows, including one with a 14-year run, and 10 documentaries.

She has 20-plus years of management, sales, and marketing experience in personality brand management and traditional media. Ms. Pines is responsible for strategic planning and business development for denise+pines inc., a socially responsible brand strategy, media development, and event management firm. She has produced over 150 events nationwide, including the award-winning exhibition America I AM: The African American Imprint. Ms. Pines also designed the marketing strategy that put three books on The New York Times best sellers list in one year. As a fundraising expert, she has raised over \$100 million.



*Denise Pines*

Ms. Pines has degrees from San Francisco State University (BS) and John F. Kennedy University (MBA), and attended Stanford University. Ms. Pines is board secretary for Martin Luther King Community Hospital Foundation in Watts, California.

## **Dr. Ronald H. Lewis, Vice President**

Dr. Lewis of Rancho Mirage was appointed to the Board by Gov. Brown in 2013. He previously served as the Board's secretary. Dr. Lewis has worked as a physician and surgeon at the California Department of Corrections Ironwood State Prison since 2008. Before that, he was an assistant clinical professor at the University of California, San Diego Department of Medicine, and an urgent care physician at Eisenhower Immediate Care. He previously held management positions in the pharmaceutical, research, medical, and education realms. Dr. Lewis earned his Doctor of Medicine degree at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians.

## **Dr. Michelle Anne Bholat, Secretary**

Dr. Bholat of Los Angeles was appointed to the Board by Gov. Brown in 2015 and reappointed in 2018. In July 2018, she was elected as secretary of the Medical Board. She is professor and executive vice chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). As a community leader, she is an elected official of the Beach Cities Health District where her interests include expanding care to seniors and addressing alcohol and substance abuse in youth. She is also a member of the executive team of the Association of California Health Districts. Dr. Bholat earned her medical degree from the University of California Irvine College of Medicine and her Master of Public Health degree from UCLA.



# Administrative Actions

February 1, 2018 – April 30, 2018

## Physicians and Surgeons

### **ABAYA, ROMEO ARCEGA, JR. (A 129216), Redding, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and sexual misconduct in the care and treatment of two patients; and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Surrender of License. March 8, 2018

[View Document](#)

### **AFATO, FA'AFUINA SALAPIU, M.D. (G 76223), Yuba City, CA**

No admissions but charged with violating the terms of his Board-ordered probation by failing to obey all laws; gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of five patients; and prescribing without an appropriate prior examination and medical indication in the care and treatment of one patient. Respondent remains on probation for the remaining period of the previous Board-ordered probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed and any recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing a prescribing practices course and a medical record keeping course; obtaining a practice monitor; and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. February 1, 2018

[View Document](#)

### **AGHAZADEH-NAINI, REZA (C 54455), Falls Church, VA**

No admissions but charged with violating the terms of his Board-ordered probation by failing to maintain a valid license and non-practice exceeding two years. Surrender of License. March 9, 2018

[View Document](#)

### **ALLEN, EVERETT DOUGLAS, M.D. (G 54881), Crescent City, CA**

Failed to comply with the terms of his Board-ordered probation by failing to participate in a biological fluid testing program, failing to submit quarterly psychotherapy reports, failing to pay probation monitoring costs, and engaging in the solo practice of medicine. Required to continue compliance with all conditions of the previous

## Explanation of disciplinary language and actions

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

**"Gross negligence"** — An extreme deviation or departure from the standard of care.

**"Incompetence"** — Lack of knowledge or skills in discharging professional obligations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**"Suspension from practice"** — The licensee is prohibited from practicing for a specific period of time.



Board-ordered probation and pay delinquent medical evaluation and probation monitoring costs.

February 12, 2018

[View Document](#)

**ALLISON, RONALD C. ALESSIO (G 15236), Stockton, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of six patients, and has a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Surrender of License. February 28, 2018

[View Document](#)

**ATWAL, SATNAM S., M.D. (A 45196), Fresno, CA**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for failing to order or obtain baseline laboratory tests of a patient, failing to justify in writing continuation of a maintenance medicine at a dose above the manufacturer's maximum recommended dose, and failed to include important written documentation in the medical records. February 28, 2018

[View Document](#)

**AZARI, JAMSHID, M.D. (A 45998), Gardena, CA**

Used alcohol in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or to the public. Public Reprimand. February 21, 2018

[View Document](#)

**AZIZ, REHANA, M.D. (A 54063), Fresno, CA**

Failed to comply with the terms of her Board-ordered probation by failing to submit to biological fluid testing as required and testing positive for a controlled substance. Revoked, stayed, placed on six years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a clinical diagnostic evaluation; submitting to biological fluid testing; notification of employer; obtaining a worksite monitor; attending substance abuse support group meetings; prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing or possessing any controlled substances listed in Schedule II and from issuing an oral or written recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed; abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol; and completing a prescribing practices course and a professional boundaries course. April 27, 2018

[View Document](#)

**BECKER, MARY ELLEN, M.D. (A 79433), Denver, CO**

No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Colorado for failing to respond to a complaint issued against her by the Colorado Board. Public Reprimand. February 21, 2018

[View Document](#)

**BOUTROS, JASON K., M.D. (A 42891), Pasadena, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts, prescribing without an appropriate prior examination and medical indication, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of four patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on four years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an education course. February 28, 2018

[View Document](#)

**BUETOW, NORMAN THEODORE, JR. (G 40726), Murrieta, CA**

No admission but charged with failing to comply with the terms of his Board-ordered probation by failing to submit quarterly declarations, failing to maintain a current license, failing to be available for interviews with the Board, and non-practice exceeding two years. Surrender of License. March 14, 2018

[View Document](#)

**BURRES, STEVEN ALAN, M.D. (G 54062), Los Angeles, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of four patients, and gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course. Public Reprimand. April 13, 2018

[View Document](#)

**CASTNER, EDWARD J., M.D. (G 12103), Arcadia, CA**

No admissions but charged with being convicted of a misdemeanor for driving under the influence of alcohol and used alcohol in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or to the public; and violating the conditions of an interim suspension order by testing positive for alcohol metabolites and a controlled substance. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol, completing a clinical diagnostic evaluation, submitting to biological fluid testing, notification of employer, attending substance abuse support group meetings, and obtaining a worksite monitor. March 16, 2018

[View Document](#)

**CHAN, HON YUEN, M.D. (G 49302), Oakland, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of eight patients; incompetence in the care and treatment of seven patients; gross negligence in the care and treatment of six patients; and excessive prescribing in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing, or possessing any controlled substances except for those listed in Schedule V and from issuing an oral or written recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana for the first two years of probation and until successful completion of a clinical competence assessment program; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed and any recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practice course, a medical record keeping course, and a clinical competence assessment program; obtaining a practice monitor; and prohibited from treating patients for chronic pain during the first three years of probation. April 27, 2018

[View Document](#)

**CHEN, ANTHONY CHIEN-YANG, M.D. (G 74781), Hacienda Heights, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, dishonesty, making false statements, and insurance fraud by prescribing for a patient but using the prescription for his own use. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; and obtaining a practice and billing monitor. March 2, 2018

[View Document](#)

**CHIN, ANTHONY BAXTER, M.D. (A 61618), Beverly Hills, CA**

Failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course. Public Reprimand. April 25, 2018

[View Document](#)



**CHOI, ANDREW KWANGHWI, M.D. (A 41771), Los Angeles, CA**

Convicted of a misdemeanor for driving under the influence of alcohol and used alcohol in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or to the public. Public Reprimand. March 9, 2018

[View Document](#)

**COLE, ROBIN RICHARD (A 84827), Placentia, CA**

Failed to comply with an order for a Board evaluation and failed to notify the Board of a change of address. Revoked. April 20, 2018

[View Document](#)

**COMPAGNO, JOHN (G 38126), Hercules, CA**

No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Oregon and convicted for tax evasion. Surrender of License. March 27, 2018

[View Document](#)

**DANIEL, CHRISTINE (G 42176), Mission Hills, CA**

Convicted of felony wire fraud, mail fraud, tax evasion, and witness tampering. Revoked. February 9, 2018

[View Document](#)

**DANISHWAR, JAMILA, M.D. (A 102800), Escondido, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a clinical competence assessment program, an education course, and a medical record keeping course; and provide 80 hours of free community service. Public Reprimand. March 30, 2018

[View Document](#)

**DI SARLI, RICARDO OSCAR (A 49771), Pomona, CA**

Physician has a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely; committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligence, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient; and prescribed controlled substances to himself. Surrender of License. February 7, 2018

[View Document](#)

**EKELEM, IFEATU E. (A 43177), Fresno, CA**

Committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligence, dishonesty, and failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of multiple patients; aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine in the care and treatment of three patients; failing to refund overpayments to three patients; and excessive prescribing in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked. March 29, 2018. Judicial review pending.

[View Document](#)

**ELAHI, FOAD, M.D. (A 106279), Manteca, CA**

Disciplined by Iowa for violating appropriate professional boundaries in his interactions with a coworker. Revoked, stayed, placed on seven years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, an ethics course, and a professional boundaries program; and required to have a third party chaperone present while consulting, examining or treating female patients. February 22, 2018.

[View Document](#)

**EVA, PEDRO, M.D. (A 90222), Ventura, CA**

Convicted of a misdemeanor for presentation of a fraudulent claim. Public Reprimand. April 27, 2018

[View Document](#)

**FIGHTLIN, RICHARD SAMUEL (G 20598), Porterville, CA**

Committed acts of gross negligence in the care and treatment of six patients, repeated negligence in the care and treatment of one patient, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of two patients, and convicted of two misdemeanors for battery. Revoked. April 25, 2018.

[View Document](#)

**FREITAS, RAYMOND PAUL, M.D. (G 55595), Santa Rosa, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of one patient. Public Reprimand. March 30, 2018

[View Document](#)

**FRIEDMAN, ARNOLD CARL, M.D. (G 87661), Clovis, CA**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for being disciplined by Arizona for interpreting a patient's CT scan as negative, when a stage II primary renal cell carcinoma was present. March 26, 2018

[View Document](#)

**GHAFUR, NAEEMAH HOWELL, M.D. (A 79585), North Hills, CA**

Failed to comply with the terms of her Board-ordered probation for failing to reimburse the California Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program and failing to pay the costs associated with probation monitoring. Revoked, stayed, placed on one additional year of probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, payment of the balance owed to the California Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program. March 16, 2018

[View Document](#)

**GORYL, GERARD GEOFFREY (A 42265), Redondo Beach, CA**

Convicted of 36 felonies for prescribing, administering, dispensing, furnishing, selling, or transporting controlled substances; and violated statutes regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances. Revoked.

March 14, 2018

[View Document](#)

**GREWAL, AMAN LOGAN (A 98864), Modesto, CA**

Convicted of a misdemeanor for assault by means likely to cause great bodily injury and has a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Revoked. March 14, 2018

[View Document](#)

**GURRALA, JOSEPH PARIMAL, M.D. (C 128171), Ashburn, VA**

Failed to comply with the terms of his Board-ordered probation for failing to submit quarterly declarations and non-practice exceeding two years. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from practicing until successful completion of a clinical competence assessment program and must complete a medical record keeping course. March 29, 2018

[View Document](#)

**GWALTNEY, SCOTT ROBERT, M.D. (A 76028), Downey, CA**

Convicted of reckless driving in 2015 and a misdemeanor for driving under the influence of alcohol in 2016 and used alcohol in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or to the public. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol, completing an ethics course, prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine, notification of employer, submitting to biological fluid testing, attending substance abuse support group meetings, and obtaining a worksite monitor. March 9, 2018

[View Document](#)



**HAY, BRADLEY GLENN (A 87615), San Diego, CA**

Used controlled substances in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or to the public; violated statutes regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances; engaged in dishonest acts; knowingly made or signed a document related to the practice of medicine that falsely represented the existence or nonexistence of a state of facts; created false medical records with fraudulent intent; failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records; practiced under the influence of a controlled substance; and has a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Surrender of License. April 16, 2018

[View Document](#)

**HEILPERN, RONALD JEFFREY (A 41040), Rancho Mirage, CA**

Physician has a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Surrender of License. April 16, 2018

[View Document](#)

**HEPFER, MICHAEL STEVEN, M.D. (A 86432), Northridge, CA**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for being disciplined by Florida for leaving a portion of a guidewire in a patient during a surgical procedure.

April 25, 2018

[View Document](#)

**HLADON, PAUL ROBERT, M.D. (A 68401) El Segundo, CA**

No admissions but charged with being disciplined by the Department of Air Force for failing to document a history of present illness, failing to document performing physical examinations, and failing to provide medical care at the skill level of a family physician. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, and a clinical competence assessment program; and obtaining a practice billing monitor. April 27, 2018

[View Document](#)

**HOVELER, KATIE LOUISE (A 96212), San Diego, CA**

Disciplined by Pennsylvania for driving under the influence of alcohol and controlled substances. Revoked.

April 2, 2018

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**ILLA, ROBERTO VICTOR, M.D. (G 22683), Oroville, CA**

Committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligence, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, and a clinical competence assessment program; and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine until successful completion of the clinical competence assessment program.

February 16, 2018

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**JEYANANDARAJAN, DHIRAJ RAJ, M.D. (A 91259), Irvine, CA**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for being disciplined by Pennsylvania for failing to comply with the CME requirements. March 19, 2018

[View Document](#)

**JOHNSON, FREDERICK LEE, M.D. (A 55618), Lakeport, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete an education course. Public Reprimand. February 9, 2018

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**KAPOOR, DHANU, M.D. (A 80435), San Jose, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts, incompetence, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete an education course, an ethics course, and a medical record keeping course. Public Reprimand. March 9, 2018

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**KASHIWABARA, YUKI, M.D. (A 79688), Tustin, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and a clinical competence assessment program. February 2, 2018

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**KHOKHAR, JASWANT S., M.D. (A 50719), Bakersfield, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, and prescribing without an appropriate prior examination and medical indication in the care treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course; and obtaining a practice monitor. March 23, 2018

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**KHORSAND-RAVAN, FARIBORZ, M.D. (C 50192), San Francisco, CA**

No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Rhode Island for prescribing controlled substances to a family member on multiple occasions without maintaining adequate medical records. Physician must complete a prescribing practices course. Public Reprimand. February 2, 2018

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**KIANG, RICHARD, M.D. (G 73603), Willowbrook, IL**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for being disciplined by Illinois for failing to appear pursuant to a court order. April 16, 2018

[View Document](#)

**KIM, RICHARD SEONGJUN (A 69774), Torrance, CA**

Convicted of 17 felonies for issuing an unlawful controlled substance prescription, prescribed controlled substances without an appropriate prior examination or medical indication, committed acts of gross negligence and repeated negligence, violated statutes regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances, failed to maintain adequate and accurate records, created false records, and committed acts of dishonesty. Surrender of License. March 8, 2018

[View Document](#)

**KIME, RYAN JACKSON, M.D. (A 85908), Windsor, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence and repeated negligent acts for engaging in behaviors unbecoming a member in good standing of the medical profession. Physician must complete an education course. Public Reprimand. April 27, 2018

[View Document](#)

**KNAPP, DAVID PAUL (G 33943), San Diego, CA**

Failed to comply with an order for a Board evaluation. Revoked. February 9, 2018

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**KOCH, SARAH LOUISE, M.D. (A 61504), Clayton, CA**

No admissions but charged with using alcohol in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to herself, another person, or to the public and has a condition affecting her ability to practice medicine safely. Revoked, stayed, placed on seven years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of alcohol and controlled substances, completing an ethics course and a clinical diagnostic evaluation, prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine, notification of employer, submitting to biological fluid testing, attending substance abuse support group meetings, and obtaining a worksite monitor. March 2, 2018

[View Document](#)

**KOMIN, MICHAEL LEE, M.D. (A 76214), Shafter, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course and a clinical competence assessment program and obtaining a practice monitor. February 9, 2018

[View Document](#)

**KOoba, Austin Merritt (A 71262), Healdsburg, CA**

Committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligence, sexual misconduct, and sexual exploitation in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked. February 16, 2018

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**LAHIJI, PARVIZ (A 42614), Encino, CA**

Physician has a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Revoked. March 8, 2018

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**LEE, RODNEY JOHN, M.D. (C 153991), Fargo, ND**

Disciplined by North Dakota for pre-signing blank prescriptions used by his staff for prescribing controlled substances to patients in his absence, kept controlled substances unlocked, failed to keep adequate medical records, and inappropriately billed Medicaid for services; and being disciplined by Arizona, Medicare, and Minnesota for the action in North Dakota. Probationary license issued, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a professional enhancement program and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. February 5, 2018

[View Document](#)

**LEE, SANGJOON JAY, M.D. (C 50371), Los Angeles, CA**

Failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of five patients. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course. Public Reprimand. February 9, 2018

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**LERMAN, LYNN SUSAN, M.D. (G 51546), Los Angeles, CA**

Failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course. Public Reprimand. March 30, 2018

[View Document](#)

**LEWIS, MARSHALL SAUL, M.D. (G 28242), Bakersfield, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course, an education course, and an ethics course. Public Reprimand. March 30, 2018

[View Document](#)

**LEWIS, STEPHEN BARNETT (G 20175), Concord, CA**

No admissions but charged with violating the terms of his Board-ordered probation by committing acts of gross negligence for not having an adequate familiarity with his electronic health records; repeated negligence for recommending that all patients take four specified supplements without particularizing the recommendation to the specific patients; gross negligence, repeated negligence, prescribing without an appropriate prior examination and medical indication, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of four patients. Surrender of License. March 31, 2018

[View Document](#)

**LIN, HUEY CHOU (A 35361), Santa Ana, CA**

No admissions but charged with having a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely and gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of three patients. Surrender of License. February 1, 2018

[View Document](#)

**MAMO, DAWIT, M.D. (A 54482), Apple Valley, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient and repeated negligent acts, prescribing without an appropriate prior examination and medical indication, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of five patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on thirty-five months' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a prescribing practices course and a medical record keeping course. April 20, 2018

[View Document](#)

**MARDONES, JOHN A., M.D. (A 41581), Palm Springs, CA**

Convicted of more than one alcohol related misdemeanor and used alcohol in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or to the public. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of alcohol, submitting to biological fluid testing, completing an ethics course and a medical evaluation, notification of employer, and obtaining a worksite monitor. March 1, 2018

[View Document](#)

**MCCOY, JEFF CEPHUS, JR. (C 36766), Bakersfield, CA**

Disciplined by Tennessee and convicted of one felony for conspiracy to defraud for interference with governmental functions. Revoked. March 30, 2018

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**MCGUIRE, JOHN FRANCIS (A 91145), Escondido, CA**

Convicted of 10 felonies for sexual battery and committed acts of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation in the care and treatment of eight patients. Revoked. April 13, 2018

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**MEHRTASH, ATA-OLLAH (C 38016), Downey, CA**

Failed to comply with the terms of his Board-ordered probation for failing to successfully complete a clinical training program and pay his probation monitoring costs. Revoked. April 13, 2018

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**MICHAEL, MAHFOUZ M., M.D. (A 34248), Huntington Park, CA**

Committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligence, knowingly signing a document that falsely represented the existence or nonexistence of a statement of facts, and failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of six patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; and obtaining a practice monitor. March 7, 2018

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**MOHAMMAD, AKIKUR REZA, M.D. (A 64769), West Hills, CA**

Convicted of a misdemeanor for driving a vehicle with a .08 percent or more blood alcohol level and used alcohol in such a manner or as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or to the public. Public Reprimand. March 1, 2018

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**MOLNAR, EUGEN MICHAEL (A 24674), Santa Ana, CA**

Failed to comply with the terms of his Board-ordered probation by failing to notify the Board of the departure date and return date for residing outside of California, failing to obey all laws, failing to submit quarterly declarations, and failing to comply with the Board's probation program. Revoked. March 29, 2018

[View Document](#)

**MORGAN, COURTNEY RICARDO, M.D. (C 129554), Port Saint Lucie, FL**

Disciplined by Texas for inappropriately prescribing a controlled substance to six patients and to himself, allowing a non-licensed health care provider have access to his prescription pad and physician signature stamp, and engaging in inaccurate and inadequate record keeping. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed and any recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, an ethics course, and a clinical competence assessment program; obtaining a practice monitor; and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. April 19, 2018

[View Document](#)

**NATARAJAN, SUNDAR, M.D. (A 84407), Stockton, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of six patients. Physician must complete an education course and a medical record keeping course. Public Reprimand. February 23, 2018

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**NGUYEN, DOANH ANDREW, M.D. (G 80814), Westminster, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts, prescribing without an appropriate prior examination and medical indication, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of six patients; and gross negligence, excessive prescribing, prescribing controlled substances to an addict, and incompetence in the care and treatment of five patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, or possessing any controlled substance and from issuing an oral or written recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana until successful completion of the clinical competence assessment program; surrender DEA permit; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed and any recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, an ethics course, and a clinical competence assessment program; and obtaining a practice monitor. February 16, 2018

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**NOURI, LABEED SAMI, M.D. (C 144916), Sterling Heights, MI**

No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Michigan for providing epidural injections to a patient's back without documenting the justification for the treatment and failing to provide follow-up care. Public Reprimand. March 29, 2018

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**OPPENHEIMER, JONATHAN ROBERT (G 87999), Nashville, TN**

No admissions but charged with being disciplined by several state boards for submitting false billings to Medicare. Surrender of License. February 14, 2018

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**PADILLA, NYREE, M.D. (C 145168), Metuchen, NJ**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for being disciplined by Missouri for discipline in Alaska and Illinois for failing to disclose required information in an application for a medical license. April 30, 2018

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**PATEL, RAMESH A., M.D. (C 141295), Bakersfield, CA**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for being disciplined by Florida for failing to treat a transient ischemic attack in a patient and make an urgent referral to a facility for further evaluation. April 30, 2018

[View Document](#)

**PIERSON, JOSEPH EMANUEL, M.D. (G 53815), Los Angeles, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient; and repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a prescribing practices course and a medical record keeping course and obtaining a practice monitor. February 9, 2018

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**POPKIN, MICHAEL HOWARD (G 34154), Granada Hills, CA**

Convicted of sexual exploitation, sexual battery, and has to register as a sex offender. Automatic Revocation of License. April 30, 2018

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**RALLS, JULIE ROBIN (G 63700), Albuquerque, NM**

Failed to comply with the terms of her Board-ordered probation by failing to maintain a valid license and non-practice exceeding two years. Revoked. March 30, 2018

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**RAND, ROBERT GENE (A 88456), Reno, NV**

Convicted of felonies for involuntary manslaughter and distribution of a controlled substance, violated statutes regulating dangerous drugs and controlled substances, and committed acts of dishonesty. Revoked. April 6, 2018

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**REEVES, NICHOLAS P.W., M.D. (A 121127), Corte Madera, CA**

Used controlled substances in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or to the public and has a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Revoked, stayed, placed on four years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol, completing a medical evaluation, notification of employer, submitting to biological fluid testing, attending substance abuse support group meetings, and obtaining a worksite monitor. March 30, 2018

[View Document](#)

**RHEE, DAVID MINHO, M.D. (A 101726), Los Gatos, CA**

No admissions but charged with failing to comply with an order for a Board evaluation and convicted of misdemeanors for corporal injury to a spouse, violating a domestic violence restraining order, and petty theft. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, providing 100 hours of free community service, completing an ethics course, obtaining a practice monitor, and enrolling in a Batterer Treatment Program. March 16, 2018

[View Document](#)

**RHOTEN, REX LLOYD, P., M.D. (A 62823), Rancho Santa Fe, CA**

Convicted of a misdemeanor for driving a vehicle while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage and used alcohol in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or to the public. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol; completing an ethics course, a medical evaluation, and a clinical diagnostic evaluation; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; notification of employer; submitting to biological fluid testing; attending substance abuse support group meetings; and obtaining a worksite monitor. March 29, 2018

[View Document](#)

**ROBINSON, LAWRENCE DANIEL, JR., M.D. (C 35069), Lancaster, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on thirty-five months' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; and obtaining a practice monitor. February 21, 2018

[View Document](#)

**ROSE, ROBERT ALVA, M.D. (C 33380), Irvine, CA**

Physician has a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely, convicted of misdemeanors for lewd conduct in public and delaying or obstructing an officer, and failed to report the misdemeanor convictions to the Board. Revoked, stayed, placed on eight years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to completing an ethics course and a professional boundaries program, obtaining a practice monitor, and prohibited from treating, examining, evaluating or seeing minor patients under 18 or female patients.

April 19, 2018

[View Document](#)

**SANDERS, BARRY, M.D. (G 39467), Dallas, TX**

No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Texas for failing to maintain adequate medical records and failing to practice medicine in an acceptable professional manner consistent with public health and welfare. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course. Public Reprimand. March 15, 2018

[View Document](#)

**SEED, LAURA JEAN, M.D. (G 55560), San Diego, CA**

Physician has a condition affecting her ability to practice medicine safely; committed acts of gross negligence for seeing patients in public places, which shows a lack of sensitivity to confidentiality and privacy issues; and committed unprofessional conduct by violating a restraining order and accessing an individual's CURES report without his consent. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a psychiatric evaluation as a condition precedent; completing a professional boundaries program; and obtaining a practice monitor. April 13, 2018

[View Document](#)

**SERRA, KENNETH LORENZO, M.D. (A 79170), Eden Prairie, MN**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for being disciplined by Illinois for failing to diagnose testicular torsion in interpreting a patient's ultrasound.

April 25, 2018

[View Document](#)

**SHAH, RINA BIREN, M.D. (A 121009), Los Gatos, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course and an education course. Public Reprimand. March 29, 2018

[View Document](#)

**SHENASSA, DAVID, M.D. (A 102331), Weston, FL**

Disciplined by Florida for performing a wrong site finger surgery on a patient. Physician must complete a wrong site surgery course. Public Reprimand.

February 16, 2018

[View Document](#)

**SHUMWAY, ROBERT ALAN, M.D. (G 75694), La Jolla, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of one patient and making false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive statements, claims or images on his website. Physician must provide 40 hours of free community service and complete an education course. Public Reprimand. March 28, 2018

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**SIEVERT, DWIGHT WILLIAM, M.D. (G 47593), Fresno, CA**

Committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligence, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on thirty-five months' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a course on prescribing to patients with drug addictions, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, an ethics course, and a clinical competence assessment program; and obtaining a practice monitor.

February 8, 2018

[View Document](#)

**SINGLA, RAJESH KUMAR (A 133480), Vacaville, CA**

No admissions but charged with unprofessional conduct and engaging in sexual misconduct with a patient. Surrender of License. April 17, 2018

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**SINHA, RAJ KAMAL, M.D. (G 87088), Rancho Mirage, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete an education course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course. Public Reprimand. February 16, 2018

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**SROUR, SAMI CHAFIC (G 24567), Bakersfield, CA**

Failed to comply with multiple terms of his Board-ordered probation. Surrender of License. March 12, 2018

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**TURK, ROBERT L. (A 22577), El Cajon, CA**

Committed acts of gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked. February 16, 2018

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**VAN DYKE, GREGORY JOHN (A 51101), Dana Point, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of two patients and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of four patients. Surrender of License. March 22, 2018

[View Document](#)

**WALTER, GARY ALAN, M.D. (G 45798), Visalia, CA**

Convicted of a misdemeanor for driving a vehicle with a .08 percent or more blood alcohol level and used alcohol in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or to the public. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol, submitting to biological fluid testing, and completing an ethics course, a clinical diagnostic evaluation, and a medical evaluation. April 6, 2018

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**WILLIAMS, CLEMMIE LEE, M.D. (A 36026), Richmond, VA**

Failed to comply with the terms of his Board-ordered probation by failing to maintain a current license.

Revoked, stayed, placed on two additional years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, maintaining a current and valid license for the length of his probation. February 23, 2018

[View Document](#)

**WOODRUFF, NATHANIEL ROHDE, M.D. (C 55840), Grass Valley, CA**

No admissions but charged with being disciplined by Michigan for writing a prescription to a family member, knowing that the medication was going to be used for another person. Physician must complete an ethics course. Public Reprimand. February 21, 2018

[View Document](#)

**WU, JULIE, M.D. (A 75303), Redwood City, CA**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for failing to document a physical examination and medical decision making, failing to reconcile a patient's complaints from a prior visit, and failing to recognize the need for a face-to-face evaluation. March 5, 2018

[View Document](#)

**YASSA, NADINE HELMY, M.D. (A 48720), Granite Bay, CA**

Committed acts of repeated negligence and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of four patients, gross negligence and excessive prescribing in the care and treatment of three patients, and failing to comply with a request for medical records. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical

record keeping course, an ethics course, and a clinical competence assessment program; obtaining a practice monitor; and prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. February 26, 2018.

Judicial review pending.

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## **PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT**

### **ARTEAGA, LAURO IVAN, P.A. (PA 13931), Los Angeles, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of six patients; incompetence in the care and treatment of three patients; and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of four patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a medical record keeping course, an education course, a clinical training program, and an ethics course; keep written medical records for each patient and make them available for immediate inspection; having a supervising physician on site at least 30% of the practice time; and prohibited from practicing until approval of a supervising physician and practice plan.

April 13, 2018

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### **CAMACHO, LILIANA, P.A. (PA 55356), Oxnard, CA**

Charged with pleading nolo contendere to a misdemeanor charge of petty theft. Probationary license issued, placed on two years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an ethics course and prohibited from practicing until approval of a supervising physician and practice plan.

February 16, 2018

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### **HALBERT, RUSHTON E., III, P.A. (PA 11658), Harbor City, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on two years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, prohibited from practicing until approval of a supervising physician and practice plan, and the supervising physician must be on site at all times. April 27, 2018

[View Document](#)

### **LITTLE, STACEY DANIELLE, P.A. (PA 16457), Chula Vista, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient, repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of five patents, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a medical record keeping course and a clinical training program, prohibited from treating pediatric patients until completing the clinical training program, prohibited from practicing until approval of a supervising physician and practice plan; and having a supervising physician on site 75% of the practice time. February 9, 2018

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### **MASSEY, BLAKE, P.A. (PA 15490), Redding, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, alteration of medical records, prescribing without an appropriate prior examination and medical indication, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of two patients; and conspiracy to violate the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act. Revoked, stayed, placed on six years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, 60 days' suspension; prohibited from issuing a drug order, or handing to a patient, or possessing any controlled substances except for anabolic steroids in Schedule III, and all drugs listed in Schedules IV and V; completing a medical record keeping course, an education course, an ethics course, and



a prescribing practices course; prohibited from practicing until approval of a supervising physician and practice plan; prohibited from operating a medical management corporation without prior approval; keep written medical records for each patient and make them available for immediate inspection . March 2, 2018

[View Document](#)

**SAJO, ANDREW KEVIN, P.A. (PA 16136), Arcadia, CA**

Committed acts of gross negligence in the care and treatment of two patients; repeated negligence, prescribing without an appropriate prior examination and medical indication, excessive prescribing, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, providing medical services without appropriate supervision, and administration of controlled substances without advance approval by a supervising physician in the care and treatment of three patients; and prescribing controlled substances to an addict in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a medical record keeping course, prohibited from practicing until approval of a supervising physician and practice plan, and having a supervising physician on site 50% of the practice time. April 11, 2018

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**SAWAYA, EMMANUEL, P.A. (PA 20007), Ontario, CA**

Convicted of driving a vehicle while having a .08 percent of higher blood alcohol content and used alcohol in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or to the public; violated the Medical Practice Act; and failed to participate in an interview with the Board. Revoked, stayed, placed on seven years' probation, with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a clinical diagnostic evaluation, abstaining from the use of alcohol and controlled substances, participating in a drug and alcohol recovery monitoring program, submitting to biological fluid testing, attending group support meetings, obtaining a worksite monitor, and prohibited from practicing until approval of a supervising physician and practice plan. February 8, 2018

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**Doctors of Podiatric Medicine**

**SONG, TAE JOO (E 4773), Orange, CA**

Committed acts of gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient. Surrender of License. April 30, 2018

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## Apply Online Now for Steven M. Thompson Funding

Physicians practicing in medically underserved areas of California can use a new eApp to apply online for a Steven M. Thompson Loan Repayment grant. The SLRP application cycle is open from August 1, 2018 until October 1, 2018.

The new funding eApp can be found at <https://eapp.oshpd.ca.gov/funding/>.

The program provides recipients with up to \$50,000 of tax-exempt funding to pay off student loans. For more information about the SLRP program, visit <https://oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/SLRP.html>.

Department of Consumer Affairs  
Medical Board of California  
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## MBC Meetings

October 17-19, 2018: San Diego Area  
January 31 - February 1, 2019: Northern California Area  
May 9-10, 2019: Southern California Area  
August 8-9, 2019: San Francisco Area  
November 7-8, 2019: Southern California Area

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

## Contact Us:

### Medical Board of California

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**or (916) 263-2382**

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*Applications*  
*Health Facility Discipline Reports*  
*Fictitious Name Permits*  
*License Renewals*  
*BrEZe Assistance*

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#### Affiliated Healing Arts Professions

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