



Newsletter and Report

www.albme.org

August – September 2010

Volume 25, Number 3

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Important 2011 renewal information

License and Registration Renewals

- All licenses and registrations are renewed annually
- Orange renewal reminder postcards will be sent to all licensees' addresses of record in October
- Online renewal will use license number and last four digits of SSN (you do not have to have received a postcard to renew)
- Online renewal: <http://alrenewals.org>
- **Licensee is responsible for completing forms and submitting payment. Do not rely on someone else to do this for you.**

MD/DO Licenses

- Expire Dec. 31
- \$300 license renewal fee
- Grace period Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 (\$400 fee during this period)
- *After renewing license, if you have an ACSC, you will be asked if you want to renew it

ACSC Registrations

- Expire Dec. 31, NO grace period
- \$150 renewal fee
- NO grace period for ACSC (writing pre-

scriptions for controlled substances without a current ACSC is a violation of Board rules and state law and will be investigated)

- *After renewing license, if you have a collaborative practice, you will be asked if you want to renew it

Collaborative Practice Registrations

- Expire Dec. 31, NO grace period
- \$100 renewal fee
- If you are prompted to renew a CP registration and you do not think you have a CP, contact our office – if our records indicate a CP and it is not renewed or formally terminated by Dec. 31, it will be reported to the Board

PA/AA Licenses

- Expire Dec. 31, NO grace period
- \$100 renewal fee
- *After renewing license, if you have a QACSC, you will be asked if you want to renew it

QACSC Registrations

- Expire Dec. 31, NO grace period
- \$60 renewal fee

**You can exit the website and return later, but it is best to complete all renewals at one time*

Understanding CME: What are 'Category 1 or Equivalent' Continuing Medical Education Credits?

Certified continuing medical education (CME), for which *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* is awarded, is defined as: (1) Non-promotional learning activities certified for credit prior to the activity by an organization authorized by the credit system owner (AMA, AAFP, ACOG, APA), or (2) Non-promotional learning activities for which the credit system owner directly awards credit.

Within the United States, the AMA only authorizes organizations that are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) or by a state medical society, e.g., the Council on Medical Education of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, referred to as “accredited

CME providers,” to designate and award *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* to physicians.

The following courses have been deemed by the Board and Commission to be equivalent to *AMA PRA Category 1 credits™*:

- (1) Programs of continuing medical education designated as Category 1-A, which are sponsored or conducted by organizations or entities accredited by the American Osteopathic Association to sponsor or conduct Category 1-A Continuing Medical Education for osteopathic physicians.
- (2) Programs of continuing medical education designated as a *see Understanding CME, page 4*

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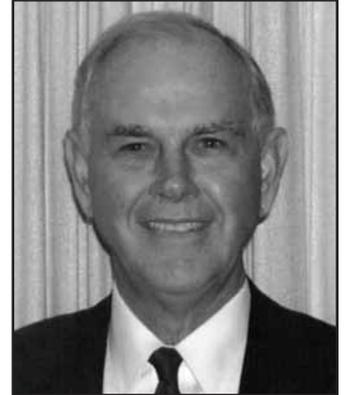
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A Message from the Executive Director **Exercise care in annual renewals** **and prevent future problems**

by Larry Dixon

Every year, the Board has to deal with cases where physicians have failed to renew their licenses, Alabama Controlled Substances Certificates (ACSCs) and Collaborative Practices through inattention or delegation of responsibilities to an individual who failed to properly complete the renewal process. The Board also sees cases where the questions on the renewal forms are not answered correctly. A very serious problem. Let me strongly recommend that you complete the renewal process yourself; however, if you delegate that task to another person, the Board's position is that it is your responsibility to assure that questions on the renewal applications are answered correctly and everything is renewed on time.



Larry Dixon

Beginning in October, all licensees are mailed, to their address of record, a postcard containing renewal information: which licenses and registrations need to be renewed; the web address for renewing online (<http://alrenewals.org/>); and instructions for renewing by mail. For example, the postcard might list the license, ACSC, and two collaborative practices. The postcard will only list those licenses and registrations that need to be renewed.

It is important to fully and accurately complete the renewal process. After signing in to the renewal website using your license number and the last four digits of your social security number, follow the directions for renewing your license, which will include confirming information such as your address, specialty, board certification, etc., and answering questions such as whether you met the CME requirement, if you had an adverse judgment or settlement in a malpractice case in the past year, etc.

After answering all the questions, there is a review screen to check your answers. If another individual is entering the information, that person should print the review screen and confirm with you that all information is correct. There is a certification field where you certify that you have provided this information and it is true. This is where licensees who allow others to complete the forms run into trouble – the individual completing the renewal process incorrectly answers a question and it is later discovered. When this occurs, the licensee is the one who is responsible and can incur a disciplinary action for fraud in completing the renewal application.

The Board also sees instances where the license is renewed, but the physician fails to renew the ACSC and/or collaborative practice. After completing the online license renewal by paying the fee with a credit card or printing out the completed form to mail with a check, the website will give you the choice of renewing your ACSC (if you have one) or exiting the system. If you intend to prescribe controlled substances for your patients, it is highly recommended that you go ahead and renew the ACSC at this time. After the ACSC renewal, if you have a collaborative practice, you will be given the choice of renewing it or exiting the system. Again, the collaborative practice renewal should be completed at that time.

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CME reminder: 25 credits required for 2011 renewal

The CME requirement for physicians and physician assistants is now 25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™] or equivalent credits annually. For purposes of meeting the requirement for 2010 **only**, credits in excess of 12 that were earned in 2009 may be rolled into 2010 to meet the 25 credit requirement. In 2011 and subsequent years, there will be no rollover of credits allowed.

Do not renew your license before you have confirmed that you have documentation of your CME credits, and do not rely on someone else to do this for you. The Commission will not accept “my office manager told me she had it” as a mitigation if you cannot produce documentation upon request.

Likewise, do not renew your license with the intention of obtaining required CME after that date. CME earned after the date of renewal/certification will not be accepted. That is why there is a grace period from Jan. 1 to Jan. 31 (for physicians), so that when circumstances have not allowed you to obtain the required credits before Dec. 31, you still have an opportunity to obtain it before renewing your license and certifying that you have met the requirement.

For additional information, see the Board’s web page concerning CME: <http://www.albme.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=app.displayPage&pageID=3>.

Exemptions from the CME Requirement:

You are exempt from the CME requirement if:

- You do not reside or practice in Alabama
- You are retired and have received a retirement waiver from the Board (if you are retired but do not have a waiver, you are still subject to the CME requirement)
- You received your initial license this calendar year
- You have applied for and received from the Board a disability waiver
- You are enrolled or were enrolled in a residency training program or clinical fellowship program during any part of this calendar year
- You are a member of any branch of the armed services of the United States and are deployed for military service; the exemption is for the calendar year in which you are deployed.

Annual renewals

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There is no grace period for renewing ACSCs or collaborative practice registrations. If you fail to renew your ACSC and you write controlled substances prescriptions or dispense controlled substances after Jan. 1, you are in violation of the law and Board rules, and are subject to discipline. The Board is informed of all physicians whose controlled substances prescriptions are reported to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program but who have not renewed their ACSCs.

Similarly, if you are in a Collaborative Practice with a CRNP and it is not renewed, nor have you sent a termination notification, the Board is informed and your collaborative practice is no longer approved. Often, we see physicians who leave the collaborative practice renewal up to someone else who pays the renewal fee. This can cause trouble if: 1) the renewal never gets done; or 2) the collaborative practice is not terminated. The physician, not the nurse practitioner and not a third party, is responsible for ensuring that the collaborative practice is renewed or terminated. “Terminated” means the physician (not someone else) has sent a termination notice to the Board.

If your postcard and the website say you have a collaborative practice to be renewed, but you think it has been terminated, you should contact this office immediately. This is not something that should be left up to another individual. Physicians who fail to renew or terminate their collaborative practices before Jan. 1 can incur difficulties, including possible disciplinary action from the Board.

The purpose of this column is to urge you to be proactive in being absolutely sure that: 1) your renewals are completed on time; 2) you have obtained the required CME and have confirmed for yourself that you have documentation; and 3) all information provided in the renewal applications is correct. Doctor, it is not your office manager, spouse, or anyone else who can expect difficulty if your renewals are not properly and accurately done, it is you.

Reminder - License/ACSC/QA CSC/Collaborative Practice Renewal Notices

Renewal notices will be sent to physicians’ and physician assistants’ mailing address of record in October in the form of an orange postcard.

Please alert your staff to be on the lookout for the postcard.

All your licenses/registrations/agreements will be listed on the one postcard along with instructions on how to renew them online. Staff should be instructed to always immediately deliver to you any correspondence from the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners or Medical Licensure Commission of Alabama, in whatever form it may arrive.

Surveys determine benefit eligibility

Primary care providers in Alabama should expect to be periodically contacted by members of the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) with short telephone surveys that determine Alabama's Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), which may qualify areas for Medicare incentive payments, student loans and scholarships, professional recruitment, and other assistance. Please make your staff aware of these surveys and encourage them to provide accurate responses. Participation in the survey is essential to the HPSA designation process.

Surveyors will ask office staff:

- 1 To verify clinic addresses and

names of physicians serving there

- 2 How many hours per week the physician sees patients at that location
- 3 Percent of patients on Medicaid
- 4 Percent of patients on a sliding-fee-scale payment schedule

HPSAs are geographic areas, population groups, or medical facilities that have been designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as having met criteria indicating a significant need for additional primary care resources. The purpose of these designations is to identify areas of greatest unmet primary health care need so that limited resources can be

prioritized and directed to those areas.

The State Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, ADPH, is tasked with collecting the data to update or renew HPSA designations and submitting the designation applications to the federal Shortage Designation Branch, Health Resources and Services Administration.

For more information on the HRSA designation process, please visit the HRSA Office of Shortage Designation website at <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage>.

If you have any questions regarding the HPSA phone surveys, contact Janice Cook, HPSA Coordinator, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, ADPH, at (334) 206-5610.

Understanding CME

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“prescribed hour,” which are sponsored or conducted by organizations or entities accredited by the American Academy of Family Physicians to sponsor or conduct “prescribed hours” of continuing medical education.

- (3) Programs of continuing medical education designated as “cognates,” which are sponsored or conducted by organizations or entities that are accredited by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology to sponsor or conduct approved cognates on obstetrical and gynecologic related subjects.
- (4) Documented attendance at grand rounds.
- (5) Programs of continuing medical education designated as such by the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners.

Some activities do not occur under the auspices of an accredited CME Provider. For these activities, the AMA allows physicians to claim *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*[™] directly from the AMA. They are as follows:

- (1) Publishing articles: physician must be the lead author (first listed) in a peer-reviewed article in a journal included in the MEDLINE bibliographic database to qualify for 10 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™] per article. There is no maximum number of credits a physician can earn in a year. A reprint or copy of the page(s) of the journal, which includes the name of the author listed first, the name of the journal and date published is required.
- (2) Poster presentations: to obtain five *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™] per poster, physician must be the first author in the published abstracts. There is no maximum number of credits a physician can earn in a year. A copy of the page(s) in the published activity

documents that lists the author and poster abstract, accredited CME provider, AMA Credit Designation Statement, title and date of activity is required.

- (3) Teaching at a live activity: two *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™] per one hour of presentation time at a live activity that has been certified for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*[™] are available (if the accredited CME provider has not already awarded credit to the physician for this). There is no maximum number of credits a physician can earn in a year.
- (4) Medically-related advanced degrees, e.g., masters in public health: copy of the diploma or final transcript is required to obtain 25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™]. (Not available if the academic program certified individual courses for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*[™].)
- (5) ABMS member board certification and Maintenance of Certification (MoC): copy of board certificate or the specialty board notification letter is required to obtain 60 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™] following completion of an ABMS member board certification or MoC process.
- (6) Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited education: copy of certificate or letter of completion from the approved residency/fellowship program is required to obtain 20 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™] per year. The successful completion of an ABMS member board certification process or an ACGME-accredited residency or fellowship program also qualifies a physician for the AMA PRA.

For additional information, contact MASA's Education Department at (334) 954-2535, or go to www.ama-assn.org/go/pr.

Report of Public Actions of the Medical Licensure Commission and Board of Medical Examiners

MLC – July 2010

◆ On July 28, the Commission entered an Order reprimanding the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Cesar Tobias Fernandez, MD**, license number MD.17296, Gadsden, AL, based on failure to comply with continuing medical education requirements.

◆ On July 28, the Commission entered an Order reprimanding the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Charles Gerald Judy, MD**, license number MD.25947, Huntsville, AL, based on failure to comply with continuing medical education requirements.

◆ On July 28, the Commission entered an Order reprimanding the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Duane Bradley Shroyer, MD**, license number MD.12255, Birmingham, AL, based on failure to comply with continuing medical education requirements.

MLC – August 2010

◆ On Aug. 4, the Commission entered an Order placing the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Alfredo Cartaya, MD**, license number MD.20249, Pensacola, FL, on indefinite probation, subject to conditions which include the submission of a detailed plan of practice for prior approval before entering the active practice of medicine.

◆ On Aug. 4, the Commission entered an Order of negative findings against the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Gilberto Sanchez, MD**, license number MD.17969, Montgomery, AL.

◆ On Aug. 4, the Commission

entered an Order reinstating to full, unrestricted status the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Alan V. Stansfield, MD**, license number MD.7469, Wedowee, AL.

◆ On Aug. 25, upon the stipulation of the parties, the Commission entered a Consent Order reprimanding the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Harry Lee Richardson, MD**, license number MD.11725, Reform, AL, assessing an administrative fine, restricting his ACSC to Schedules IV and V, and imposing certain other requirements.

◆ On Aug. 25, upon the stipulation of the parties, the Commission entered a Consent Order suspending the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Robert Davis Williams, MD**, license number MD.29580, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

MLC – September 2010

◆ On Sept. 2, the Commission entered an Order suspending the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Robert H. Carlson, MD**, license number MD.8549, Birmingham, AL.

◆ On Sept. 2, the Commission entered an Order reinstating the authority of **Pascual Herrera, Jr., MD**, license number MD. 13663, Leesburg, AL, to prescribe controlled substances in Schedules III, IV and V. All provisions of the Commission's

June 1, 2006, Order remain in full force and effect.

◆ On Sept. 2, the Commission entered an Order removing all restrictions on the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Richard Daniel Price, MD**, license number MD.23525, Birmingham, AL, and restoring the license to full, unrestricted status.

◆ On Sept. 2, the Commission entered an Order reinstating the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Michael David Williams, DO**, license number DO.426, Riverview, FL, subject to the condition that he shall only practice medicine within a particular fellowship program.

◆ On Sept. 2, the Commission entered an Order modifying the terms of a previous Order concerning **Sandra L. Zahradka, MD**, license number MD.18417, Hoover, AL.

The Medical Association of the State of Alabama and
The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners present:

Prescribing and Pharmacology of Controlled Drugs: Critical Issues and Common Pitfalls

NOVEMBER 20 - 21

Renaissance Hotel & Spa at the
Convention Center, Montgomery
Registration: \$375

Registration Deadline: Nov. 1

Accommodations:

Call the Embassy Suites
Montgomery at (334) 269-5055 or
visit www.embassysuitesmontgomery.com

Group Code: MED

Room Block Cutoff: October 20

The Medical Foundation of Alabama designates this educational activity for a maximum of 12 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and policies of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama through the joint sponsorship of the Medical Foundation of Alabama and the Medical Association of the State of Alabama. The Medical Foundation of Alabama is accredited by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama to provide continuing medical education to physicians.

Registration forms
and agenda are
posted in the
Education section
of MASA's
Web site,
www.masalink.org.

Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
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***Look inside
for important news
from the Board of Medical
Examiners that pertains to your
license to practice medicine
in Alabama.***

All current licensees receive the *Board of Medical Examiners Newsletter and Report* at their address of record at no charge. Licensees may also choose to receive the newsletter by e-mail. Non-licensee subscriptions to the newsletter are by e-mail only.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please send a request to masa@masalink.org.

Change of Address

Alabama law requires that every licensed physician notify the Board of Medical Examiners in writing within **15 days** of a change of the physician's practice location address and/or mailing address.