



ALABAMA State Board of Medical Examiners Medical Licensure Commission

Newsletter and Report

www.albme.org

July – September 2011

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Inside:

Volunteer Network

Alabama Department of Public Health coordinates physician volunteers.

– page 2

CME

Confirm CME credit before applying for license renewal.

– page 2

Alabama Responds

Register with the ADPH to volunteer for public health and medical emergencies.

– page 3

Welcome

BME welcomes new staff.

– page 4

Online Newsletter

Free online newsletter offers CME.

– page 4

PDMP

Review rules of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

– page 4

Public Actions

June – September 2011

– page 5

2012 License and Registration Renewals

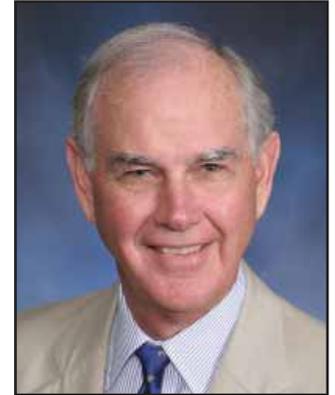
- ▶ All licenses and registrations are renewed annually.
 - ▶ Orange renewal reminder postcards sent to all licensees' addresses of record in October.
 - ▶ Online renewal will use last name and last four digits of SSN (you do not have to have received a postcard to renew).
 - ▶ Online renewal site: <http://www.alrenewals.org>.
 - ▶ Licensee is responsible for completing forms and submitting payment. Do not rely on someone else to do this for you.
 - ▶ Renew license first. If you have an ACSC/QACSC and/or collaborative practice, you will be asked if you want to renew them. Credit card payment is made separately for separate renewals. You can print a receipt upon completing each transaction.
-
- ▷ **M.D./D.O. Licenses**
 - Expire Dec. 31
 - \$300 license renewal fee
 - Grace period Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 (\$400 fee during this period)
 - ▷ **ACSC Registrations**
 - Expire Dec. 31, NO grace period
 - \$150 renewal fee
 - NO grace period for ACSC (writing any prescriptions for controlled substances without a current ACSC is a violation of Board rules and state law and will be investigated)
 - ▷ **Collaborative Practice (CP) 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
 - ▷ **P.A./A.A. Licenses**
 - Expire Dec. 31, NO grace period
 - \$100 renewal fee
 - ▷ **QACSC Registrations**
 - Expire Dec. 31, NO grace period
 - \$60 renewal fee

A Message from the Executive Director

Volunteering for health emergencies

by Larry Dixon, Executive Director

After a health emergency such as last year's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, or after a natural disaster such as the more recent deadly tornado outbreak last April, the Board receives inquiries from physicians wishing to volunteer medical services to those affected by the disaster. While this is an admirable notion and should be commended, it is better to consider volunteering your medical services before disaster has struck. The Alabama Department of Public Health's Center for Emergency Preparedness (CEP) coordinates Alabama's medical services in the event of public health threats and emergencies, and maintains a list of certified allied health workers to contact as the need arises to provide direct patient care in an emergency response.



Larry Dixon

The Health Department's Volunteer Network administers a system that pre-registers, manages and mobilizes clinical (and non-clinical) volunteers to assist in disaster response. The network's Alabama Responds program collects and maintains volunteer contact information, licensure, credentials, training history, response experience and skills. Alabama Responds is the system that identifies, activates and deploys volunteers during disasters.

Volunteering does take time away from family, home, work and normal routine. It also requires flexibility, patience and understanding, along with a willingness to abide by the Health Department's volunteer network policies and procedures.

If you are interested in becoming an emergency preparedness volunteer, please contact the Health Department through the link below. There is also additional information on page 3.

The Druid City Hospital Emergency Room treated over 700 patients during the first 24 hours after the tornadoes that sad day in April. Volunteers of all kinds were needed. Having a list of volunteer physicians and physician assistants already certified by the State Health Officer is a real advantage. Consider it!

On the net:

Alabama Department of Public Health Volunteer Information: www.adph.org/volunteer.

CME reminders

The CME requirement for physicians and physician assistants is 25 AMA PRA Category 1™ or equivalent credits annually.

Confirm for yourself that you have documentation of your CME credits before completing your license renewal application, and do not rely on someone else to do this for you.

CME earned after the date of renewal/certification may not be accepted. There is a grace period from Jan. 1 to Jan. 31 (for physicians), so that you still have an opportunity to obtain the required CME before renewing your license and certifying that you have met the requirement.

On the net:

BME webpage on CME: www.albme.org/cme.htm.

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ADPH invites physicians to volunteer through Alabama Responds

During public health and medical emergencies, many physicians in Alabama are eager and willing to volunteer services in their areas of expertise. Hospitals, clinics and other healthcare facilities depend upon those services in order to function properly during emergency situations. Optimally utilizing physicians as volunteers involves pre-planning by both the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and the medical care provider.

In the midst of a disaster, healthcare facilities may be unable to verify basic licensing or credentialing information, including training, skills, competencies and employment. Furthermore, the loss of telecommunications may prevent contact with primary sources that verify volunteer credential information during an event.

For example, during the attacks that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, thousands of well-intentioned volunteer physicians deployed to Ground Zero in New York City to provide assistance. In most cases, however, authorities were unable to allow them to provide medical care to victims of the attacks because they had not been credentialed through a volunteer registry.



The ADPH Center for Emergency Preparedness (CEP) coordinates health, medical and social services in Alabama that will be accessed during public health threats and emergencies. As part of this coordination, CEP maintains and manages the Alabama Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) volunteer registry. The system is known as Alabama Responds.

Alabama Responds is an online database that allows ADPH to register volunteers on a daily basis, and verify provider identification and credentials before an event occurs. This process allows volunteers to be utilized rapidly when disaster strikes. The goal of Alabama Responds is to eliminate problems that occur when mobilizing health professional volunteers during an emergency response. Working within this network, physician volunteers will be immediately able to provide services within Alabama and surrounding areas.

During a disaster, requests received by CEP for volunteers will specify the skill sets that a volunteer should possess. ADPH will use Alabama Responds to match requested skill sets so the appropriate volunteer may be deployed. By registering today in Alabama Responds, physicians will help reduce the time it takes to provide medical care to victims who are impacted by public health emergencies and disasters.

Alabama Responds also provides important benefits to physician volunteers. By registering, volunteer information is recorded in a registry that is maintained and utilized in a manner consistent with all federal, state and local laws governing security and confidentiality. In addition, physician volunteers who register in Alabama Responds will be eligible for volunteer protections that are available to volunteers who are activated and deployed through the system during declared public health emergencies and disasters.

State Health Officer Donald Williamson, MD, said, "We hope you will consider joining our volunteer network. Registering through the Alabama Responds system will not only help others, it will provide safeguards for you. Together we can make a critical difference in the lives of those impacted by public health emergencies and disasters."

For more information on Alabama Responds, read frequently asked questions at www.adph.org/volunteer. Please email any questions to alresponds@adph.state.al.us.

BME unveils new webpage

The Board and Commission announce their newly redesigned webpage, www.albme.org. Some of the new features are easier navigation, more web forms, and information about practice matters for physicians. There are online forms for requesting replacement license certificates, requesting a verification of license/certificate of good standing, and terminating a collaborative practice. Forms that require a signature, mailing, and/or a fee, such as office based surgery registration, retirement waiver or name change application, can be filled out online and printed. We invite you to tour the new site and see how communicating with the Board and Commission is easier than ever.



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

MLC – JUNE 2011

◆ Upon the stipulation of the parties, on June 21, the Commission entered a Consent Order reprimanding the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Allan C. Walls, MD**, license number MD.17151, Birmingham, AL, assessing an administrative fine, and restricting the license to non-clinical, administrative medicine only.

◆ On June 27, the Commission entered an Order denying the application for reinstatement of the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Sumathi Paturu, MD**, license number MD.18590, Birmingham, AL.

BME – JUNE 2011

◆ On June 22, the Board entered an Order denying the application for reinstatement of the certificate of qualification to practice medicine in Alabama of **Thomas R. Martin, Jr., MD**, license number MD.11044, Gadsden, AL.

MLC – JULY 2011

◆ On July 8, the Commission entered an Order restoring to full, unrestricted status the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Jeffrey D. Manord, MD**, license number MD.23436, Mobile, AL.

◆ Effective July 28, the Commission issued an Order on July 27 summarily suspending the license to practice

medicine in Alabama of **Andrew M. Osborne, MD**, license number MD.18034, Dothan, AL, until such time as the Administrative Complaint of the Board of Medical Examiners shall be heard and a decision rendered thereon.

◆ On July 28, the Commission entered an Order removing all conditions and restoring to full, unrestricted status the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Robert M. Ritchea, MD**, license number MD.19887, Phenix City, AL.

MLC – AUGUST 2011

◆ Effective Aug. 1, the Commission entered an Order on July 27 summarily
see Public Actions, page 5

Staff news

The Board is pleased to announce that **Burke Britton Savage** will act as the coordinator for the physician monitoring program. She will assist the director of the program, Jeff Grimsley, who replaced the recently retired Jim Hulett in that position.

Mr. Grimsley and Ms. Savage are responsible for monitoring compliance of physicians in the program and reporting to the Board and Commission. They also work closely with the Medical Association of the State of Alabama's Physician Health Program and the physician health programs of other states.



Rebecca Taylor is the Board's new receptionist and verifications coordinator. Ms. Taylor is responsible for answering the switchboard and responding to requests for verifications of licensure, as well as other administrative duties. The Board welcomes Ms. Taylor to the staff.



The Board also extends a warm welcome to **William Perkins**, who has been retained as a Board Investigator. Mr. Perkins comes to the Board with extensive military and law enforcement experience. He was awarded the Bronze Star Operation Iraq Freedom Desert Award and has earned numerous Army medals of merit and commendation medals.

Mr. Perkins' experience, integrity and dedication will be valuable assets in the performance of his duties with the Board.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program important reminders

- Only the registered physician should access and use information from the PDMP.
- Do not place a copy of a report in the patient's chart. It should be destroyed after use.
- Verify information with pharmacies before taking action on information from the PDMP due to the possibility of inaccurate data input.
- Do not discuss with or show PDMP data to the patient. You can say "It has come to my attention that ..." rather than "The PDMP shows that ..."

On the net:

Alabama Department of Public Health PDMP: www.adph.org/pdmp

AMA offers online CME

The American Medical Association presents a free online quarterly newsletter featuring a different disease in each issue. These CME newsletters feature the latest treatment guidelines and prescribing data for specific disease states. Intended for primary care physicians, a new therapeutic topic is offered each quarter. Past topics include treatment of tobacco dependence, management of migraine in adults and managing hypertension. *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* is available for each newsletter.



On the net:

American Medical Association website: <http://www.ama-assn.org/>

unrestricted status the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Robert H. Carlson, MD**, license number MD.8549, Gulf Shores, AL.

◆ On Sept. 2, the Commission entered an Order denying the petition for removal of restrictions on the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Anthony Lessa, MD**, license number MD.26315, Greensboro, AL.

Actions taken regarding failure to comply with 2010 CME requirements (reprimand, fine, additional CME required):

- **Ronald G. Albright, MD**, MD.9167, Birmingham, AL. Consent Order dated July 27, 2011.
- **Paul Muratta, DO**, DO.536, Gadsden, AL. Consent Order dated July 21, 2011.
- **Kelli F. Grinder, MD**, MD.25673, Birmingham, AL. Consent Order dated Aug. 24, 2011.
- **Barbara E. Kucewicz-Kopyta, MD**, MD.21174, Albertville, AL. Consent Order dated Aug. 24, 2011.
- **Ronald W. Hanson, MD**, MD.10206, Gadsden, AL. Order dated Sept. 2, 2011.

Public Actions, cont.

suspending the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Vernon Delane O'Rear, MD**, license number MD.3514, Nauvoo, AL, until such time as the Administrative Complaint of the Board of Medical Examiners shall be heard and a decision rendered thereon.

◆ On Aug. 4, the Commission entered an Order affirming the Board's denial of the application for a certificate of qualification to practice medicine in Alabama of **Ousama Ghaibeh, MD**, Aurora, CO.

◆ On Aug. 4 and 15, the Commission entered Orders placing on indefinite probation the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Christopher P. Gay, DO**, license number DO.687, Sheffield, AL, subject to certain terms and conditions.

◆ On Aug. 15, the Commission entered an Order reinstating to full, unrestricted status the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **David J. Pavlakovic, MD**, license number MD.22143, Birmingham, AL.

BME – AUGUST 2011

◆ On August 26, the Board entered an Order removing the Voluntary Restrictions previously attached to the certificate of qualification to practice medicine of **Adolfo Robledo, MD**, MD.13102, Troy AL.

MLC – SEPTEMBER 2011

◆ On Sept. 2, the Commission entered an Order reinstating to full, unrestricted status the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Harry Lee Richardson, MD**, MD.11725, Reform, AL.

◆ On Sept. 2, the Commission entered an Order approving a practice location for **Gilberto Sanchez, MD**, license number MD.17969, Montgomery, AL.

◆ On Sept. 2, the Commission entered an Order restoring to full,

Actions taken regarding failure to comply with 2010 CME requirements (fine, additional CME required):

- **Richard J. Lewis, MD**, MD.13407, Birmingham, AL. Consent Order dated Aug. 24, 2011.
- **Lane H. Friedman, MD**, MD.10471, Cullman, AL. Order dated Sept. 2, 2011.

Your Medical License

As a physician, your license to practice medicine in the State of Alabama is one of your most important assets. It allows you to apply what you learned during years of school and post-graduate training to earn a livelihood to support your family. Exercise care to protect this asset.



**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.