

NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MEDICINE

January 2022 News Blast

North Dakota Board of Medicine

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2022 Meeting Schedule

January 28, 2022

April 22, 2022

July 29, 2022

October 21, 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The interval between meetings of the North Dakota Board of Medicine was shorter than the usual (2 months) due to the change in the Board's regular meeting schedule. The 2022 meeting schedule was adopted at the Board's November 2021 meeting with quarterly, regular meetings set for the months of January, April, July, and October. The January and July meetings will be virtual, while the April and October meetings will be in person. Despite the shortened interval, the Board discussed and acted on several important issues.

The Board approved updates to the Operations Manual to adopt most recent recommendation from the FBI and Bureau of Criminal Investigation regarding the use of fingerprinting for licensee applications. The Manual was also updated to allow for a 3-year grace period for lapsed genetic counselor licenses to renew upon payment of fees, which coincides with the grace period for physicians and physician assistants.

After a legislative change in 2019 allowed physician assistants to practice independently upon approval of the Board, many questions have been raised regarding PA practice in North Dakota. To assist PAs with these questions, the Board approved a guidance statement which can help PAs determine if potential practice and locations coincide with the law. Board member Jay Metzger PA-C was instrumental in developing this guidance statement. This statement is now available on the Board's website.

The Board approved a collaborative agreement with the ACCME which allows the Board to access the ACCME CME database as a way to verify physician's CME requirements for continued licensure. This service is offered free of charge by the ACCME and can save significant time and expense during CME audits to both licensees and the Board office. Further information on how to have your CME participation entered into the ACCME database is included in this News Blast and will also be posted on the Board's website.

The Board looks forward to the April meeting which will be held in person at the Board offices in Bismarck. The Board expresses its gratitude to the many healthcare professionals who have worked countless hours caring for patients with COVID-19 infections. We are all hopeful that the pandemic will soon fade from its status as the most prominent healthcare threat in our state and country.

Sincerely, Robert P. Sticca, MD, FACS

NDBOM COLLABORATES WITH ACCME

The North Dakota Board of Medicine is taking steps to transition from paper-based licensing and renewal processes to digital. To this end, the Board is excited to announce it will be collaborating with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Education (ACCME) to improve reporting and auditing for Continuing Medical Education (CME) of North Dakota licensed physicians.

With this collaboration, CME providers can report CME credit for North Dakota licensees directly to the ACCME Program and Activity Reporting System (PARS). The Board will have the ability to review this data online to be a one-stop

resources for verifying CME requirements are met, streamlining the process for the Board and physician licensees. This is a FREE service to our licensees, providers, and the Board.

How does it work?

All that is required from you as a physician is to ask the CME provider to report your attendance to the ACCME PARS. Minimal information is needed – such as name, state license number, and day/month of birth. The provider is responsible for reporting the credit and uploading the data into PARS. The Board can then access the information and verify attendance and completion.

What are the benefits of utilizing the PARS system?

By utilizing the ACCME database, CME audits will be streamlined and paperless. Currently, we send licensees a letter requiring CME verification within the month, if chosen for an audit. If a physician's CME data is already inputted into PARS, the licensee does not have to self-report individual CME during an audit. Instead, the Board will be able to look the licensee up in the system and verify that the licensee has the required CME credits. You would then receive a letter stating you were chosen for an audit, your CME hours were verified, and no further action is needed on your part.

Can I track my own information and reports?

Yes. Physicians can create their own account through the ACCME's CME Passport: <https://www.cmepassport.org>. Creating this account will allow physicians to find available CME, track what CME credit has been reported by CME providers, and generate a transcript of your credit that can be sent directly to the Board. Please note that your information must be submitted by the CME provider. You are not able to self-report CME completion information to the CME Passport.

What happens if my information is not uploaded, or my CME provider does not utilize the ACCME/PARS system?

As required by law, we request you continue to keep an internal verification of your CME.

If you are chosen for an audit and there is not enough CME to show compliance in the PARS system, you will receive a letter outlining how to manually submit your CME.

Where can I learn more?

Please access the ACCME website at <https://www.accme.org/state-medical-licensing-boards-collaboration>. For more information on the CME Passport, please access: <https://accme.org/about-cmepassport>.

JANUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At the January 28, 2022, meeting, the North Dakota Board of Medicine approved 61 Physician licenses, 8 Physician Assistant licenses, and 11 Genetic Counselor licenses. 6 Letters of Qualifications for State of Principal Licensure and 76 non-principal licenses were issued through the Interstate Medical Licensing Compact. The Board interviewed two applicants for licensure. The Board received reports from Investigative Panel A and Investigative Panel B regarding the number of complaints reviewed and acted upon. The combined reports showed that a total of 36 cases were reviewed: 2 cases were referred for formal disciplinary action; 4 Confidential Letters of Concern were issued; 3 cases were held over for further review; 3 licenses were locked from being able to renew; all other cases were dismissed, or no further action taken.

The Board received updates from its respective committees. The PHP committee reported that it would be collaborating with the PHP to issue written policies and procedures. The Budget committee reviewed the office's 2020 audit and 2022 budget proposal. The Laws, Rules, and Regulation Committee reported it would be working on amending its administrative rules for clarification and continue to review its laws for the upcoming legislative session. Finally, the IT Committee gave an update on a Cyber Security Assessment and Audit currently being performed to assess the Board's IT for vulnerabilities in order to move forward with updating its systems.

The Board reviewed and approved a clarification statement for its PAs regarding facilities in which PAs may practice in North Dakota. The office receives numerous questions on this issue, and it was deemed prudent to have a statement on the Board's website for reference and clarification.

Finally, the Board discussed an issue it is seeing with applicants for licensure and renewals not properly filling out the personal questions – marking “no” to questions that should be answered in the affirmative. A new statement will be

included therefore after these questions, in which applicants must check a box acknowledging they have answered accurately and truthfully, with possible disciplinary actions or sanctions for incorrect information reported.

NEWS

Board Vacancies 2022

Due to members' terms expiring on July 31, 2022, there will be several vacancies on with North Dakota Board of Medicine. In order to have a well-rounded Board, we encourage those with specialty areas to consider applying for appointment, including those with OB/GYN, surgical, and pediatric experience and expertise. We will also be looking to fill the D.O. position on the Board. Finally, the Board encourages those who serve rural areas or western areas of the state to consider applying so the Board will be well represented in various practice locations. To apply for appointment, please fill out the application on the Governor's website: <https://apps.nd.gov/gov/boards/Application/PersonalInfo> .

Physician CME Audit 2022

2022 is an audit year for physician CME requirements. You will be contacted by the Board office if you are selected in the random audit to submit CME verification and requirements. As a reminder, the law requires 60 AMA/AOA Category 1 CME hours every three years. For those licensed for more than one year but less than two years, 20 hours is required and those licensed more than two years but less than three years, 40 hours is required. Please be sure that your contact information is up to date so you are sure to receive this official correspondence. To change your address and other contact information, visit the Board's website: www.ndbom.org – and under Quicklinks – access “Change of Address.”

Medicaid requires PDMP checks

A new federal law went into effect on October 1, 2021, which requires all health care providers to check the PDMP for a Medicaid enrollee's prescription drug history before prescribing controlled substances to the enrollee. If you have any questions regarding the new requirements or regulations, please contact Brendan Joyce at the North Dakota Department of Human Services (bjoyce@nd.gov).

2021-2022 N.D. Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program

The North Dakota Primary Care Office announces the opening of the 2021-2022 North Dakota Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program cycle. The application and new website are now live and can be accessed through the following: <https://www.health.nd.gov/nd-communities/primary-care-office>. Please visit the website for more information and contact information for any questions.

A Continued Thank-You to our Licensees

We again want to provide our continued support and thanks to all practitioners for your tireless work and expertise in treating patients with COVID-19 and combating this virus.

INFORMATIONAL LINKS:

CDC's Clinical Pocket Guide to Tapering Opioids:

https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/clinical_pocket_guide_tapering-a.pdf

Interstate Medical Licensing Compact:

<https://www.imlcc.org>

FBI Informaiton on Wire Fraud Scheme against Health Care providers:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/4487d704801/038c165a-5863-4b69-8630-b461754c7cc7.pdf>

ND DHS updates to Child Abuse and Neglect hotline and reporting:

<http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/cps/>