



BOARD OF MEDICINE

JULY 2025 NEWS BLAST

North Dakota Board of Medicine

4204 Boulder Ridge Rd Ste 260

Bismarck, ND 58503

(701) 450-4060

[2025 Meeting Schedule](#)

January 31, 2025

May 2, 2025

July 25, 2025

October 24, 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As we approach the late days of summer, it is time for the latest from the North Dakota Board of Medicine. The Board held its regular meeting on July 25, 2025, by video conference. A summary of the meeting is detailed below, and the minutes of the meeting will be posted to the Board website.

Among the committee reports, the Laws, Rules and Legislative Committee gave several updates regarding upcoming proposed administrative rule changes that are the result of the most recent legislative session. One of the goals of the legislature was to try to streamline licensing as much as possible in the state. Many of their proposed changes to licensing processes already exist within NDBOM policy, so you should not see much change as you renew your license in the future.

One issue that is coming to the forefront in the state and across the nation is a potential alternative pathway for licensure for qualified physicians practicing in another country for several years who are at the top of their field – and whether to require them to now complete a U.S. residency. The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) has been working on guidance

for alternative pathways for such licensure. The NDBOM has submitted comments to FSMB related to the guidance and we will continue to follow this closely. In addition, the Board has taken the lead in convening a working group to study this matter. The goal of this group is to bring state stakeholders together to address the issues to determine whether an alternative licensure pathway makes sense in North Dakota and if so, what this looks like legally to bring forward to the next legislative session. Meetings of this working group will be posted on the Board's website, and everyone is invited to attend.

The International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA) will be convening in Dublin, Ireland in the fall. NDBOM is sending a small delegation to the conference with incoming Board Chair, Jay Metzger, PA, being a chosen presenter for the conference. PA Metzger also received one of three highly competitive scholarships to attend and present.

This was my last meeting as a member of the Board of Medicine. I have had the pleasure and honor of serving on this Board for the last eight years, the last two years as Chair. Governor Armstrong has appointed Richard Vetter, MD, a family physician from Fargo, to fill my provider position on the Board. We welcome Dr. Vetter to the Board and thank him for his willingness to serve on the Board.

The dedication of our staff and the diligent work of the Investigatory Panels has left a lasting impression on me. In addition, the complexity of regulatory issues continues to increase with the impending shortage of providers, especially in primary care. Our state and the medical professionals therein are well represented by our Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Medical Director, and the licensing specialists in the office. Please join me in welcoming Jay Metzger, PA as the incoming Board Chair and Misty Anderson, MD as the Vice Chair.

Best wishes to you all,

Catherine Houle, MD
Chair, North Dakota Board of Medicine

JULY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At the meeting on July 25, 2025, the North Dakota Board of Medicine approved 120 Physician licenses which included 3 licenses granted after an interview, 63 Resident licenses, 13 Physician Assistant licenses, 5 Genetic Counselor licenses, and 1 Naturopathic Doctor endorsement. There were 25 Letters of Qualification for State of Principal Licensure, and 180 Non-State of Principal licenses issued through the Interstate Medical Licensing Compact (IMLC).

The Board received reports from Investigative Panel A and Investigative Panel B. A total of 61 cases were reviewed, which included 6 summary matter cases and 17 malpractice cases. Disciplinary action was initiated in 3 cases, 10 letters of concern were issued, 4 cases were tabled to obtain additional information; 1 order for evaluation or in the alternative disciplinary action to be taken; 1 conditional dismissal was authorized, all other cases were dismissed, or no further action taken. During the Board meeting, disciplinary action was taken against two physicians. [Recent Board Actions](#) can be found under the News section of the Board's website.

The Laws, Rules, and Legislative (LRL) Committee provided an update on proposed changes to the Board's North Dakota Administrative Code Title 50 to implement recent legislative changes. Included in the updated rules:

- Updates to 50-02-01-01, 50-06-01-07, and 50-07-01-02, and adding section 50-03-01-20, implementing SB 2395 – allowing the Board's Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director to issue licenses to Physicians, Physician Assistants, Genetic Counselors, and Naturopathic Doctors between Board meetings to routine and complete applications.
- Updates to 50-07-01-02, implementing SB 2040 on exceptions to Genetic Counselor's exam limit attempts consistent with exceptions from other professions adopted in rule.
- 50-02-05-01 updating ECFMG certification requirements for graduates of Canadian medical school as such schools will no longer be jointly accredited by the Liaison Committee of Medical Education (U.S.) and will only be accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools – therefore requiring ECFMG certification after June 30, 2025.
- 50-06-02-08 updating the dosage requirements for testosterone to address topical versus injection.

A copy of the proposed rules can be found on the Board's website under [News](#). The public hearing for input on the rules has been scheduled for August 25, 2025, @ 9:00 a.m. at the Board's conference room.

The Finance Committee provided an update of the Board's mid-year financials – citing no concerns.

The Board also approved moving forward with a Working Group on potential alternative pathways to licensure of International Medical Physicians. The Working Group will be made up of Board members, IMPs in the state, and representatives from the NDMA, NDHA, UND Medical School, and health care facilities including Altru, Essentia, Sanford, Trinity, and CHI St. Alexius. The Working Group will meet regularly over the next biennium. All meetings will be publicly noticed on the Board's website and anyone can attend.

The Board bid farewell to Chair Houle at her last meeting, whose two-term limits ends July 31, 2025. Dr. Houle has been on the Board for 8 years and spent the last 2 years as chair. PA Jay Metzger will take over as the Chair of the Board on August 1, 2025.

INTRODUCING RICHARD VETTER, MD, AS GOVERNOR'S NEW APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER



Dr. Richard Vetter earned a BS in Biochemistry from North Dakota State University and an MD from the University of North Dakota. A Family Medicine physician with over 30 years of experience delivering comprehensive, patient-centered care to individuals and families, he has been recognized with numerous honors throughout his career, including Family Physician of the Year by the North Dakota Academy of Family Physicians (2009), Best of the Valley Family Health Doctor (2013, 2014), and the Leaders & Legacies Award from Prairie Business Magazine (2021). He has also received accolades for research, mentorship, and service to the community.

A proud North Dakota native, Dr. Vetter has delivered nearly 1,000 babies and is passionate about making healthcare more accessible and affordable through strong, community-based Primary Care. Outside of medicine, he enjoys traveling and spending summers at the lake with his wife and nine grown daughters.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT CORNER

National Highlights from NCCPA's 2024 Statistical Profile

As of December 31, 2024, there were 189,907 board-certified PAs in the U.S., up approximately 27.8% over five years. This growth translates to an average of 56 PAs per 100,000 population, compared to just 45 per 100,000 in 2020.

Key national trends include:

- **Rapid growth:** A nearly 28% increase in certified PAs from 2019 to 2024.
- **Predominantly female workforce:** Women comprise around 71% of PAs.
- **Rise of telemedicine:** Participation jumped from about 9% in 2018 to nearly 40% by 2022.
- **Career satisfaction high:** Roughly 87% of PAs report satisfaction with their careers; 84% are satisfied with their current job.

Specialty distribution nationally sees primary care accounting for approximately 23–24% of all PAs, with surgical subspecialties ranking among the most common areas of practice.

North Dakota Spotlight: Workforce & Practice Context

PA Numbers & Growth

- North Dakota had 421 certified PAs by the end of 2024, placing it near the bottom in total numbers but reflective of its rural nature and population size.
- Although growth in ND has been slower compared to high-growth states, this aligns with its smaller base beginning in earlier years.

Primary Care Leadership & Rural Reach

- In North Dakota, about 44.1% of PAs practice in primary care, far exceeding the national average of roughly 24%.
- A substantial share of PAs work in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) and Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs), reinforcing their essential role in providing care to rural communities.

Per Capita Representation

- North Dakota boasts approximately 41.8 PAs per 100,000 population, nearly matching the national average despite its smaller total workforce.

The **2024 NCCPA Statistical Profile** makes clear that the PA profession in the U.S. continues its steady expansion, with PAs playing an increasingly pivotal role in delivering care, especially via telemedicine and primary care services.

In **North Dakota**, though absolute numbers remain modest, the per-capita PA density is strong, and primary care representation is significantly above national levels. With PAs delivering vital services in rural and underserved areas, their impact in ND is disproportionately large.

Sincerely,

Grant Lannoye, PA

ND Board of Medicine

NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR CORNER

At its recent meeting, the Board reviewed updates to the Naturopathic Formulary found in North Dakota Administrative Code section 50-06-02-08. The Board approved a draft update to the formulary dosage limits of testosterone – a 400 mg/28-day dosage for injectable and 100mg/day dosage for topical. This will help to clarify between the two administrations.

The Board also authorized the Board office staff to issue provisional licenses for clean, routine applications for licensure in-between Board meetings. This implements SB 2395.

A copy of the proposed rules and information on public comment can be found on the Board's website under [News](#).

Sincerely,

Lezlie Scott, ND

Naturopathic Doctor representative on the North Dakota Board of Medicine

GENETIC COUNSELOR CORNER

[Senate Bill 2040](#) allowing Genetic Counselors to order their own testing, updates the exam limit timeline requirement for licensure, and allows the Board to implement rules on exceptions to the three-exam limit law, goes into effect August 1, 2025.

Please contact the Board with any questions.

A LETTER FROM THE NDPHP



Summer Wellness for Health Care Practitioners: Prioritizing Health in the Heat of the Season

Dear Colleagues,

As summer unfolds across the Dakotas and beyond, it brings longer days, warmer weather, and—hopefully—a chance to recharge. But for many health care providers, the season can also mean increased patient loads, unpredictable schedules, and limited time for self-care.

This month, we are focusing on **wellness strategies tailored for medical professionals**—because caring for others starts with caring for ourselves.



Hydration & Heat Awareness

Even in clinical settings, summer heat can take a toll. Dehydration and fatigue are common among busy providers who skip breaks or meals. Keep a water bottle nearby and consider setting reminders to hydrate throughout the day.



Mental Health Check-In

Summer can bring emotional highs and lows. Whether you're managing burnout, grief, or simply the weight of responsibility, know that you are not alone. Programs like the **North Dakota Professional Health Program (NDPHP)** offer confidential support for physicians navigating mental health or substance use challenges.

Resource Spotlight: [NDPHP Website](#) – Learn more about services available to North Dakota healthcare professionals.



Nature as Medicine

Spending time outdoors—even for 10 minutes—can reduce cortisol levels and improve mood. Whether it's a walk between shifts or a weekend hike, nature is a powerful antidote to stress.

Try This: Schedule a “green break” during your day. Step outside, breathe deeply, and disconnect from screens.



Micro-Wellness Moments

You don't need an hour to reset. Try:

- **Box breathing** between patients (inhale 4, hold 4, exhale 4, hold 4)

- **Stretching** at your desk
- **Gratitude journaling** at the end of your shift

Final Thought

Summer is a season of growth and light—let it be a reminder to nurture your own well-being. Your health matters, not just to your patients, but to your family, your community, and yourself.

Stay well, stay hydrated, and take care.

To learn more about our program, reach out to us at info@ndphp.org or ndphp.org

Sincerely,

Maggie Seamands, RN, MSN CMGT-BC, CNML

NDPHP Executive Director

NEWS



JOIN PROVIDER BRIDGE TO SUPPORT EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The incidence of emergencies and disasters has increased steadily in the U.S. since the 1980's. In 2023, the United States experienced 25 disasters, including a deadly wildfire in Maui and Hurricane Idalia in Florida. By registering for Provider Bridge, you will join thousands of qualified medical providers who are ready to provide care and contribute to the effective emergency management of these disasters.

Provider Bridge Supports States' Emergency Preparedness and Response

Provider Bridge is a free-to-use technology platform that maintains a comprehensive registry of health professionals that can be accessed expeditiously to prepare for and respond to local, regional, or national emergencies or public health crises.

Joining the Provider Bridge platform allows you to create and own a time-stamped, digital report ("passport") that includes your name, provider type, professional school and graduation date, NPI, state license number(s), specialty or area of practice, and DEA registration(s), as well as any disciplinary history. Each license is verified via data sharing with the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), and the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS).

Provider Bridge also allows entities, including state medical and nursing boards, hospitals, health care institutions, public health offices, and emergency management entities to search for verified medical professionals who are willing to assist in an emergency or deploy to a disaster site or provide telehealth services. Additionally, entities can verify the credentials of state-based registrants as well as those professionals in other states.

Currently, Provider Bridge includes physicians, PAs, and nurses and is positioned to expand to include other medical professionals, such as mental health providers (psychologists, counselors, social workers), respiratory therapists, EMS providers, and others.

Register Now!

Provider Bridge supports expeditious emergency response most effectively by having a large number of medical professionals registered on the platform. Registration is free and takes only a few minutes at the following link: <https://provider.providerbridge.org/>.

What to Expect After Registering for Provider Bridge

Once you have registered for Provider Bridge, there are no additional steps you need to take. You can generate a certified pdf of your passport to present at an emergency site. Health care entities can add registrants to their provider list, pull Provider Bridge passports, and contact providers (unless a licensee chooses to opt out of allowing entities to find their profile). In the event of a national or state emergency, an entity can reach out to providers to determine if they are available and willing to provide health care services.

For more information, go to <https://www.providerbridge.org/> or contact:

Anne K. Lawler, JD, RN
Provider Bridge Program Officer
(208) 331-2341
alawler@fsmb.org

Scam Calls Targeting Licensees

The Board is aware of numerous scam calls to licensees posing as law enforcement officers, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and [U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration \(DEA\)](#), or Board staff. The scammers attempt a myriad of tactics in an attempt to extort money from licensees. For example, scammers, posing as law enforcement will attempt to say there is a warrant for your arrest. Scammers posing as DEA agents or Board staff attempt to say that your license or authority to prescribe controlled substances is suspended. The scammers then provide an "Agreement" that if a bond of \$25,000.00 is paid, the license would be reinstated.

The scammers' phone number may show up as the Board's number (701) 450-4060, or, if posing as law enforcement, they may impersonate actual law enforcement officers using their real names.

Please note, law enforcement officers, DEA agents, and Board staff will never contact licensees by telephone to demand money or any other form of payment. If you receive one of these calls, refuse the demand for payment, and hang up. If the caller insists that they speak with you, tell them you will call them back directly. Do not call back a different number provided by the scammers, instead, call the Board office directly at (701) 450-4060.

If the caller is stating they are from the DEA, consider reporting the threat using the [DEA's Extortion Scam Online Reporting form](#).

If the phone number of the caller appears to be the Board's number, you may submit an online complaint with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) using the [FCC's Consumer Complaint form](#).

Refer a Child to with Make-A-Wish® North Dakota

At Make-A-Wish North Dakota, we create life changing wishes for children ages 2 ½ to 18 years old who have a critical illness that puts their life in jeopardy. Medical professionals are one of our main referral sources to connect children with

their wish come true. If you know a child with a critical illness, we invite you to refer them today by visiting md.wish.org. In addition to our referral form, you will also find our medical guidance sheets regarding eligibility within sub-specialty departments. Thank you!

DEA Removes Waiver Requirement to Prescribe Buprenorphine

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 was signed by Congress on December 29, 2022, removing the federal requirement for practitioners to submit a Notice of Intent (have a waiver) to prescribe medications, such as buprenorphine, for the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD). Instead, all prescriptions for buprenorphine only require a standard DEA registration number. The Act also introduced new training requirements for all prescribers which will go into effect June 21, 2023. Additional information on these requirements will soon be available from the DEA. For more information, please visit [SAMHSA - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](https://www.samhsa.gov).

NDBOM Collaboration with ACCME

Physicians can now have CME providers report CME credit for North Dakota licensees directly to the ACCME Program and Activity Reporting System (PARS). All that is required of physicians is to request your CME provider to report your attendance. A report is then submitted to the Board certifying attendance. This will streamline CME audits, allowing physicians to utilize the ACCME database instead of self-reporting individual CME during an audit. Physicians may also create their own account at the ACCME's CME Passport: <https://www.cmepassport.org> which will allow you to find available CME, track what CME credits have been reported by providers, and generate a transcript of your credit that can be sent directly to the Board. To 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>.



North Dakota is the proud recipient of the WellBeing First Champion for the second year in a row by ALL IN; WellBeing First- verifying that the Board of Medicine's applications are free from intrusive and stigmatizing language around mental health care and treatment so practitioners can seek needed care without fear of losing their license.