

NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MEDICINE

November 2019/ News Blast

BOARD OF MEDICINE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Lacey Armstrong, MD

Darin Leetun, MD

Rajendra Potluri, MD

Michael Quast, MD

Jay Metzger, PA-C

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As the Board Chair I would like to take the opportunity to share with you some of the things we see as the basis for complaints against our licensees. Over the years that I have been on the Board I have seen a rise in the number of complaints regarding the habitual use of alcohol by our licensees. At our last meeting our panels reviewed a total of 35 complaints of which formal action was authorized on 4 complaints. Half of the formal complaints authorized at the last meeting were regarding the habitual use of alcohol. Over the last two years complaints stemming from the habitual use of alcohol accounted for a large percentage of the actions taken by our Board.

Being a provider can be a very stressful and demanding career. Our Board would rather be in the position to guide our licensees to find the help and support they need rather than discipline them for stress and substance related issues. I encourage everyone to familiarize yourself with the North Dakota Professional Health Program (NDPHP) - <https://ndphp.org/> The NDPHP is a program that is in place to help guide our licensees that may have substance use issues and or burnout and stress related issues. Please be willing to have discussions with each other when you see the signs of stress, burnout, and substance abuse on those around you. Let us not forget to treat ourselves with the kindness and care we provide to our patients.

Our current chair of the North Dakota Board of Medicine is Rupkumar Nagala, MD, ABFP, ABIPP, ABPH, (Phlebology and Lymphatics) Certificate of Additional Qualifications in Geriatrics and Sports Medicine, Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Geriatrics, UND School of Medicine.

November Meeting Highlights

At our November meeting our Board approved 214 physician licenses. Our Board approved 17 Physician Assistant licenses and 7 Genetic Counselor licenses. The Board received a report that the office staff had at the time of the meeting issued 81 licenses through the Interstate Medical Licensing Compact. The Board interviewed three applicants for licensure.

The Board received a report from the NDPHP regarding the number of active participants in their program and the possible expansion to serve other licensees outside of the Board of Medicine. The Board welcomed five new members.



NEWS

Administrative Rules

Our proposed Administrative Rules were heard at the December 3, 2019 meeting of the Administrative Rules Committee. The new rules will be effective on January 1, 2020. The drafts of these rules may be found on our website.

Office Move

Please note that our office is moving to a new location. We will be moving to 4204 Boulder Ridge Road Suite 260 Bismarck, ND. We will be making this transition on December 11, 2019. Please note that our office will be closed on December 11, 2019 and December 12, 2019 to complete this move. We ask for your patience during this time as we settle in to our new space.

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://imlcc.org/>