

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD



Fall 2020 Newsletter
And
Fiscal Year 2021 Annual
Report



Georgia Composite Medical Board

Fall 2020 Newsletter and Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report

The mission of the *Georgia Composite Medical Board* is to protect the health of Georgians through the proper licensing of physicians and certain members of the healing arts and through the objective enforcement of the *Medical Practice Act*.

The *Georgia Composite Medical Board* is the agency that licenses physicians, physician assistants, respiratory care professionals, perfusionists, acupuncturists, orthotists, prosthetists, auricular (ear) detoxification specialists, residency training permits, cosmetic laser practitioners, pain management clinics, and genetic counselors. It also manages, interstate compact licensure. The Medical Board investigates complaints and disciplines those who violate *The Medical Practice Act* or other laws governing the professional behavior of its licensees.

Board Elects New Leadership for FY 2021

Board elected new leadership to lead the Board. Barby Simmons, DO, has been elected Chairman of the Board and Dr. Thomas Harbin, MD, Vice-Chairman.



Barby Simmons, DO, a primary care physician with Kaiser Permanente of Georgia and The Southeast Permanente Medical Group Dr. Simmons is currently the Lead Physician of Virtual Care and manages Kaiser Permanente's telemedicine team that provides telephone and video visits to patients across metro Atlanta. She has served in a number of leadership roles, including Team Lead for Adult Medicine and as the Physician Director of Coding and Documentation. She earned a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Mississippi State University and a medical degree from Nova Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is a member of the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association, the Medical Association of Atlanta, and the Medical Association of Georgia.



Dr. Tom Harbin received his M.D. from Cornell University and trained in ophthalmology at the Wilmer Institute of Johns Hopkins. He has been practicing ophthalmology with a specialty in glaucoma at Eye Consultants of Atlanta for over forty years and is a Clinical Professor Emeritus at Emory University. Dr. Harbin is the author of “Waking Up Blind: Lawsuits over Eye Surgery, The Business Side of Medicine...” What Medical Schools Don't Teach You, and with co-author M. Duffy Jones, DVM “The Business Side of Veterinary Medicine. What Veterinary Schools Don't Teach You.”

Dr. Simmons and Dr. Harbin, would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

John Jeffery Marshall, MD, Reappointed January 2020

Shawn Hanley, Consumer Member, Appointed January 2020

Judy Gardner, Consumer Member, Appointed November 2020

She thanks Mr. Rob Law, former Consumer Member, and Marc Kaufman, O&P Committee Member, for their faithful service to the citizens of Georgia. The Board expresses its deepest sympathy to the families of former board member Charles White, DO, and O&P Advisory Member Rusty Wallace.

Swearing in Ceremony January 2020



Members of the Georgia Composite Medical Board

Barby Simmons, DO
Chairperson
Atlanta

Gretchen Collins, MD
Past Chairperson
Lawrenceville

John S. Antalis, MD
Past Chairperson
Dalton

Debi Dalton, MD
Powder Springs

E. Daniel DeLoach, MD
Past Chairperson
Savannah

Charmaine Faucher,
PA-C *Ex-Officio*
Member
Kennesaw

Alexander S. Gross,
MD
Past Chairperson
Atlanta

Judy Gardner
Consumer Member
Atlanta

Thomas Harbin, Jr., MD
Vice Chairperson
Atlanta

Shawn Hanley
Consumer Member,
Atlanta

Matthew W. Norman, MD
Atlanta

David W. Retterbush
Past Chairperson
Valdosta

Andrew Reisman, MD
Atlanta

Richard L. Weil, MD
Past Chairperson
Atlanta

William Bostock, DO
Atlanta

Georgia Composite Medical Board Executive Director and Management Team

LaSharn Hughes, MBA – *Executive Director*

Phyllis White – *Executive Assistant*

Jonathan McGehee – *Director of Investigations*

Latisha Bias – *Enforcement Supervisor*

Carl Bedingfield, MD – *Medical Director*

Monty Shuman, MD – *Assistant Medical Director*



Strategic Plan

The Board developed its strategic plan to

- **Increase consumer choice and personal responsibility in health care by ensuring that only qualified health care providers are licensed.**
- **To increase access to health services throughout the state.**
- **Provider information to health care providers Board regulations.**
- **Increase availability of state services through innovative technology solutions.**

Message from the Board's Executive Director

On behalf of the Board members and staff of the Board we are pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report and Newsletter of the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Among other significant achievements, I am pleased to report that the Board has been designated as an essential agency in the fight for COVID-19. The Board's staff has continued to work in the office during this unprecedented time. Under the direction of Governor Kemp, the Board staff has issued over 1,900 Emergency Practice Permits to physicians, physician assistants, respiratory care professions, and perfusionist to help combat the fight for this disease during this calendar year. The Board continues to issue these important licenses to help the health of the citizens of Georgia.

During the past year, under the leadership of former chair Gretchen Collins, MD and current chair Barby Simmons DO, the Board continues to be committed to the mission of the Board and serve the citizens of Georgia. The Board meets each month via Microsoft TEAMS, these meetings are usually over eight hours long on the first Thursday of each month. This includes virtual interviews which includes hours in front of a computer.

In each annual report, it is my great pleasure to recognize the hard work of the Board members, as well as the members of the Board's seven advisory committees. These dedicated volunteers work tirelessly and without compensation to protect the citizens of our great state. Their contribution of time represents no small sacrifice in itself; Board meetings each month alone can cost the typical physician Board member hundreds of dollars in lost revenue each month. Our state is fortunate to have these public servants.

I must also thank the small but dedicated staff of the Board, who faced obstacles posed by budget cuts, reduction in force, increasing workloads, and a pandemic, yet they remained committed and determined to give excellent service to their fellow citizens. Through this process I am grateful for the staff member whose wife made mask for the staff, the staffer that searched the stores around his home to bring in disinfectant wipes and spray to keep the Board offices sanitized. I am honored and humbled to serve with this group of committed individuals.

Do you want to know more about the Board? Please visit us online at www.medicalboard.georgia.gov. Once you have done so, please help us get the word out about this valuable website, with resources for professionals and consumers. If you have any concerns, please contact me personally at lhughes@dch.ga.gov.

LaSharn Hughes, MBA
Executive Director

Board Committees

1. The **Investigative Committee** (4 Board members) examines initial complaints, results of all investigations, and medical malpractice reports.
2. The **Physician Licensing Committee** (4 Board members) evaluates each applicant's fitness to practice by establishing and applying standards for licensure and practice; reviews all non-routine applications; sets policies for staff on how to handle non-routine applications.
3. The **Wellness Committee** (5 Board members) reviews all cases in which a practitioner's practice might be affected by a behavioral, cognitive, physical, or substance use issue; meets with the practitioner and his or her advocates and treatment providers to assess the individual situation and ability to return to practice; recommends restrictions or sanctions as warranted.
4. The **Rules Committee** (all Board members) develops rules to govern the performance of practitioners regulated by the Board; assists in defining, assessing, and assuring the continued competency of all licensees throughout their careers.
5. The **Public Outreach Committee** (5 Board Members) was developed to reach the general public as well as the licenses we serve.

Advisory Committees (each with at least 2 Board members, plus practitioners from the professional community) for each profession regulated — **Perfusion, Acupuncture, Respiratory Care, Physician Assistant, Orthotists & Prosthetists, APRN Protocol Review, Cosmetic Laser Professionals, Pain Management, and Genetic Counselors**. These Committees are staffed by volunteer professions from their professions.

Speakers Bureau

Would you like to have a speaker from the Georgia Medical Board at your next meeting? The Board members and staff are available for speaking engagements. Topics include "Protecting Your License," "Sexual Misconduct," "Drug Diversion and Pill Mills," and "Prescribing," as well as other issues that you may be interested in. For more information, LaSharn Hughes, lhughes@dch.ga.gov.

Recent Legislation passed by the Georgia General Assembly that Impact the Board

Senate Bill 321

During the last legislative session, the Georgia General Assembly passed Senate Bill 321 which will authorize the delegation by a physician to an advanced practice registered nurse to order radiographic imaging tests in non-life-threatening situations; to revise provisions relating to delegation of authority to physician assistants.

The APRN Advisory Committee and Physician Assistant Advisory Committee is currently reviewing and developing Rules to address these changes.

HB 752 Interstate Compact

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission is pleased to announce that on April 25, 2019, Governor Brian Kemp signed into law Senate Bill 16 which was passed by the Georgia General Assembly on April 5, 2019.

Georgia is the 31st member jurisdiction to join the Compact.

The Compact now has 29 states, the District of Columbia and the Territory of Guam as member jurisdictions. Legislation is currently pending in South Carolina and Florida.

HB 1125

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 31 and Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relating to health and state employees' health insurance and benefit plans, respectively, so as to provide for information and screening coverage for individuals at high risk for breast cancer; to provide for a definition; to provide for identified and compiled information to be posted on the internet and distributed to physicians; to provide for coverage under the state health benefit plan for additional screening for individuals at high risk for breast cancer; to provide for related matters; to provide for a short title; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Rules Adopted by the Board

The Rules Committee meets monthly to review and discuss changes to the Board's Rules. The Board welcomes all interested parties to listen or attend these meetings. The meetings occur during the regular board meeting each month.

Once the rules are recommended for adoption by the Board the following steps must happen before the Rule is officially adopted:

- Board review and discussion.
- Rule is sent to the Office of the Attorney General (AG) for review and legal authority. The AG may approve the adoption or send comments for change.
- The rule is posted for comments, this is a 30-day process to give the public an opportunity to provide comments or suggestions.
- If no negative comments the Board will send to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget for review and approval.
- Once back from the Governor's Office, the rule is sent to the Office of Secretary of State (SOS) for certification, this may take approximately 15-days. The rule is not official until certified by the SOS.

The Board periodically sends notifications by email about Rules hearings, newsletters, and important licensure-related news. If you would like to receive these notifications, please email medbd@dch.ga.gov. You can also check the Board's website at the link below for all rule's postings:

<https://medicalboard.georgia.gov/board>

Newly Adopted Emergency Rules to address the pandemic:

Emergency Rule - 360-5-0.11-.10 “Emergencies” – Rule to address Physician Assistants during the state of emergency.

Emergency Rule - 360-3-0.10-.08 “Practice Through Electronic or Other Such Means during a State of Emergency”

Emergency Rule - 360-15-0.12-.01 “Requirements for Physicians” Continuing Education allows for a reduced number of hours from 40 hours to 20 hours of CME.

Update on Recent Rules Hearings

Rule 360-3-02 (12) “Unprofessional Conduct Defined” Amendment to change the chaperone rule.

Rule 360-2-.05 “Renewal Applications” Amendment to change mail renewals to emails.

Adopted by the Board and sent to Governor for review in FY 2020:

Rule 360-8 “Pain Clinics”

Rule 360-13 “Respiratory Care Professionals”

Rule 360-34-.06 “Limitations of the Vaccine Protocol Agreement”

Rule 360-35-.01 “Definitions” (Lasers)

Rule 360-39 “Genetic Counselors”

Rule 360-40 “Interstate Medical Licensure Compact”

Rule 360-2-17 “Requirement for Telemedicine”

Reminder - Continuing Medical Education (CME) ONE TIME REQUIREMENT:

Effective January 1, 2018, every physician not subject to Rule 360-15-.01(3) who maintains an active DEA certificate and prescribes controlled substances, except those holding a residency training permit, shall complete at least once three or more hours of AMA/AOA PRA Category 1 CME that is designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME shall include instruction on controlled substance prescribing guidelines, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, and controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management. The certification of such completion must occur at the first renewal following January 1, 2018 or the first renewal following licensure.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)

If you have a current DEA and a Georgia license — regardless if you do not write prescriptions or use your DEA — **YOU MUST REGISTER!**

1. Dispensers are required to enter prescription information for Schedule II, III, IV controlled substances within 24 hours.
2. All prescribers were required to register in the PDMP by January 1, 2018. If you are currently registered, you do not need to re-register.
3. Prescribers are required to check the PDMP before prescribing opiates or cocaine derivatives in Schedule II drugs or benzodiazepines. This requirement applies to the first time a prescriber checks the PDMP and every 90 days thereafter.
4. Under the new law, prescribers and dispensers are allowed to register two delegates (staff without a DEA number) per shift or rotation to check the PDMP and enter prescription information.

Help Using and Registering with the PDMP

Register at georgia.pmpaware.net/login. If you have any questions about the PDMP or registering, please send an email to pdmpsupport@dph.ga.gov or call 404-463-1517

EMERGENCY ALERT

The Board Staff has received several phone calls from multiple licensees stating that someone is calling pretending to be an agent of the Medical Board and trying to obtain personal information. These calls are scams.

Information regarding your licensure number, issue date, expiration date, and address of record is available on the Board's website. Your NPI number is also available on the Internet. The Board would not contact you by phone to obtain your personal information or money. We may contact you to set up a time that you can contact us and give you a valid call back number or schedule an in-person meeting. The Board is in Atlanta, GA and all phone numbers from the Board will have Atlanta area codes (404, 470, 678 or 770). It has also come to our attention that the scam callers are "spoofing" the Boards number. If in doubt, please hang up and call the Board directly. Board staff is aware of these types of calls and will understand your need to verify their identity.

If you receive a call like this, please do not give any personal information or money and disconnect the call. If you need any additional information, please contact Jonathan McGehee, Director of Investigations at email address jmcgehee@dch.ga.gov.

Georgia Composite Medical Board
2 Peachtree Street, N.W.,
6th Floor,
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Reminders from the Board

The Medical Board cannot provide legal advice to you, so for specific issues, you should consult a qualified attorney.

Renewal Information

1. *The Board no longer mails you renewal notices.* Renewal notices are now sent by email only. If the Board does not have your email address, please send your email address to medbd@dch.ga.gov.
2. *The Board has a new renewal site.* If you have an old renewal site saved, please delete it from your browser and use our new site, gcmb.mylicense.com/egov.
3. *Can I work on an expired license?* No, your expiration date is the date your license expires. You can still renew your license with a late fee up to 90 days after expiration. After the 90-day period, your license will lapse and you must reinstate your license. License numbers: When using your license number, you do not need to include the leading zeros.

Investigations

4. If you are contacted by the Board for an interview, this is your opportunity to tell your side of the story regarding a complaint. Please respond to all board inquiries.

Delegation of Duties

5. Can I authorize a medical assistant to perform laser duties or remove skin? Who can perform "laser" fat reduction (cryolipolysis and cavitation) and cosmetic procedures using radiofrequency, ultrasound, microwave, and other non-light-based energy emitting devices?

Under Georgia law, these procedures may be performed by a physician, a physician assistant with an approved additional duty request, or an APRN as part of an approved nurse protocol agreement. These procedures are considered the practice of medicine and cannot be delegated to unlicensed individuals such as medical assistants. The Cosmetic Laser license does NOT provide actual

authority under the law to use these devices and recommends that at the very minimum a physician be physically present on site when these devices are being utilized by licensees. Injuries caused by use of these devices in these circumstances may constitute practice below minimum standards.

General Information

6. Q: If I **change my legal name**, may I continue to practice under my “professional name” (old name)?

A: You must use your legal name on your Georgia license. If you are getting married or divorced, you should consider any implications on your “professional name” as you make your decision on a name change.

7. *If I am planning to retire, what should I do with my medical records?*

See **Unprofessional Conduct Rule 360-3-.02** regarding:

(16) Failing to maintain patient records documenting the course of the patient's medical evaluation, treatment, and response.

(a) A physician shall be required to maintain a patient's complete medical record, which may include, but is not limited to, the following: history and physical, progress notes, X-ray reports, photographs, laboratory reports, and other reports as may be required by provision of the law. A physician shall be required to maintain a patient's complete treatment records for a period of no less than 10 years from the patient's last office visit.

(b) The requirements of this rule shall not apply to a physician who has retired from or sold his or her medical practice if:

1. such physician has notified his or her active patients of retirement from or sale of practice by mail, at the last known address of his or her patients, offering to provide the patient's records or copies thereof to another provider of the patient's choice and, if the patient so requests, to the patient.

2. has caused to be published, in the newspaper of greatest circulation in each county in which the physician practices or practiced and in a local

newspaper that serves the immediate practice area, a notice which shall contain the date of such retirement or sale that offers to provide the patient's records or copies thereof to another provider of the patient's choice, and if the patient so requests, to the patient; and

3. has placed in a conspicuous location in or on the facade of the physician's office, a sign announcing said retirement or sale of the practice. The sign shall be placed 30 days prior to retirement or the sale of the practice and shall remain until the date of retirement or sale.

4. Both the notice and sign required by Rule 360-3-.02 shall advise the physician's patients of their opportunity to transfer or receive their records.

Q: Do I have to send my [APRN protocol](#) to the Board for review?

A: If your protocol with the APRN does not include the authority for the APRN to write and sign prescriptions or order tests and/or medical devices, you do not need to send the protocol to the Board. The Board is required by OCGA 43-34-25 to review APRN protocols that include prescriptive authority. However, the APRN would still need to enter into an agreement with a physician to comply with OCGA 43-34-23, and a copy of that agreement must remain onsite at each practice location where the APRN is practicing under that agreement.

Prescription Reminders for Physician Assistants and APRNs.

Physician Assistants

Please make sure your prescriptions include **the name, address, and telephone number of the prescribing supervising or alternate supervising physician**, the patient's name and address, the drug or device prescribed, the number of refills, and directions to the patient with regard to the taking and dosage of the drug. A prescription drug order which is transmitted either electronically or via facsimile shall conform to the requirements.

Advance Practice Registered Nurses

Please make sure your prescriptions form **which shall include, without limitation, the names of the advanced practice registered nurse and delegating physician who are parties to the nurse protocol agreement**, the patient's name and address, the drug or device ordered, directions with regard to the taking and dosage of the drug or use of the device, and the number of refills. A prescription drug order which is transmitted either electronically or via facsimile shall conform to the requirements.

IMPORTANT REMINDER PLEASE DISPLAY IN A PROMINENT PLACE IN YOUR OFFICE

- Declaration of Patients' Rights — Rule 360-27-.02

- (1) Physicians are required to post a declaration of the patient's rights to file a grievance with the Board concerning a physician, staff, office, or treatment received.
- (2) The declaration shall contain the following language with no alterations, deletions, or additions:
- (3) The declaration shall be prominently displayed in a sign that is 8 1/2 x 11 inches in type that is no smaller than 24-point Times Roman print in black on white background. It shall be displayed in the physician's waiting room in an area that is not obstructed and can be easily viewed by patients.

The patient has the right to file a grievance with the Georgia Composite Medical Board, concerning the physician, staff, office, and treatment received. The patient should send a written complaint to the Board. The patient should be able to provide the physician or practice name, the address, and the specific nature of the complaint. Complaints or grievances may be reported to the Board at the following address or telephone number:

**Georgia Composite
Medical Board Attn.
Complaints Unit
2 Peachtree Street, N.W.
6th Floor Atlanta, GA
30303
(404) 656-3913
www.medicalboard.georgia.gov**

Other Resources

Georgia Department of Public Health

COVID-19 Testing information: <https://dph.georgia.gov/covidtesting>

COVID-19 Vaccine information: <https://dph.georgia.gov/locations/covid-vaccination-site>

Georgia Physician Health Program

The Georgia Professional Health Program (Georgia PHP, Inc.) is a nonprofit organization formed in 2012 to assist all licensees of the Georgia Composite Board of Medical Examiners who develop potentially impairing conditions, mental illnesses, substance abuse and other addictive disorders. We are not, per se, a treatment organization. For more information please visit: <https://gaphp.org/>

Medical Association of Georgia Resources

The following lists the pertinent resources from MAG:

Health Care workforce Survey:

<https://clinician.health/> from the American Medical Association offers two complimentary surveys to help health care organizations measure stress in their workforce.

MAG ‘Top Docs’ Series: Physician and Health Care Workforce Resilience in a Pandemic/Crisis

- Health Care Workforce Wellness & Resilience
Keisha Callins, M.D. & Tim Cunningham, R.N., DrPH
July 9, 2020
[Recording](#) | [Summary](#)
- Improving Resilience During Crisis
Gerald B. Hickson, M.D.
September 8, 2020
[Recording](#) | [Summary](#)

- Promoting Resilience During a Pandemic
Florence LeCraw, M.D. & Suja Mathew, M.D.
September 14, 2020
[Recording](#) | [Summary](#)
- COVID, ‘Interprofessionalism’ & Workforce Wellness
Tim Cunningham, R.N., DrPH, FAAN
September 21, 2020
[Recording](#) | [Summary](#)

Physician and Health Care workforce Fact Sheet:
<https://bit.ly/37upM8j>

Physician and Health Care Workforce Task Force:
<https://www.mag.org/resources/resilience/>

Federation of State Medical Boards

The Federation of State Medical Boards represents the 71 state medical and osteopathic regulatory boards – commonly referred to as state medical boards – within the United States, its territories and the District of Columbia. It supports its member boards as they fulfill their mandate of protecting the public’s health, safety and welfare through the proper licensing, disciplining, and regulation of physicians and, in most jurisdictions, other health care professionals. For more information about FSMB please visit their site at: <https://www.fsmb.org/>

Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2021

Licensure

Strategic Goal

Increase consumer choice and personal responsibility in health care.

Strategy

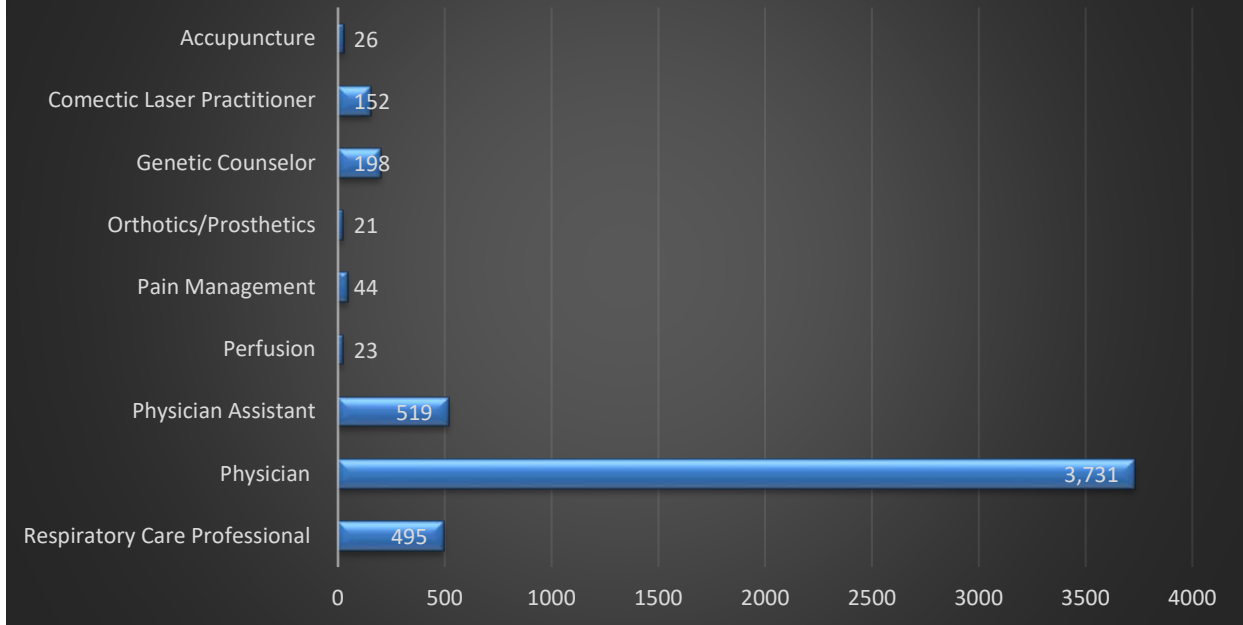
- Ensure that only qualified health care providers are licensed.

The Board is responsible for protecting the citizens of Georgia by ensuring that qualified healthcare providers have the training, and ability to practice with skill and safety. The Licensure Section of the Board is charged with submitting for licensure only qualified applications to the Board. Each profession has its own set of standards, and the staff is reviewing primary source documents, which means documents received from the original source, such as transcripts directly received from the university.

The licensure staff consists of ten dedicated individuals that process applications. Two for physician assistants, two for advanced practice registered nurses, one respiratory care and pain clinics, four for physicians, one for genetic counselors and other duties, and one individual that handles perfusion, cosmetic lasers, orthotists and prosthetists, and acupuncture.

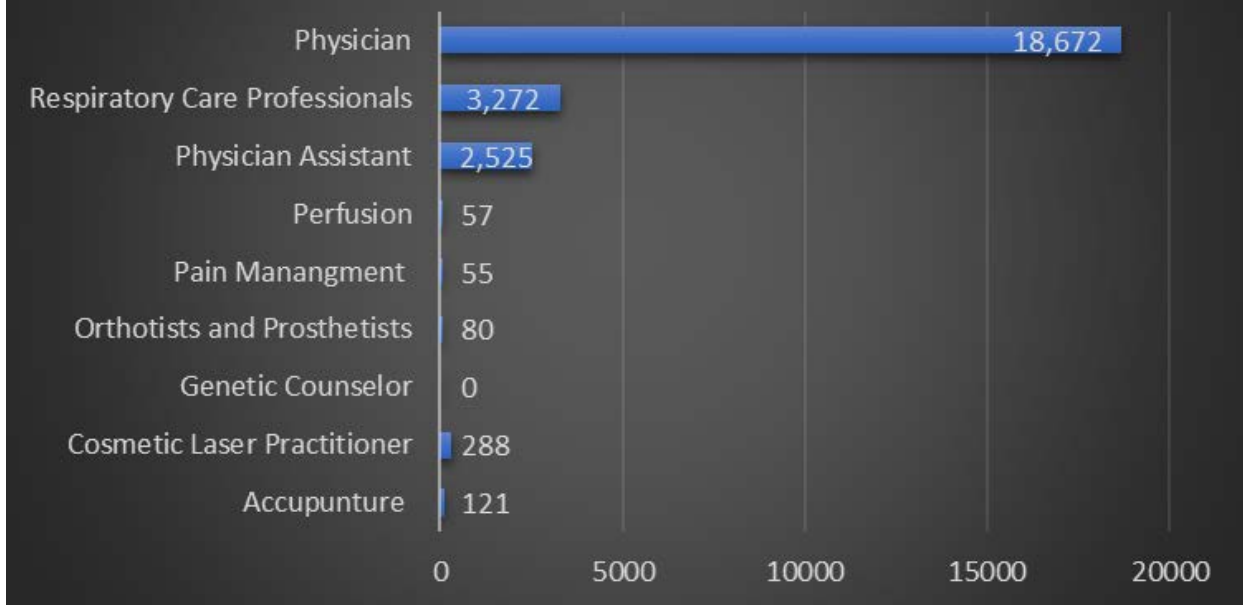
All licensure committees meet monthly to handle the workload of applications. During FY 2021, the Board received 5,209 applications and licensed 5,089 new licenses, reviewed 3,310 nurse protocol agreements, and due to the pandemic issued 920 Emergency Practice Permits. The Board also processed and renewed 25,070 licenses.

Initial Applications for FY20 by profession



*Applications received during one fiscal year may be processed during the next fiscal year.

Renewal Applications



Active License Count on November 30, 2020

Physicians*	38,751
Physician Assistants	5,805
Respiratory Care Professionals	5,699
Auricular Detoxification Technicians	0
Acupuncturists	281
Perfusionists	176
Residents in Training	2,610
Orthotists & Prosthetists**	221
Pain Management Clinics	232
Cosmetic Laser Practitioners***	990
Total, all license types	56,655

*Also includes Provisional, Institutional, and Volunteer in Medicine Physicians

**Includes professionals who are Orthotists, Prosthetists, and those who hold a dual license for O&P

***Includes Senior and Assistant Laser Practitioners

Finance

The Georgia Composite Medical Board operates with a budget appropriated by the General Assembly and certain administrative fees. The services that the Board provides to the people of Georgia are delivered in an efficient, cost-effective manner.

In FY 21 the Board's total budget was **\$2,957,846**, appropriated by the General Assembly, with which the Board enhanced the health and safety of Georgia's patients through its licensing and regulatory activities. During the year, the Board collected **\$7,091,676**, more than double that amount in fees, which were turned over to the state's treasury.

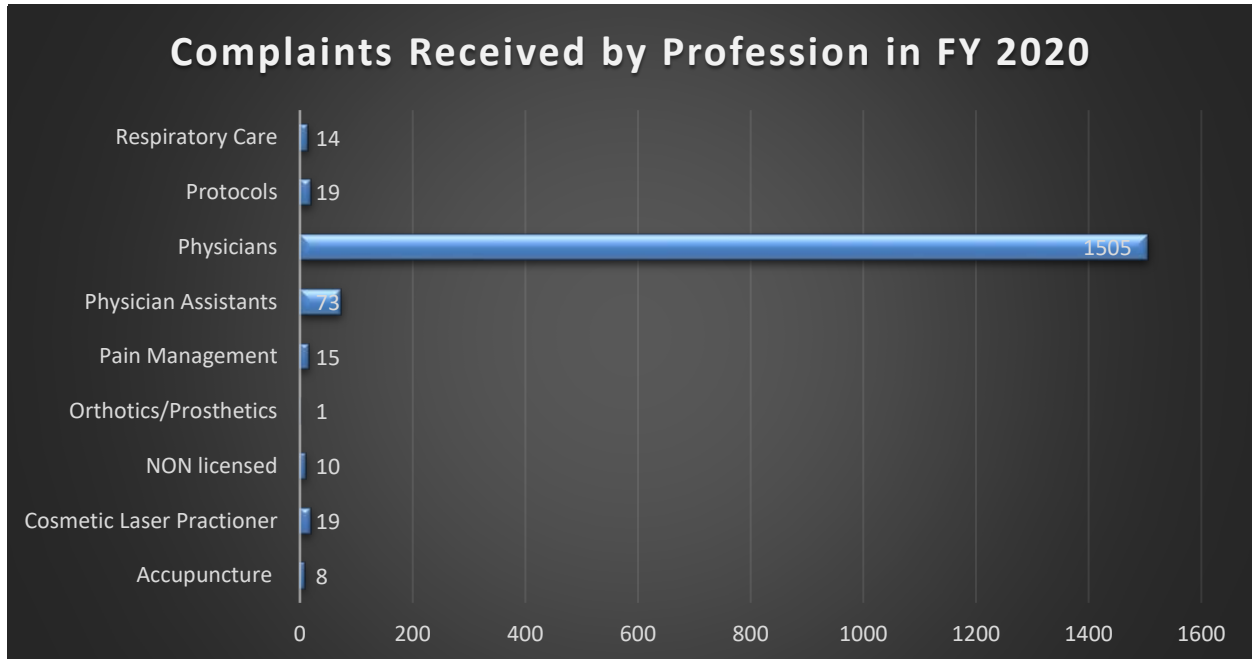
This is a **139.76%** return on investment on the budget granted by State Legislature. These funds are returned to the general treasury.

Investigation and Enforcement

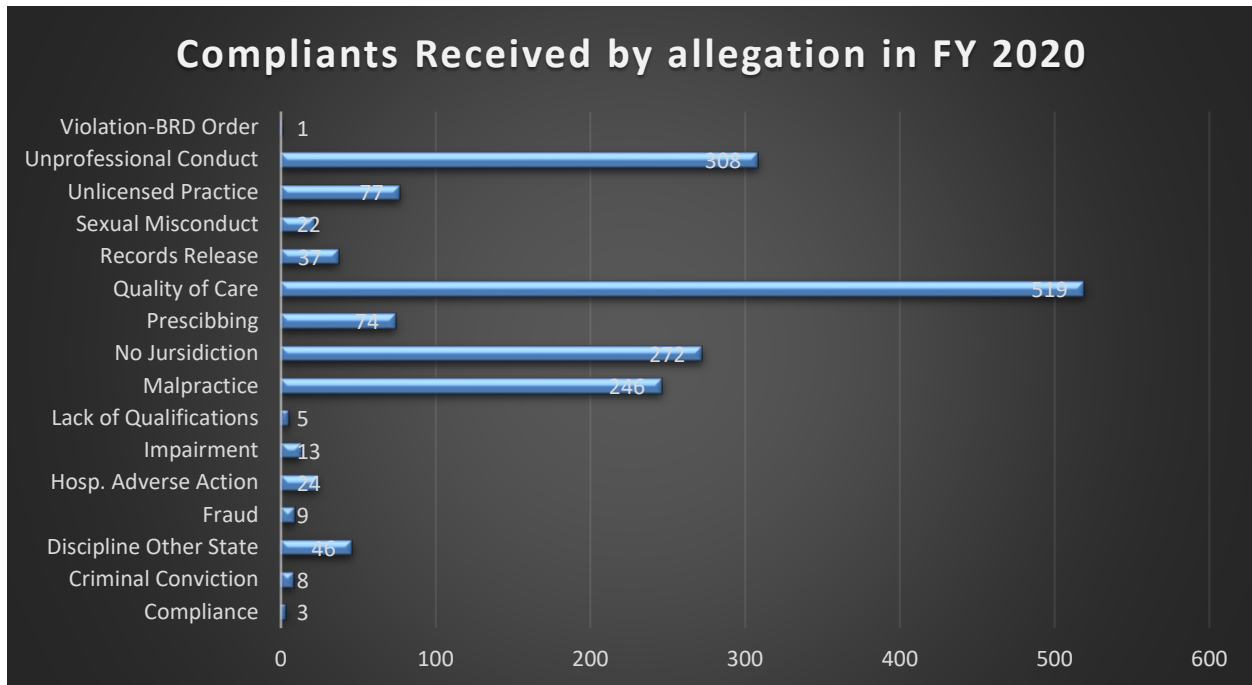
The Georgia Composite Medical Board is responsible for regulating and enforcing the Georgia Medical Practice Act and the Rules adopted by the Board. Currently, the Board's Investigation and Enforcement Unit is comprised on one (1) Director, one (1) enforcement supervisor, five (5) Agents and three (3) enforcement specialists. Complaints are received entered by enforcement specialists. The cases are then either assigned to enforcement staff or Agents to be worked or investigated. On typical cases for enforcement staff, subpoenas and letters are sent out to collect information for the Board's medical directors to review. Cases assigned to Agents generally involve a more in-depth investigative process which includes but is not limited to Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) reviews, subpoenaing medical records, gathering evidence from other sources, collecting necessary paperwork, site visits and interviewing both witnesses and the respondent. Once all the information is gathered the cases are presented to the investigative committee for review and recommendations.

During FY 2020, the Board received 1,664 new complaints. This is a 63% decrease from FY 2019. The decrease is believed to be due to the Board's online complaints being down for the first six months of the year and the Covid-19 pandemic. The total cases from FY 2018 and FY 2019 were increased due to the new PDMP registration laws that went into effect. Of the 1,664 complaints, 1364 were within the Boards jurisdiction and were assigned to either enforcement staff to work or to an Agent for investigation.

The following graphs captures information from FY 2020.



Physician is the default label and is sometimes used for unlicensed complaints and no jurisdiction cases.



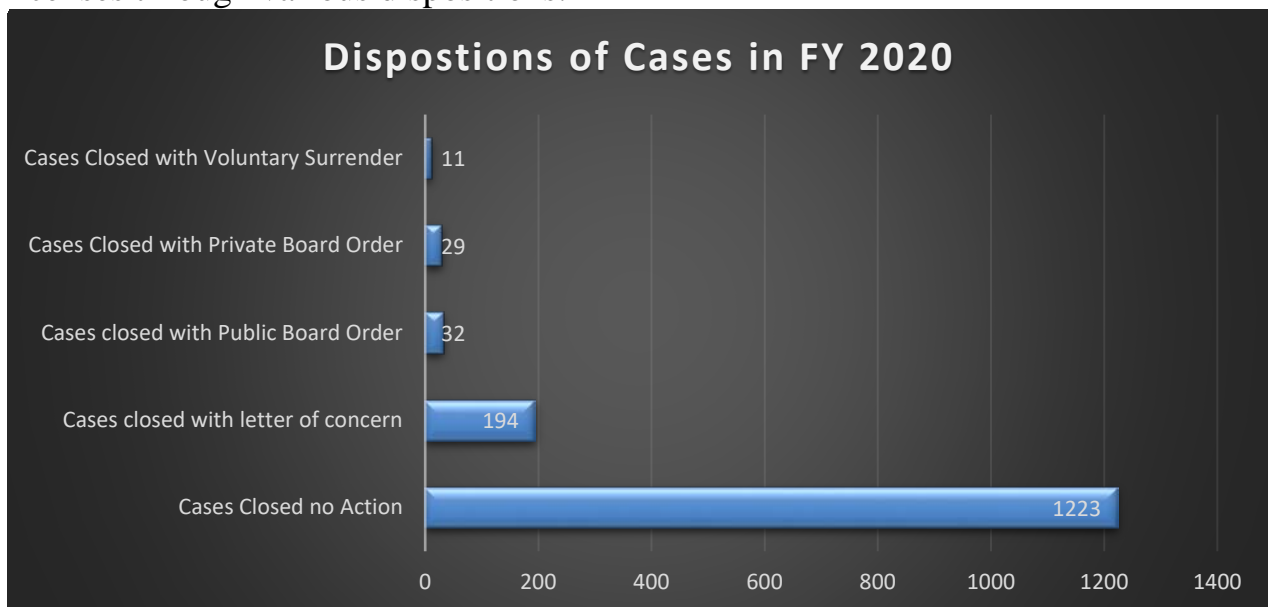
The category “no jurisdiction” accounts for complaints not in the Board’s jurisdiction because they:

- ❖ involve dentists or podiatrists that are not licensed by the Board.
- ❖ involve billing disputes, which the Board does not investigate.
- ❖ do not involve follow-up information or are made anonymously with insufficient information.

It is common for a complaint to have multiple allegations, for reporting purposes the case is listed by the most egregious allegation.

Case Disposition and Discipline for FY 2020

During FY 2020, the Board issued forty-three (43) public board orders against licenses through various dispositions.



As a note these are cases that were adjudicated during FY 2020. Some of the public orders were related to lifting sanctions or order for reinstatement.

Board Disciplinary Action Report

The following report lists public disciplinary actions taken by the Board between July 2019 and June 2020. These cases have been investigated and are now part of the public record. Although every effort is made to ensure that the information is correct, you should read the order in its entirety. The Board may include several provisions in an order, and the description of the discipline in this report may not reflect all the actions in the order. You may view these public orders on our website at <https://medicalboard.georgia.gov>.

Revocations, Voluntary Surrenders, and Suspensions

Profession	License #	Name	Discipline	Date
Physician	46040	Stephen Bashuk	Voluntary Surrender	8/8/2019
Physician	75773	Kimberley Cross	Voluntary Surrender	8/19/2019
Physician	25387	Larry Rossier	Voluntary Surrender	8/20/2019
Physician	33913	Victor Hanson	Voluntary Surrender	9/10/2019
Physician	38495	John Glenn Jr.	Voluntary Surrender	10/3/2019
Respiratory Care Professional	4560	Kristi Lewis	Summary Suspension	12/4/2019
Physician Assistant	6111	Roger Blair	Voluntary Surrender	12/5/2019
Physician Assistant	3619	Stifanos Almedom	Voluntary Surrender	1/6/2020
Physician	30880	John P. Schilling	Voluntary Surrender	2/12/2020
Physician	31257	James Heaton	Voluntary Surrender	3/6/2020
Physician Assistant	2613	Shawn Tywon	Voluntary Surrender	5/7/2020
Physician	53994	Larry Mabine	Voluntary Surrender	6/12/2020

Public Reprimands and Probation

Profession	License #	Name	Discipline	Date
Physician	40686	Nancy Hendrix	Public Consent Order	7/11/2019
Physician	78210	Justin Neisler	Public Consent Order	9/2/2019
Physician	67359	Kang Lu	Public Consent Order	9/12/2019
Physician	35085	Joseph Lewis	Public Consent Order	10/3/2019
Physician	44615	Laurel Zollars	Public Consent Order	10/3/2019
Physician	47358	Arthur Provisor	Public Consent Order	11/7/2019
Physician	24889	Grattan Woodson III	Public Consent Order	11/7/2019
Physician	82056	Zachary Solomon	Public Consent Order	1/10/2020
Physician	68858	Tashawna Stokes	Public Consent Order	4/2/2020
Physician	35947	Robert Marler	Agreement to go inactive	5/7/2020
Physician	66041	Joseph Greco	Public Consent Order	5/7/2020
Physician Assistant	8382	Stefanie Parker	Public Consent Order	6/9/2020

Upcoming Board Meetings and State Holidays

The Georgia Composite Medical Board has tentatively set the following meeting dates for 2021.

January 7 th	February 4 th
March 4 th	April 1 st
May 6 th	June 3 rd
July 1 st	August 5 th
September 2 nd	October 7 th
November 4 th	December 2 nd

The Board office will be closed in observance of the following 2021 holidays.

New Year's Day	Friday, January 1 st
Matin Luther King, Jr's Birthday	Monday, January 8 th
State Holiday	Friday, April 2 nd
Memorial Day	Monday, May 31
Independence Day	Monday, July 5 th
Labor Day	Monday, September 6 th
Columbus Day	Monday, October 11 th
Veterans Day	Thursday, November 11 th
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 25 th
Thanksgiving	Friday, November 26 th
Christmas	Thursday, December 23 rd
Christmas	Friday, December 24 th