



GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

LICENSE | REGULATE | EDUCATE

Welcome Message from the Executive Director

Greetings All,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our latest quarterly newsletter. This publication is designed to keep you informed, engaged, and connected with our work to safeguard public health and uphold the highest standards in medical practice for the people of Georgia.

The Board continues to collaborate with healthcare professionals, policymakers, and community advocates to advance our shared mission of ensuring quality and safety in medical services.

Your partnership and dedication are essential to our success. Whether you're delivering care, crafting policy, or advocating for public health, your contributions help us move closer to a healthier and more equitable Georgia.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration. Together, we can ensure that Georgia remains a leader in quality healthcare and patient safety.

Warm regards,
Jason Jones
Executive Director

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Message from the Chair of the Board

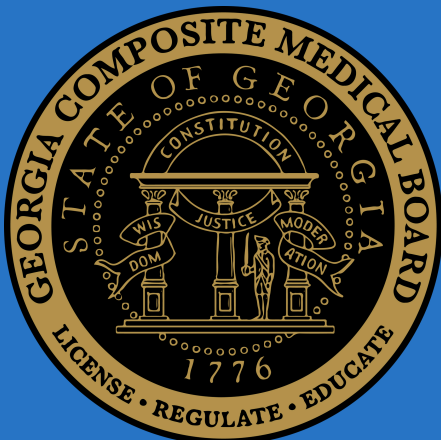
Dear Members,

I hope this note finds you in good health and high spirits. As the Chair of the Board, I want to emphasize the importance of maintaining the highest standards of good practice in our profession. Our dedication to excellence not only improves the quality of care we provide to our patients but also builds the trust and confidence of the public in our work.

I am pleased to share that we are making strides to enhance our processes by implementing technological changes that will streamline the application and renewal procedures. Our aim is to simplify these processes, making them quicker and easier for all licensed members. By adopting these advancements, you can spend less time on administrative tasks and more time focusing on what truly matters—your patients.

I also want to take a moment to express my gratitude to my fellow board members for their unwavering dedication and service to our profession. It is an honor to work alongside such passionate individuals committed to our collective mission. Let us continue to uphold the standards of our profession and embrace these changes that will elevate our practice. Thank you for your commitment to excellence.

Warm regards,
Sreeni R. Gangasani M. D.,FACC.
Chairman, Georgia Composite Medical Board



Licensee Alert:

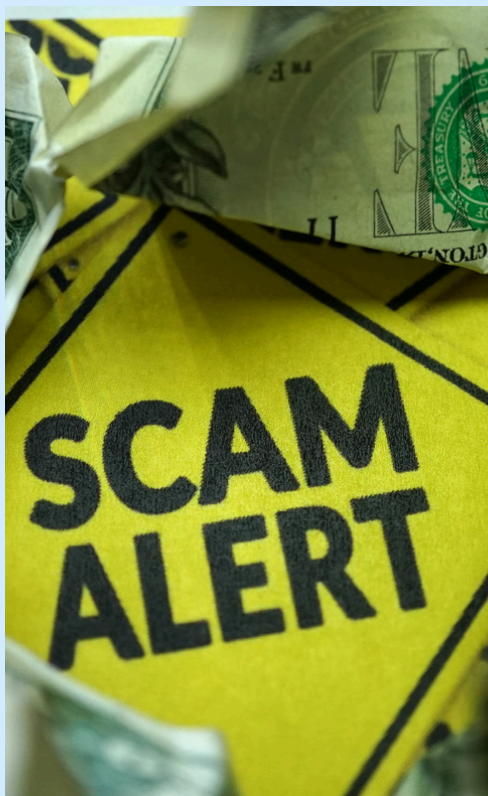
Scammers are posing as Board investigators

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

The Medical Board will NOT:

- Ask for money over the phone.
- Ask you to fax or wire money.
- Request personal details, passwords, or social security numbers.
- Threaten to take your license or suspend you if you don't pay immediately.
- Threaten to restrict your prescription privileges or "turn you in to the FDA or DEA" for not paying.
- Demand a response in less than twenty days.

If in doubt, hang up and call the Board directly. Board staff is aware of these types of calls and will understand your need to verify our identity.



Become a Peer Reviewer

Each year, the Board receives thousands of complaints and mandated reports about its licensees. While the Board is made up of physicians in various medical specialties, there are times when it is absolutely vital for the Board to have an outside expert perform a similar review but from another perspective. The Board routinely solicits peer reviewers but is always in need of more.

One of the most common delays in resolving complaints filed with the Board is the difficulty in locating peer reviewers willing to assist the Board. The Board offers \$100 per hour if the peer review is completed within 21 days and \$50 per hour each day after that. Minimum qualifications to become a peer reviewer for the Board include:

- Be a resident of Georgia
- Hold an unrestricted, active Georgia medical license for at least five years
- Hold a board certification in a specific specialty and actively practice in that area
- Have a clean licensure and enforcement history with the Board

If you are interested in giving back to the medical community and assisting the Board in its mission to protect the public, please consider contacting the Board to offer your services as a peer reviewer by submitting your CV to latisha.bias@dch.ga.gov





NEW

UPDATE

Physician Licensure Process

The Georgia Composite Medical Board (GCMB) has streamlined the physician licensure process by using the Federation Credential Verification Service (FCVS) to obtain primary-source verification of credentials, eliminating the need for applicants to submit documents like medical school transcripts and board certifications. Additionally, GCMB will soon replace personal character references with fingerprint-based FBI background checks, with further instructions to be provided once the new system is online.

In the past applications were frequently held up because one or more documents were missing, however with these new changes the process is more transparent for the applicant. Once the medical board has received a completed application, the process of approval of “clean” applications are usually quick and straightforward. Here are the most common issues that will trigger additional review of an application:

Malpractice actions

Interruption in medical education, training, or practice

Federal and state licensure and certification actions

Reports to the National Practitioner Data Bank

Adverse professional society membership actions

Exclusion from participation in Federal or state health care programs

Criminal charges/convictions and health-related civil violations or judgements

Continue reading on next page

Applicants who are licensed in states that participate in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact may also obtain licensure in Georgia through that pathway.

Physicians who have not practiced for 30 months or more prior to the receipt of a completed application will be required to take a Clinical Skills Examination in order to demonstrate up to date medical knowledge.

Completion of the 3 steps of the United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE) in a 7 year period (9 years for MD/PhD or DO/PhD) is required by Rule, however applicants who can demonstrate good cause for requiring additional time may apply for a waiver to take the exam, for consideration by the board.

Applicants who have never been licensed in any state who have failed USMLE Step 3 a total of three times must complete an additional year of Board-approved clinical training.

If additional information is needed, applicants may be invited for an interview with the Physician Licensure Committee, after which the full board will review the application and make a licensure decision.

Employee Spotlight



“I have been a dedicated staff member for 3 years. I find immense satisfaction in my role in helping Georgia residents navigate the sometimes complicated process of filing complaints. I enjoy providing clarity and guidance to individuals to ensure that they understand their rights and how to submit their concerns properly. Additionally, I am passionate about supporting my teammates to achieve the best outcomes for both the organization and our community.”

Fun Fact:

“In my spare time, I unwind by diving into my fascination with true crime. I enjoy exploring compelling cases and delving into the intricate details of each mystery. “

Sophie Haire, Compliance Specialist

GCMB in Action! ***Bringing Licensing Expertise to You!***

We’re visiting institutions across the state to provide comprehensive presentations on the licensure process and other critical updates.

What We Cover:

- Step-by-step guidance on the licensure process.
- Continuing medical education (CME) requirements and renewal tips.
- Updates on new healthcare regulations and compliance expectations.



Why Attend?

These presentations are designed to inform and empower medical professionals, administrators, and students with the knowledge they need to succeed.

Interested in having GCMB visit your institution? Contact us at GCMB.communications@dch.ga.gov.

Winter 2025 GHCA Convention



The Georgia Composite Medical Board (GCMB) was excited to participate in the Georgia Health Care Association's (GHCA) Winter Convention this February 2025.

This event provides an excellent opportunity for professionals across the healthcare spectrum to connect, collaborate, and learn.

Our Booth:

- Speak directly with GCMB representatives about licensing questions, compliance updates, and regulatory changes.
- Access educational materials and resources tailored to medical professionals in Georgia.

For event details , visit ghca.info.

Engaging with the FSMB

We are proud to announce our participation in the Federation of State Medical Boards' (FSMB) Annual Meeting this April 2025. This event brings together leaders in medical regulation to address pressing issues and share best practices.

Key Topics at the Meeting:

- Innovations in medical licensure processes.
- Strategies to combat physician burnout and promote wellness.
- Advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in medical regulation.

GCMB representatives will engage in discussions to ensure Georgia remains aligned with national standards.

Stay tuned for updates and key takeaways from the meeting in our next newsletter.



Best Practices for Meeting License Renewal Requirements

By: CE Broker

Staying current with license renewals is critical for every physician. Requirements vary by state and specialty, and failing to meet them can have serious consequences, from fines to losing your license.

CE Broker is the official partner of the Georgia Composite Medical Board, providing a compliance management platform that offers easy access to board-accepted courses, simplifies tracking of continuing medical education (CME), and streamlines credit reporting for easy, confident license renewals.

Here are some tips to help you meet your license renewal requirements and continue practicing at the top of your field.

Know Your Requirements:

- Understand your state licensing board's specific CME requirements, including the number of credits needed or any specific topics or formats. Keep in mind that these may change over time.
- For the latest information, you can check your board's website or leverage CE Broker to easily track your progress.

Utilize Available Resources:

- Many boards offer online resources to guide you through required CME and the license renewal process
- The relationship with CE Broker provides you with a user-friendly platform to make the entire continuing education experience easier and more convenient. Within CE Broker, you have access to a [large marketplace](#) of quality, highly-rated CE courses to complete your CME requirements, and can take advantage of tools to track your compliance status and renew with confidence.

Maintain Detailed Records:

- Keep thorough records of all your CME activities in a platform like CE Broker to simplify the renewal process and prepare you for potential audits.
- Education providers found on CE Broker's course search typically automatically report course completions into CE Broker on your behalf. Courses that say "Take it Here" always report instantly.
- You can report other activities in your CE Broker account as well. For your convenience, we've made it easy to upload your national board/association transcript in a single workflow.
- The Credential Tracker feature allows you to store all expirable certifications and credentials in one place, with reminders that alert you to important deadlines

Simplify Multi-State Renewals:

- Licensed in multiple states? Keep track of all your state license requirements in one place. CE Broker is constantly adding new states to its network and you can already add physician licenses from most neighboring states.
- CE Broker integrates with the IMLC and streamlines notifying regulatory agencies when you're up-to-date with your requirements
- By staying organized, utilizing available resources, and actively participating in your professional development, you can efficiently meet your renewal requirements while advancing your career.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply for a medical license in Georgia?

To apply, visit our website and complete the online application. You will need to submit required documents and pay applicable fees.

How long does it take to process my application?

Once a complete application is received, “non issue” applications are typically in 6 to 8 weeks. Applications requiring additional review may take longer.

What changes have been made to the licensure process?

GCMB now uses the Federation Credential Verification Service (FCVS) for primary-source verification, eliminating the need for applicants to collect and submit credentials directly. Personal character references will also be replaced by fingerprint-based FBI background checks soon.

How do I renew my medical license?

Renewals are completed online through the GCMB portal every **2 years**. Physicians must meet continuing education requirements before renewal.

What happens if my license lapses?

If your license expires, you must submit a reinstatement application and may be subject to additional requirements.

How do I file a complaint against a physician?

Complaints can be filed through the GCMB website by completing the online complaint form. Complaints should include specific details and supporting documentation.

Will my complaint be taken seriously and remain confidential?

Yes, your complaint will be taken seriously and thoroughly evaluated to determine if a violation of Board policy or state law has occurred.

Is there a statutory limit on when I may file my complaint?

No, there is no statutory limit as to when you may file a complaint with the Medical Board.

However, as time progresses, it may be more difficult for our investigative staff to gather information to support the complaint.



Still Have Questions?

Please visit our website at www.gcmb.georgia.gov or scan the QR code below.



Press Releases

[GCMB Press Release Link](#)

Georgia Composite Medical Board

Executive Director
Jason S. Jones, MPSA



Chairperson
Sreeni Gangasani, MD

Deputy Executive Director
Kimberly A. Emm, Esq.

Vice Chairperson
Kathryn Cheek, MD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgia Composite Medical Board Launches New Online Portal for Open Records and Customer Service Requests

ATLANTA, GA —April 1, 2025 — The Georgia Composite Medical Board (GCMB) is excited to announce the launch of its new online portal, powered by **CivicPlus® NextRequest**, to streamline the management of **open records requests and customer service inquiries**. This upgrade marks a significant step forward in enhancing accessibility, transparency, and efficiency in public service delivery.

Access the Portal Now:

👉 <https://gcmb.nextrequest.com/>

The new portal enables the public to easily submit and track a wide range of requests, ensuring they reach the appropriate division and are addressed promptly. The system also enhances communication and reduces processing time through automated updates and a centralized request history.

How the Portal Will Be Used

To ensure your request is handled efficiently, users are encouraged to **select the appropriate division** within the portal:

Compliance Division:

For questions related to the **complaint process**.

Customer Service Division (General/Renewals):

For **general inquiries**, assistance with **renewals**, or **Board policy** questions.

Licensing Divisions (Applications/Status):

For help with **license applications**, **status checks**, or **document uploads**. Requesters should select the appropriate division based on:

- **License type**
- If applicable, their **last name grouping**

For example:

- *Physicians*: Choose from A–C, D–I, J–M, N–R, or S–Z
- *Physician Assistants & Anesthesiologist Assistants*: A–K or L–Z
- *Other Licenses*: Acupuncture, Clinical Perfusionist, Respiratory Care, etc. (All last names)

Open Records Division:

For formal **public records requests** under the Georgia Open Records Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-18-71(a)).

Please note the Board **cannot disclose**:

- Investigative or complaint-related records
- Confidential deliberations
- Protected medical or application data
- Attorney-client privileged materials
- Records exempt under O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72

For public data like license status, expiration dates, or Board orders, visit our website at <https://medicalboard.georgia.gov/>

Petition and Waiver of Rules:

Submit this [form](#) using the “Upload Document” feature for petition-related matters.

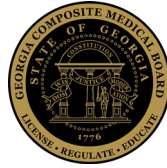
****This portal will take the place of our email system for inquiries****

“We’re committed to providing a more transparent and accessible experience for all Georgians who rely on the services of this Board,” said Jason Jones, Executive Director of GCMB. “This platform is a powerful step forward in supporting that mission.”

Visit <https://gcmb.nextrequest.com/> to submit a request, upload documents, or track your inquiry.

Georgia Composite Medical Board

Executive Director
Jason S. Jones, MPSA



Chairperson
Sreeni Gangasani, MD

Deputy Executive Director
Kimberly A. Emm, Esq.

Vice Chairperson
Kathryn Cheek, MD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgia Composite Medical Board Announces Transition to ThoughtSpan for Licensing and Complaint Management

ATLANTA, GA — April 1, 2025 — The Georgia Composite Medical Board (GCMB) is proud to announce its transition to a new technology platform, **ThoughtSpan**, to manage the Board’s **licensing applications** and **complaint submissions**. This move reflects GCMB’s commitment to delivering secure, efficient, and user-friendly digital services for applicants, licensees, and the public.

ThoughtSpan, a leading provider of regulatory licensing solutions, offers a modern, cloud-based system that enhances the Board’s ability to process applications and address complaints with improved speed, transparency, and data integrity. The platform will replace the previous system, providing a more intuitive interface and improved user experience.

Key Benefits of the New Platform Include:

- **Streamlined licensing application process** for all license types regulated by GCMB
- **Secure digital submission and tracking** of complaints
- **Faster processing times** through automation and workflow enhancements
- **Improved communication** between applicants, complainants, and GCMB staff
- **Enhanced data accuracy and compliance** with state regulatory requirements

“This transition represents a major step forward in modernizing the way we serve healthcare professionals and the public,” said Jason Jones, Executive Director of the Georgia Composite Medical Board. “By partnering with ThoughtSpan, we’re aligning with a proven solution that supports our mission of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public through effective licensure and regulation.”

Who Will Use the New Platform?

- **Applicants** for medical licenses and other regulated healthcare roles in Georgia
- **Current licensees** seeking to update information or renew their license
- **Members of the public** or other entities submitting complaints related to licensed professionals under GCMB’s jurisdiction

GCMB will provide step-by-step instructions and support materials to help users navigate the new system upon launch. More information will be shared on the Board’s official website and communication channels as the rollout progresses. ***Our expected full implementation is between July 1, 2025 to October 2025.***

To learn more about the ThoughtSpan platform, visit:

👉 <https://www.thoughtspantech.com/>



Recent Public Board Orders

November 2024

1. Anand Pankaj Lalaji, MD 50198 Physician Voluntary Surrender
2. Benjamin A. Feinzimer, DO 91109 Physician Public Consent Order
3. Brigg William Barsness, MD 97547 Physician Public Consent Order
4. David Lamar Brand, Jr., MD 46045 Physician Public Consent order
5. James Staheli, DO 80243 Physician Public Consent Order
6. Jay Steven Berger, MD 26455 Physician Order of Summary Suspension
7. Kenya Teems, RCP 1787 Respiratory Care Professional Public Consent Agreement for Reinstatement
8. Kyle Patrick Walsh 496 Acupuncturist Consent Agreement for Reinstatement
9. Lee Brandt Jr., PA 3438 Physician Assistant Public Consent Order
10. Neil Kamal Sinah, MD 65183 Physician Public Consent Order
11. Sinan Haddad, MD 56455 Physician Public Consent Order
12. Victor Tseng, MD 81169 Physician Final Decision 13. Wilhmenia Singleton Bailey, PA-C 2126 Physician Assistant Consent Agreement for Reinstatement

December 2024

1. Tammy Foster, RCP 2038 Respiratory Care Professional Public Consent Agreement for Reinstatement
2. Fatisha E. Gayton, MD 54612 Physician Public Consent Order
3. Sinan Haddad, MD 56455 Physician Public Consent Order
4. Jason Stamper, DO 57253 Physician Voluntary Surrender



Recent Public Board Orders

January 2025

1. Tatianna Ali Voluntary Cease and Desist Order
2. Nazetta Dyer, ALP Assistant Laser Practitioner Public Consent Agreement for Licensure
3. Caren Leslie Kaplan, PA-C 8756 Physician Assistant Consent Agreement for Reinstatement
4. Antonios Kostopoulos, RCP 12941 Respiratory Care Professional Order of Summary Suspension
5. Gabriella Rivera 468 Acupuncturist Consent Agreement for Reinstatement
6. Jacob William Watters, DO 68335 Physician Public Non-Disciplinary Consent Agreement for Reinstatement
7. Sinikka Green, MD 53815 Physician Public Consent Order
8. Lorrie Ann Richardson-O'Neal, MD 60976 Physician Public Consent Order
9. Steven Wayne Powell, MD 85523 Physician Public Consent Order
10. Laura Purdy, MD 69427 Physician Public Consent Order
11. Ngoc Buu Tran, PA-C 6553 Physician Assistant Consent Agreement for Reinstatement



Recent Public Board Orders

February 2025

1. Linda Sue Arnold, MD 40299 Physician Public Consent Order
2. Rena Laterice Keeby, PA-C 2657 Physician Assistant Consent Agreement for Reinstatement

CONTACT US



<https://gcmb.nextrequest.com/>



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Upcoming Board Meetings and Office Closure

April 18: State Holiday/Office Closed

April 24-26: FSMB Annual Meeting

May 8: Board Meeting