



Georgia Composite Medical Board

Winter 2023 — Newsletter

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. 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*. We want to keep you informed along the way, and this newsletter will provide you with updated information on what is happening here at the Board. Enjoy!

In this issue:

- Required Physician Sexual Misconduct and Professional Boundaries CME
- New CDC Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Pain
- Electronic Copies of Licenses
- Board Calendar
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- Recent Public Orders

Board adds professional boundaries training question to license renewal application

The Georgia Composite Medical Board has added a new question to the physician license renewal application asking if the licensee has completed education and training in professional boundaries and physician sexual misconduct.

O.C.G.A. § 43-34-11(a)(6) requires all physicians “to receive one-time education and training, for a minimum of two hours, regarding professional boundaries and physician sexual misconduct,” and the CME “shall include subject matter relating to how to proceed with basic as well as sensitive or intimate examinations and the communication with patients that is required as a component of such examinations.”

“The Board takes physician sexual misconduct issues very seriously,” said GCMB Chairman Matthew Norman, MD. “With physicians now required to complete this education and training, they will be better equipped to recognize and prevent potential boundary violations, ultimately leading to a safer environment for patients seeking medical care.”

Renewal applicants who answer “no” will have the license placed on hold and it will not renew until Board staff removes the hold. Staff will remove the hold upon the licensee submitting documentation of successful completion of the education. The new renewal application will begin for physician license renewals with an expiration of Feb. 28, 2023.

This two-hour education and training only needs to be completed once during a physician's career and may count toward the required 40 hours of continuing education per licensure cycle, if meeting other CME guidelines.

Licensees can renew their license via the Board's online account portal: <https://gcmb.mylicense.com/egov/Login.aspx>

For more information on these and other CME requirements, please refer to:

- [Chapter 360-15 in the Rules and Regulations in the State of Georgia](#)
- [Board resources on CME](#)
- [Board resources on physician sexual misconduct and professional boundaries](#)

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CDC releases updated clinical practice guidelines for prescribing opioids for pain

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released updated and expanded recommendations for clinicians providing pain care for adult outpatients with short- and long-term pain. These clinical recommendations, published in the CDC Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain, will help clinicians work with their patients to ensure the safest and most effective pain care is provided.

“The updated guidance from CDC should aid Georgia's physicians with the best practices to treat pain and bring relief to patients while ensuring patient safety,” said Georgia Composite Medical Board Chairperson Matthew Norman, MD. “The Board has reviewed this guidance and encourages physicians to heed these recommendations when prescribing opioids to treat pain.”

The publication updates and replaces the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain released in 2016.

The updated guidance can be accessed here: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/rr/rr7103a1.htm?s_cid=rr7103a1_w

GCMB announces electronic copies of licenses now available

As of December 2022, holders of a Georgia Composite Medical Board license can access an electronic copy of the license through the Board's online account portal.

“The Board is committed to providing a customer-centric experience for our applicants and licensees,” said Executive Director Daniel Dorsey. “This new feature will give licensees immediate access to a copy of their licenses while also eliminating the reprint fee.”

Historically, the Board has printed and mailed a paper copy of the professional license upon issuance or renewal. Licensees can now access a pdf copy of their license at any time and from anywhere via the online portal. In the example screenshot below, a button to “Print License” should appear for any license in active status.

The online account portal is also where licensees can renew their license or update mailing/practice addresses.

Licensees can access their account by clicking this link and entering their login credentials: <https://gcmb.mylicense.com/egov>

For assistance with login issues, please contact the Board via email.

Board Calendar

- February 2
Board meeting
- March 2
Board meeting
- March 30
Board meeting
- April 7
State Holiday
(Board office closed)
- April 27
Board meeting
- May 25
Board meeting

Recent Board Rule Amendments/Adoptions

Below is a list of Rules adopted by the Board at the January 2023 meeting, and the Board has sent them to the Governor's Office for final review/approval.

- [Rule 360-3-.02 "Unprofessional Conduct Defined"](#)
- [Rule 360-5-.03 "Application for Physician Utilization of a Physician Assistant"](#)
- [Rule 360-6-.03 "Licensure Requirements for Acupuncture"](#)
- [Rule 360-15-.01 "Requirements for Physicians"](#)
- [Rule 360-39-.03 "Temporary License"](#)
- [Rule 360-39-.04 "Renewal Requirements"](#)
- [Rule 360-41-.01 "Definitions"](#)
- [Rule 360-41-.02 "Regulations for Facilities and Physicians"](#)
- [Rule 360-41-.03 "Medical Records"](#)
- [Rule 360-41-.04 "Exemptions"](#)

Recent Public Board Orders

Below is a list of recent Public Board Orders issued by the GCMB. To view all previous Board orders, please visit the Board's website: <https://medicalboard.georgia.gov/about-us/list-monthly-public-board-orders>

- [Richard Kessler, PA](#)
[Order Upon Remand from Superior Court](#)
- [Susan Kolb, MD](#)
[Final Decision](#)
- [Catherine Lewis, MD](#)
[Public Consent Order](#)
- [Viralkumar Patel, MD](#)
[Public Consent Order](#)
- [Prakash Reddy, MD](#)
[Voluntary Cease and Desist Order](#)
- [Mariah Van Horn](#)
[Consent Agreement for Reinstatement](#)
- [Brent Harris, MD](#)
[Public Consent Order](#)
- [Vinson Disanto, DO](#)
[Final Decision](#)
- [Frederick Fritzsche, Jr., MD](#)
[Public Consent Order](#)
- [Daniel Golightly, MD](#)
[Order of Completion](#)
- [Andrew Jimerson, II, MD](#)
[Final Decision](#)
- [Jennifer Miller Rafus](#)
[Public Consent Agreement for Reinstatement](#)
- [José Bernardo, MD](#)
[Consent Agreement for Licensure](#)
- [Azalea Blalock](#)
[Final Decision](#)
- [Annie Cruz, MD](#)
[Order of Completion](#)
- [Robert Lebaron Grant Stears, MD](#)
[Public Consent Order](#)
- [Tristan Sevdy, MD](#)
[Public Consent Order](#)
- [Henry Watson, Jr., MD](#)
[Voluntary Surrender](#)

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