

# Georgia Composite Medical Board Newsletter and FY 2014 Annual Report



Volume 2015, No. 1

December 2014



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## Board Releases New Cosmetic Laser Practitioner Application and Guidelines



The Georgia Composite Medical Board approved and released the application and guidelines for the state's new cosmetic laser practitioner license on Thursday, August 7, 2014. The Board's publication of the application signaled the implementation of **House Bill 528**, the Georgia Cosmetic Laser Services Act.

### Inside this issue:

Telemedicine rule balances access and patient safety, page 2

Retterbush elected Chair, page 3

Board publishes individual malpractice coverage data, page 4

Annual report data, page 5

Jean Sumner MD appointed to Mercer faculty, page 9

Cosmetic Laser FAQs, page 10

PA news, page 11

Rules FAQs, page 14

Disciplinary actions, page 16

RCP news, page 20

Upcoming Board schedule, page 21

The Cosmetic Laser Services Act was originally enacted in 2007 by overwhelming majorities in both the House and Senate. Although the bill was signed into law in that year, it was not implemented because it stipulated that the act would become effective only when it was funded by specific act of the legislature. The Board included the Act in its annual budget requests each year from 2008 to 2014. The budget signed by Governor Nathan Deal for fiscal year 2015 (which began July 1, 2014) included the necessary line item that authorized the Board to begin licensing cosmetic laser practitioners as Assistant Laser Practitioners and Senior Laser Practitioners. As of December 5, 2014, the Board had issued 88 licenses.

The application and checklist can be downloaded at [www.medicalboard.georgia.gov/cosmetic-laser-practitioners-applications](http://www.medicalboard.georgia.gov/cosmetic-laser-practitioners-applications).

## Pain Management Clinic License Update



After 17 months of licensing pain management clinics in Georgia, the Board has received 285 applications. Of that number, 263 were from clinics that were 100% physician-owned, and 22 were from clinics that were grandfathered because they had some non-physician ownership. The Board has approved 217 applications.

Of the remaining applications, 41 were either denied or withdrawn by the applicants, and 27 are pending. Approximately 90% of the clinics with 100% physician ownership were approved; in the case of the clinics with some non-physician ownership, 50% were approved.

As of December 5, 2014, there were 196 pain management clinics with active licenses in the state.

## Telemedicine Rule Balances Health Care Access, Patient Safety

*A Message from LaSharn Hughes, Executive Director*



On February 2, 2014, the Board adopted new telemedicine standards in **Rule 360-3-.07**, “Practice Through Electronic or Other Such Means.” Among the standards mandated by the rule is a requirement that a Georgia licensee must have personally seen the patient prior to a telemedicine consultation, unless the physician or physician assistant is able to examine the patient using technology and peripherals that are equal or superior to an examination done personally by a provider within that provider’s standard of care.

That the rule allows examinations by telemedicine would have been unimaginable just a decade ago, but technology has dramatically altered our business practices and even daily activities over the past several years, and fortunately, medicine is not immune from such forces. Where the leading edge of telemedicine was once the nurse at the large health insurance plan who provided basic nursing advice by telephone, today it is doctors consulting directly with patients via mobile video conversations. In fact, Dallas-based research firm Parks Associates predicts that the number of such consultations will triple over the coming year, from 5.7 million in 2014 to 16 million in 2015 - and will explode to 130 million by 2018.

This explosion of technology in doctor/patient encounters comes with some considerable risk to patient safety. As Dr. Jean Sumner, the Board’s medical director, observed, “A lot of companies say they are practicing telemedicine, but there needs to be standards in place. Georgia has always been one of the leaders in telemedicine, but we want to make sure that as healthcare delivery evolves, and technology evolves, Georgians are protected.” With this end in mind, the Board passed a telemedicine rule to protect patients while allowing practitioners and patients to benefit from the fruits of technological innovation.

### Why require full licensure?

The rule requires that all treatment be done by practitioners who hold Georgia licenses. The rationale for

this is straightforward: The Board has authority to grant, revoke, or sanction the licenses of those who wish to practice medicine in the state, in order to protect Georgia patients. If the practitioner providing telemedicine services is not licensed by the Board, then it may be impossible to regulate the standard of care he or she provides.

Patient safety is also the rationale behind the rule’s requirement that the patient examination is done in person or using technology and peripherals equal or superior to an in-person care. The “equal or superior to” clause clearly states that the Board will hold the telemedicine consultation to meet the same standard of care as one that is performed in the traditional in-office setting. Likewise, requiring that the patient history is available to the telemedicine provider, and requiring the him or her to maintain patient records documenting the evaluation and treatment given, signal the Board’s expectation that telemedicine care must not fall below the standard of care that is delivered in the physician’s office.

### Restrictions on controlled substances for pain; other requirements

Paragraph 8(c) of the rule explicitly states that the rule does not authorize the prescription of controlled substances for the treatment of pain by electronic means; thus, the rule cannot be used for the operation of a virtual pain clinic. The rule also states, in 8(d), that telemedicine practitioner is responsible for ordering appropriate laboratory and other diagnostic tests that may be necessary to make diagnoses within the minimum standard of care.



I am proud to say that since the 2004 creation of the Georgia Rural Health Initiative, the Board has been a national leader in the area of telemedicine issues. With the current rule’s requirements, the Board shows that it is possible to strike an appropriate balance between expanding health care access through technology and protecting patients who are being treated with that technology.

## Board Elects David Retterbush, MD as New Chair, Alice House, MD as New Vice-Chair



On June 5, 2014, the Georgia Medical Board (GCMB) elected **David Retterbush, MD** of Valdosta as Chairperson of the Board. Originally appointed to the Board by Governor Sonny Perdue in November 2009, Dr. Retterbush, a board-certified general surgeon and Fellow of the American

College of Surgeons, has served as Vice-Chairman of the Board, as a member of the Wellness Committee, and has chaired the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee and the Perfusion Advisory Committee. He has also served as chief of staff and as chief of general surgery at South Georgia Medical Center. Licensed in Georgia since 1978, Dr. Retterbush has been in private practice for over 25 years, practicing as a broad-based general surgeon in Valdosta.



The Board also elected **Alice House, MD** of Warner Robins as Vice-Chairperson of the Board. Originally appointed to the Board by Governor Perdue in January 2010, Dr. House, a board-certified family practice physician, has served on the faculty of Mercer University School of Medicine

since 2002. Before being named to her current position as dean of Mercer's Columbus Campus in May 2014, Dr. House held the positions of clerkship director, professionalism program director, director of student advising, and senior associate dean for student affairs. Licensed in Georgia since 1997, Dr. House was in private practice in Byron until joining the Mercer University faculty.

### Members of the Medical Board

<b>David W. Retterbush, MD</b> Valdosta <i>Chairperson</i>	<b>Jane Camille "Cami" McGarity</b> Gainesville <i>Consumer</i>
<b>Alice A. House, MD</b> Warner Robins <i>Vice-Chairperson</i>	<b>B.K. Mohan, MD</b> Riverdale
<b>John S. Antalis, MD</b> Dalton	<b>George E. "Trey" Powell III, MD</b> Hahira
<b>Keisha Callins, MD</b> Albany	<b>William Sightler, DO</b> McRae
<b>E. Daniel DeLoach, MD</b> Savannah	<b>Ronald "Ronnie" Wallace, MBA</b> Rome <i>Consumer</i>
<b>Charmaine Faucher, PA-C</b> Kennesaw <i>Ex-Officio</i>	<b>Richard L. Weil, MD</b> Atlanta <i>Immediate Past Chairperson</i>
<b>Alexander S. Gross, MD</b> Dunwoody <i>Past Chairperson</i>	<b>Charles L. White, DO</b> Cleveland <i>Past Chairperson</i>
<b>Jeffrey S. Grossman, MD</b> Atlanta	

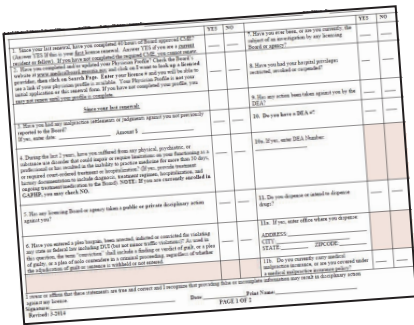
### Board Committees

Each member of the Board is assigned to various committees to participate in the decision-making functions of the Board. The committees include:

1. **Investigative** (4 Board members) examines initial complaints, results of all investigations, and medical malpractice reports.
2. **Physician Licensing** (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. **Wellness** (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. **Rules** (all Board members) develops rules to govern the performance of practitioners regulated by the Board; assists the Board in defining, assessing, and assuring the continued competency of all licensees throughout their careers.
5. **Advisory Committees** (each with at least 2 Board members, plus practitioners from the professional community) for each profession regulated.

## Board Publishes Medical Malpractice Coverage Data Online

On Monday, October 6, 2014, the Georgia Medical Board released a full list of medical malpractice insurance coverage for all physicians with active Georgia medical licenses. The data on the list is compiled from renewal application responses, and includes the most current response from the physician. Consumers and interested parties can [download the list](#) and search for the physician by name or license number to see if the physician indicated he or she had coverage at the time the license was last renewed.



**House Bill 147**, passed and signed in 2011, required physicians to disclose on their physician profiles whether or not they were carrying medical malpractice insurance. After consultations with its licensing system vendor and the Georgia Technology Authority, the Board discovered that modifying the physician profile would cost more than \$200,000. This amount exceeded the Board’s ability to fund the required enhancement to the online physician profile. In an effort to provide the information to the public, the Board added the question to the physician renewal application, and began collecting the data on September 30, 2011. Since physicians renew their licenses biennially, the data set was not complete until February 2014.

LaSharn Hughes, executive director of the Board, noted that the decision to publish the list as a separate file on the Board’s public website was the best choice available, in light of the budgetary constraints. “While the Board couldn’t meet the letter of the law as it was written (including the information in the physician profile), we feel we have found a way to meet the spirit of the law,” she said. “We would rather incorporate the information into the physician profile, but until we can get the funding to accomplish that, the list we posted online provides Georgia citizens with more complete information to make decisions about health care choices.”

The file posted on the Medical Board’s website includes all active physicians who have submitted a renewal application. Because these responses are obtained from the renewal application, the published list has the following limitations:

- (1) Physicians who have not submitted a renewal application since September 30, 2011 are not included on the list.
- (2) The response included in the list is the one that the physician provided on the most recent renewal application, and may therefore be outdated today.
- (3) Because responses are provided by the renewing physician, it is possible that some physicians who are covered by an employer such as a hospital may have incorrectly answered “no”.

### Malpractice Coverage Facts

Since September 2011, the physician renewal form has included the following mandatory question: “11b. Do you currently carry medical malpractice insurance, or are you covered under a medical malpractice insurance policy? (Yes or No)”

Of the 33,785 physicians with active licenses currently, the Board has collected malpractice coverage responses from 30,209 (89.4%).

The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported that over 2,500 physicians (8.5%) responded that they had no malpractice coverage. It is notable, however, that of the physicians with no coverage, 67.7% were age 56 or older at the time they responded, suggesting that the vast majority of practicing physicians have malpractice coverage (36.2% of all reporting physicians were age 56 or older).

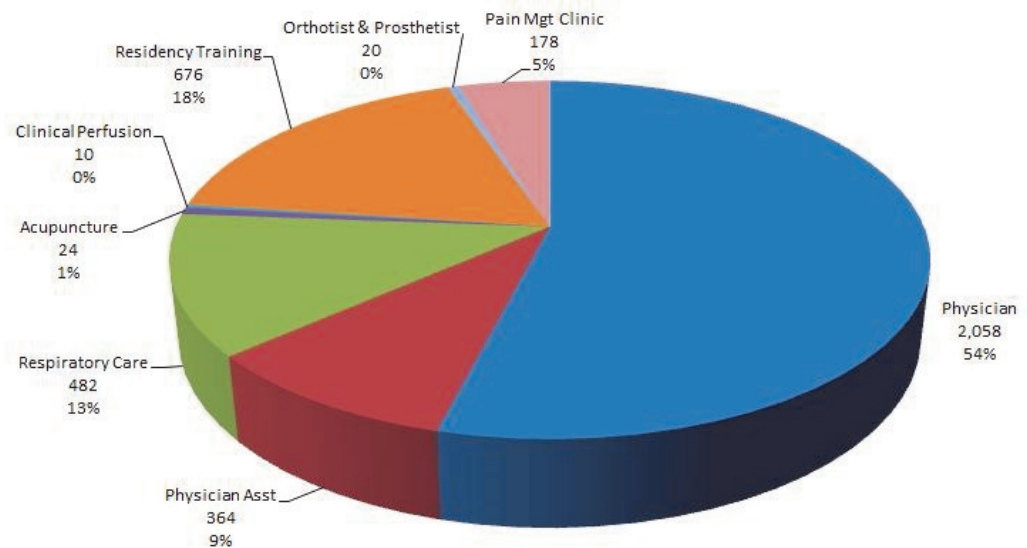
Would you like to receive emailed notifications of the Board’s Rules hearings and other important information? Send an email message to [medbd@dch.ga.gov](mailto:medbd@dch.ga.gov) to join the Board’s email notification list. Just let us know the email address you want us to include. You can unsubscribe at any time.

## Licensing and Nurse Protocol Reviews

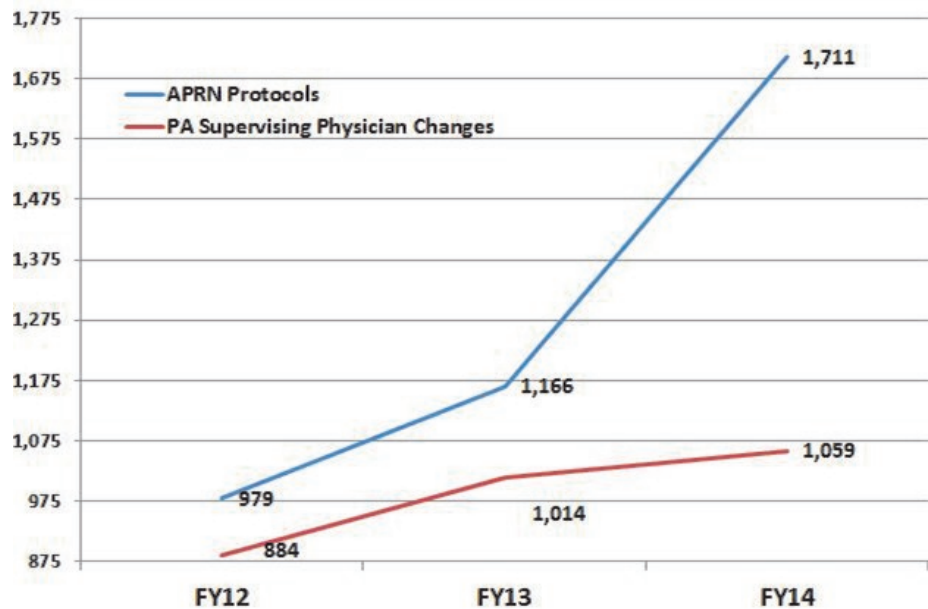
The regulation of the practice of medicine and other professions by the state of Georgia is undertaken for one purpose – to protect Georgians by ensuring that those who practice a particular profession have the education, training, and skill to practice safely. The Board also reviews a physician assistant’s (PA) job description, which lists the duties a supervising physician may delegate to the PA, to help ensure that the physician/PA team has the requisite training to practice with reasonable skill and safety, and reviews physicians’ protocols with advanced practice registered nurses (APRN).

In Fiscal Year 2014, the Board issued 3,812 new licenses, an increase of 5 percent over FY 2013. The Board also reviewed 1,059 applications to add or change supervising physicians (an increase of 4% over FY 2013) and 1,711 APRN protocols (an increase of 47% over FY 2013).

**New licenses issued, July 2013 through June 2014**



**APRN protocol and PA supervising changes reviewed, Fiscal Years 2012–2014**

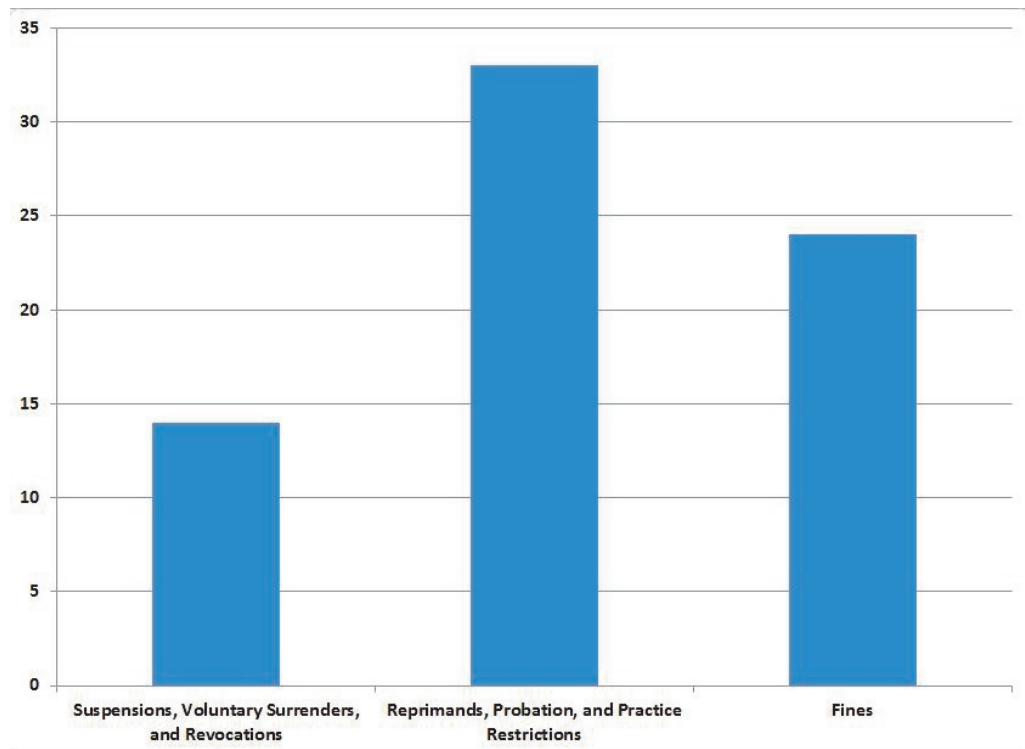


## Enforcement and Discipline

Another way the Board regulates the professions it licenses is through sanctions taken against licensees who fail to comply with the Medical Practice Act and the Board’s rules. Patients, family members, fellow practitioners, hospitals, other licensing boards and regulating entities, and law enforcement agencies can file complaints against individual licensees or against individuals who may be practicing without a license. The Board carefully considers each complaint to determine if sanctions against the licensee are warranted. In addition to these complaints, the Board investigates each case in which a malpractice insurer paid any sum on behalf of a Georgia licensee, in order to determine whether the licensee is able to practice medicine safely. As it investigates the allegations, the Board may subpoena patient records, interview the subject of the complaint, interview the complainant and/or other individuals with knowledge of the issues, and have the patient records peer-reviewed. These activities are all taken in the pursuit of patient safety.

In Fiscal Year 2014, the Board received 1,771 complaints and issued 71 public sanctions against 46 licensees (some public consent orders may have included more than one sanction). During the year, 183 letters of concern were issued, 26 complaints were closed with a non-public board action, 39 were withdrawn by the complainants, and 1,474 were closed with no action after the Board completed a thorough investigation and found no actionable offense.

**Public sanctions issued in FY 2014, by type**



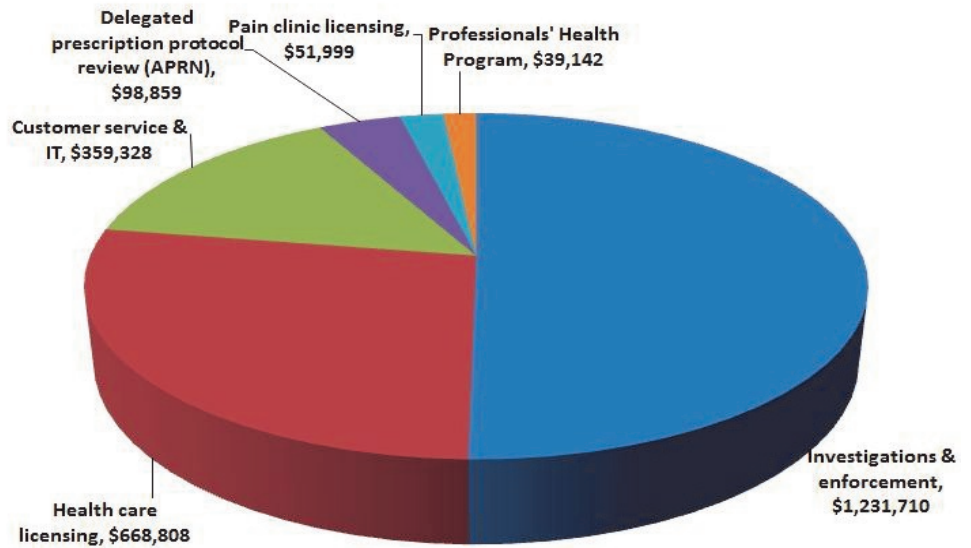
## Expenditures and Revenue Collections

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

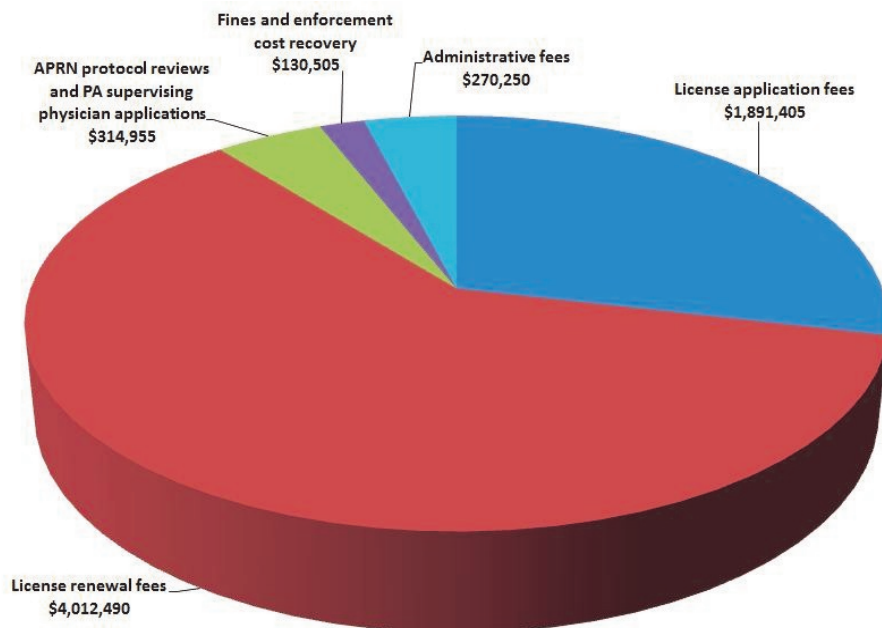
In FY 2014, the Board's total budget was \$2,449,847. The investigations & enforcement activity accounted for 50.3% of total expenditures, the health care licensing activity share was 27.3%, and customer service & IT activity accounted for 14.7% of total expenditures.

The Board collected \$6,619,605 in fees, representing a net return on investment of 170.2% for the people of Georgia.

**Cost by activity,  
FY 2014  
Total: \$2,449,847**



**Revenue by source,  
FY 2014  
Total: \$6,619,605**



## Governor Appoints Three New Members Reappoints six to new terms

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**Keisha Callins, MD** was appointed August 29, 2014 to succeed William Butler, MD. Dr. Callins practices obstetrics and gynecology at Albany Primary Health Care. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Dougherty County, Albany Downtown Sertoma, the Junior League of Albany, the Georgia State Medical Association, the Griffin-Jordan Medical Society. Dr. Callins is a junior fellow of the American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

**Jeffrey S. Grossman, MD** was appointed May 23, 2014 to succeed Gilbert Chandler III, MD. Dr. Grossman is the founding partner of Peachtree Spine Physicians in Atlanta. Dr. Grossman is a board member of the Georgia Society of Interventional Pain Physicians, and is board-certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation.

**Ronald J. "Ronnie" Wallace, MBA** was appointed March 28, 2014 to succeed Kathleen Kinlaw, M.Div. Mr. Wallace is an executive vice president with Heritage First Bank in Rome. He previously served on the Rome City Commission and as mayor of Rome. Mr. Wallace currently serves on the Rome Floyd Planning Commission, the Boys and Girls Club Board, and the Berry College Campbell School of Business Board.

**John S. Antalis, MD** was reappointed to a second term on the Board. Dr. Antalis has been a practicing physician at Dalton Family Practice for 28 years. He is past president of the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) and the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Antalis serves on the MAG Foundation, the MAG Mutual Board, the MAG Board, and the Patient

Safety Institute Board.

**Alexander S. Gross, MD** was reappointed to a third term on the Board. Originally appointed to fill an unexpired term in March 2008, Dr. Gross is medical director of the Georgia Dermatology Center in Cumming, president of the Georgia Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery, and is a fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology and the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery.

**Alice House, MD** was reappointed to a second term on the Board. She was first appointed to the Board in January 2010, and is the current vice-chairperson of the Board. Dr. House is profiled on page 2.

**B. K. Mohan, MD** was reappointed to a second term on the Board. Dr. Mohan, who was originally appointed to fill an unexpired term in February 2013, is the founding partner of Southern Heart Specialists in Jonesboro. He has served on the Clayton County Health Education Board and as chairman of the Indian Professional Association.

**David W. Retterbush, MD** was reappointed to a second term on the Board. He was first appointed to the Board in November 2009, and is the current chairman of the Board. Dr. Retterbush is profiled on page 2.

**William S. Sightler, DO** was reappointed to a second term on the Board. Originally appointed December 2010, Dr. Sightler is medical director at Riverbend Correctional Facility in Milledgeville. He is past president of the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association, and serves on the GOMA Board.

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## Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

The Georgia prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) began accepting applications for registration in May 2013. Prescribers and pharmacists have access to query the data.

Queries are available for viewing only by the user who submitted the query request. If you print the query, protect patient confidentiality by filing or destroying the document after it has been reviewed. The law regarding electronic database prescription information prohibits any person or

entity who receives electronic such information or related reports from providing the information or reports to any other person or entity except by order of a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant.

To register for the PDMP, go to <http://www.hidinc.com/gapdmp> and click the Practitioner / Pharmacist link on the left hand side. Practitioners and pharmacists must perform the steps outlined in the Training Guide link to request an account.



## Dr. Jean Sumner Appointed Associate Dean for Rural Health at Mercer

**- Resigns as Board's Medical Director effective December 31**



On November 12, 2014, the Mercer University School of Medicine announced the appointment of Jean Rawlings Sumner, MD to the newly-created position of associate dean for rural health effective November 1, 2014. Dr. Sumner, who was appointed to three terms on the Georgia

Composite Medical Board, has served as the Board's medical director since 2011. As the Board's president from July 2008 to July 2009, Dr. Sumner was instrumental in rewriting the Georgia Medical Practice Act.

Dr. Sumner began her career as a registered nurse, earning her undergraduate and graduate nursing degrees from the Medical College of Georgia School of Nursing. She returned to school in 1982, this time as member of the first physician class of Mercer University's School of Medicine. In 1986, she received that year's Distinguished Graduate Award, and was also recognized by her peers with the annual Physician's Physician Award. After completing a three-year residency training program in internal medicine at the Medical Center of Central Georgia, Dr. Sumner opened her practice in Wrightsville in 1990, becoming the only physician serving the rural two-county area.

With this her formative experience as a physician, Dr. Sumner became deeply involved in rural health issues. She worked diligently to attract new health care providers to the Washington County-Johnson County area, winning a federal grant to open a primary care center staffed partly with MCG faculty and students

and offering multiple visits each month by an orthopedist, a general surgeon, and an obstetrician. Her efforts resulted in her receiving the James Alley Service Award from the Georgia Rural Health Association in 1995; two years later, she was selected for Leadership Georgia for her strong support for quality rural health care across the state.

In addition to serving as a member, president, and medical director of the Georgia Composite Medical Board, Dr. Sumner has also served on the boards of the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce, the Georgia Department of Human Resources, the State Medical Education Board, and the Georgia Department of Community Health. In February 2014, she was elected to the Board of Directors of the Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth, a non-profit corporation working for the establishment of telemedicine programs to promote improvements in healthcare in rural and underserved communities, and in March, she was named the Georgia TeleHealth Champion of the Year.

With her appointment to the Mercer associate dean's position, Dr. Sumner will leave the Composite Medical Board's medical director position effective December 31, 2014. LaSharn Hughes, the Board's executive director, observed, "I know that I speak for the Board members and the staff when I say that while we are so very proud of Dr. Sumner's accomplishments and her new appointment, we will miss her dedication and leadership here. It is tempting to say that we can never replace her, but in reality, the results of Jean Sumner's legacy and contributions to the Board over her many years of service will continue to help keep Georgia's patients safe, its health care community strong, and the Board equipped to face new challenges for many more years to come."

## Frequently Asked Questions about Cosmetic Laser Licensure

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**Q: How do I know if I need a laser license?**

**A:** If you provide non-ablative cosmetic laser services using laser hair removal devices, intense pulsed light (IPL) devices, or non-ablative light-based devices, you need a laser license, unless (1) you have an active Georgia physician license; (2) you have an active Georgia physician assistant license with Board-approved additional duties that include the performance of cosmetic laser services AND you are not supervising an individual who needs a laser license; or (3) you have an active Georgia advanced practice registered nurse license with a protocol that includes the performance of cosmetic laser services AND you are not supervising an individual who needs a laser license.

**Q: I'm a PA or an APRN. Do I need a separate laser license to perform cosmetic laser services?**

**A:** Yes, if you supervise someone who is required to have a license as an Assistant Laser Practitioner.

**Q: What are the differences between the two levels of licensure?**

**A:** An Assistant Laser Practitioner can only treat patients under the onsite supervision of a physician or Senior Laser Practitioner (Exception: an Assistant Laser Practitioner is permitted to perform laser hair removal and IPL procedures when the physician is not onsite). A Senior Laser Practitioner can supervise an Assistant Laser Practitioner, and can treat patients when the physician is not onsite.

**Q: What are the qualifications for the Assistant Laser Practitioner license?**

- A:**
1. A current Georgia license as a PA, RN, APRN, master cosmetologist, or esthetician; or a previous license as physician, PA, RN, or APRN.
  2. Certificates from three laser courses that were taught by a physician or a certified continuing medical education (CME) or continuing education (CE) educator.

**Q: What are the qualifications for the Senior Laser Practitioner license?**

- A:**
1. At least three years of licensure as a PA, RN, APRN, or physician.
  2. At least three years of clinical and/or technological medical experience.
  3. Certificates from two laser courses that were taught by a physician or a certified continuing medical education (CME) or continuing education (CE) educator.

**Q: I have been providing cosmetic laser services since before the law became effective, but I don't meet the qualifications for licensure. How can I continue to provide cosmetic laser services?**

**A:** If you can document at least 2,000 hours of laser experience obtained before March 1, 2014, and you have at least two certificates from laser courses that were taught by a physician or a certified CME or CE educator, you may qualify for the Assistant Laser Practitioner license under the grandfather clause. You must apply no later than December 31, 2014.

**Q: I have a laser license in another state. Is this valid in Georgia?**

**A:** No. You must have a Georgia license to perform cosmetic laser services in this state.

**Q: Are there any patients who do not need to be examined prior to laser treatment?**

**A:** Patients receiving laser hair removal or intense pulsed light services only do not need to be examined prior to treatment. All other patients must be examined by a Georgia physician, PA, or APRN prior to treatment.

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

## New NCCPA Certification Maintenance Process Begins

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2014 marks the beginning of the PA profession's transition to a 10-year certification maintenance process. PAs who pass PANCE, regain certification, or wrap up a six-year certification maintenance cycle in 2014 will be the first to begin the new 10-year process. This information is outlined in the following link: <http://www.nccpa.net/Upload/PDFs/CM%202014%20Flyer.pdf>

The new 10-year process is divided into five two-year CME cycles, during which 100 credits of CME must be earned, with at least 50 of those credits being Category 1 (same as the current process). What's new? At least 20 of the 50 Category 1 credits must be earned through self-assessment CME (SA-CME) or performance improvement CME (PI-CME). "40 and 40 in 4" is the new slogan. A PA has flexibility in any given two-year cycle to earn PI-CME credits, SA-CME credits, or some of both. However, over the course of those first four cycles (spanning approximately eight years), the PA must earn both types of CME: at least 40 credits of PI-CME and at least 40 credits of self-assessment CME.

Physician assistants licensed to practice in Georgia are required to complete Board approved continuing medical education (CME) of not less than forty (40) hours biennially. This total must include at least ten (10) hours directly related to the specialty of the Board approved primary supervising physician and at least three (3) hours in practice specific pharmaceuticals in which the Physician Assistant has prescription order privileges. As long as the PA's NCCPA maintenance record meets these guidelines, no additional CME is required to be in compliance with the Board requirements. (Rule 360-5-.07)

## Board Issues Clarification on Prescribing by PAs

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A physician assistant prescription drug or device order form must 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. The pharmacist could reject any prescription containing less information than that described. For more information, see O.C.G.A. § 43-34-10

## Hydrocodone Combination Drugs Become Schedule II Effective October 2014

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Effective October 6, the Drug Enforcement Administration rescheduled hydrocodone combination products from schedule III to schedule II of the Controlled Substances Act. There are several hundred brand name and generic hydrocodone products marketed with the most frequently prescribed combination being hydrocodone and acetaminophen (e.g., Vicodin®, Lortab®). Currently marketed HCPs approved as cough suppressants include Hycodan®, Mycodone®, Tussionex®, Pennkinetic®, Tussionon®, and several generics. Access to the complete rule can be viewed at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/08/22/2014-19922/schedules-of-controlled-substances-rescheduling-of-hydrocodone-combination-products-from-schedule>.

Georgia law states that a PA may not issue a written prescription for a Schedule II controlled substance. A PA is permitted to prepare a prescription for administration of a Schedule II controlled substance for the primary or alternate supervising physician's signature on the date that the prescription is issued to the patient. A PA may also issue a written or verbal order for a Schedule II controlled substance within a health care setting. The supervising or an alternate supervising physician must co-sign such orders in compliance with any provisions required by the location where the physician assistant is practicing.

## PA Licensure Without a Supervising Physician

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Did you know that you could apply for licensure as a Physician Assistant in Georgia without having a primary supervising physician? While the majority of PAs who apply for a Georgia license do provide a physician utilization form and job description, [Rule 360-5-.02](#) specifies that upon receipt of the licensure application, the application fee of \$300, and all required documents, the Board shall provide notification of approval or disapproval of the physician assistant application for licensure. You must certify that you have received, read, and are familiar with the Medical Practice Act, Physician Assistant Act and Board rules and regulations by signing the statement on the application.

Note that licensure under these circumstances does not permit you to practice as a PA; rather, it simply means you are licensed in Georgia. To practice as a PA, you must have a Board-approved job description under a supervising physician. Therefore, if you were licensed without a supervising physician and subsequently find a PA position in Georgia, you will need to submit a complete application to add a supervising physician, along with a job description and the application fee of \$75. Once the Board has the complete application, including the Utilization of Physician Assistant form and signed job description, the licensure unit can issue you a temporary permit to begin practicing in Georgia. This temporary permit allows you to practice until the next Board meeting, when your application is reviewed for Board approval.

To apply for licensure or for adding or changing a primary supervising physician, go to <http://medicalboard.georgia.gov/online-services>. If you do not want to apply and pay the application fee online, you can download and print the applications at <http://medicalboard.georgia.gov/physician-assistant-including-anesthesiologist-asst>.

## Pain Management Clinic License Requirements for PAs

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If you are practicing as a Physician Assistant in a pain management clinic, in addition to Board approval of your supervising physician, and job description, you must also have your practice manager submit a \$75 application fee along with the following form: [http://medicalboard.georgia.gov/sites/medicalboard.georgia.gov/files/1118-%20ADD\\_CHNG%20PRACTITIONERS%20Form.pdf](http://medicalboard.georgia.gov/sites/medicalboard.georgia.gov/files/1118-%20ADD_CHNG%20PRACTITIONERS%20Form.pdf)

Prior to practicing, you must pass a criminal background check and further investigation, at the Board's discretion. A National Practitioner Data Bank and Health Integrity and Protection Data Bank Report and a copy of the current DEA card are required for all Physician Assistants practicing in a pain management clinic.

## Board Policy on Additional Duties, Alternate Supervising Physician Signatures

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The Board clarified that when a PA who has had prior Board approval for specific additional duties subsequently requests the same additional duties under a new primary supervising physician, the PA is not required to provide case logs to demonstrate competency. All other new requests for additional duties must be accompanied by case logs to demonstrate competency and should include at least 10 procedures within an appropriate timeframe. If the requested additional duties would require ACLS to manage possible complications, the PA should submit a current ACLS card along with the required case logs.

The Board adopted a policy to accept copies and facsimiles of alternate supervisor's signatures, but not to accept typed names in lieu of signatures, on [Form E, Basic Job Description](#) (Anesthesiologist Assistant), [Form F, Basic Job Description](#) (Physician Assistant, Primary Care), and [Form AC1, Adding Alternate Physicians](#).

## Don't know your user ID or password? Follow these tips.

### Your user ID is an email address.

Your GCMB user ID should be a valid email address. That's because if you ever forget your password and request a new one, the system will send you a new temporary password to your user ID (email address). So try to think of the email address you may have used the last time you accessed our online services.

**Licensee or Existing Applicant Services**

User ID:

Password:

**Log On**

[Forgot your password? Click here.](#)

### You can reset your password online.

If you know your user ID, you can probably reset your password yourself. Go to the login page, and instead of trying to log in, just click the link below the password field. Then, you'll be asked to type your user ID.

**Enter Userid**  
Enter userid press "Next".  
Press "Cancel" to go to main menu.

Userid:

**Next** **Cancel**

Once you enter your user ID and click "Next," you'll be asked to provide the correct answer to the security question you set up.

**What is your mothers maiden name?**

After you provide the correct answer to the security question, the system will reset your password to a temporary password and email that to the email address you used as your user ID. The email message will contain a temporary password you can use to log in.

### If you can't see your license number after you log in successfully, call the Board.

If you logged in successfully, but don't see your license number, you may have logged in as a new user, rather than trying to use your existing user ID and password. This means you created an account as a user who has never before been known to the Board. If you encounter this issue, or cannot log in or reset your password after trying to follow the preceding steps, call the Board at 404-463-8900 or 404-656-3913 for assistance in resetting your account.

### Note for renewing licensees

After you've paid your renewal fee online, click the License Menu button at the top of the screen. If your expiration date has been updated, you're done. If your expiration date hasn't changed, click the Main Menu link and then click "Pending Application Status Inquiry" for instructions.

#### License Menu

**Trying to renew your license, but do not see a renewal link?** If you do not see a renewal link, check your expiration date. If your license expires more than 90 days from now, it is too early to renew. If it expired more than 90 days ago, it is too late to renew.

**Already submitted your renewal and payment, but your expiration date is still the same?** Go to the MAIN MENU and click "Pending Application Status Inquiry."

Select the function you wish to perform.  
Press "Back" to return to the main menu.

License Status: **Active**  
Expires On: **07/31/2013**  
(mm/dd/yyyy)

To log in now, click or scan this code with your smartphone or tablet:



### Updating your contact information can save you time, and thousands of dollars in fees, income, and fines

Approximately 45 to 60 days before your license expires, the Board emails a courtesy reminder to the address you use as your licensee user ID. Each month, many of these notices are returned because the licensee's address has changed.

Almost 7 percent of lapsed licenses are subsequently reinstated. Renewing a physician license costs \$230 for two years and typically takes less than 15 minutes to complete. Reinstating a physician license is a much more costly undertaking, both in time and money, with application fees ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 and often taking two months or more to complete. Add the cost of a fine and reprimand if the licensee practices medicine without a license, as well as lost income from being unable to practice until the license is finally reinstated, and the cost for inadvertently allowing a license to lapse could be \$20,000 or more.

You can view and update your license online any time, and if you are not online, you can fax your update to 404-656-9723. The few minutes you spend keeping the Board updated could save you thousands of dollars down the road.

## Frequently Asked Questions about Rules and Laws

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Every month, the Board reviews complaints against licensees that arise from a misunderstanding of the governing rules or laws, or a complete ignorance of them. Do you know the rules and laws that you must follow to ensure that your license is kept in good standing?

**Q: Is the placement of micro-dermal implants considered the practice of medicine?**

**A:** The Board considers any alteration of the skin to be a surgical procedure, and therefore the practice of medicine.

**Q: What acts can a physician delegate to a medical assistant?**

**A:** A physician may delegate the following tasks to a medical assistant: subcutaneous and intramuscular injections; obtaining vital signs; administering nebulizer treatments; removing sutures and changing dressings.

**Q: Can I write a prescription for a 90-day supply of a Schedule II drug?**

**A:** In Georgia, unlike in many other states, there are no limits on quantity.

**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.

**Q: At what point is it permissible for me to date a former patient?**

**A:** You should be extremely careful in any situation that could be construed as a boundary violation. Remember that no matter how difficult it may be to maintain appropriate boundaries with a patient, it is **always** the professional’s responsibility to maintain those boundaries. You should refer difficult or boundary-testing patients for competent help or counsel. This applies even to former patients, if you did not terminate the physician/patient relationship in writing.

**Q: Can I contract with online coupon or “deal-finder” services to market my medical services?**

**A:** You should be careful to make sure you are not in violation of O.C.G.A. 43-34-8 (a)(9). The law specifically forbids you from dividing fees or agreeing to divide fees received for professional services with any person, firm, association, corporation, or other entity for bringing or referring a patient. As the AMA says in AMA Opinion 6.02, payment by or to a physician solely for the referral of a patient is fee-splitting, and is unethical.

**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.

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

## Credentialing Agents Can Use Board Licensee Search as Primary Source Verification


Among the many enhancements the Board has made to its services and website is a letter certifying its licensee search page as primary source verification. This letter was made available with credentialing offices and agents in mind. Instead of having to fax or mail questionnaires to the Board to document that information from the Board's licensee search page still meets primary source standards for JCAHO and other accrediting bodies, credentialing users can now download the certification directly from the website on demand.

The downloadable letter was created in response to suggestions made by credentialing staff to the Board's executive director at a meeting of the Georgia Association Medical Staff Services (GAMSS). The Board is always looking for ways to improve its services to the people and professional communities of Georgia, and welcomes any suggestions and feedback from its constituents.

*Working on license verifications now? Click this letter to download a current copy for your file.*

The screenshot shows the Georgia Composite Medical Board website. At the top left is the board's logo. The main heading is "Georgia Composite Medical Board". Below this are three navigation tabs: "About the Board", "Consumer Resources", and "Professional Resources". The page content includes "Home » Look Up a Licensee" and a large blue button that says "Look Up a Licensee". Below the button is a link: "Click to: [Look up a licensee by name or license number and](#)". A note reads: "If you are searching by license number, enter a 6-digit number to narrow your search too much by entering a license number, a number, and searching by one element first, and narrowing your search from there." At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a section titled "CREDENTIALING AGENTS: Click to print the Board's official statement of primary source verification. The following data elements on the Board's website should be considered as primary source verification." followed by a list of seven items.

**GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD**



2 Peachtree St., N.W., 36<sup>th</sup> Floor • Atlanta, Georgia 30303 • Tel: 404.656.3913 • Fax: 404.656.9723  
<http://www.medicalboard.georgia.gov> E-Mail: [Medbd@dch.ga.gov](mailto:Medbd@dch.ga.gov)

December 2, 2014

**STATEMENT REGARDING PRIMARY SOURCE VERIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS AND LICENSE INFORMATION**

The Georgia Composite Medical Board obtains primary source verification of credentials required for licensure for all professions. Below is a list of items for which the Board obtains verification directly from the issuing entity during the initial licensing process.

1. **Qualifying degree**, from the medical school, physician assistant program, respiratory therapy program, orthotist/prosthetist program, etc.
2. **Postgraduate training**, from the residency training program.
3. **License history in other states**, from the board or agency that issued the license.
4. **Score report or similar evidence of passing a qualifying examination** (e.g., USMLE, FLEX, NCCPA, NCCAA, NBRC, NCCAOM, etc), from the entity that administers the examination.

**INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THE BOARD'S LICENSEE SEARCH PAGE (updated daily)**

The following data elements on the Board's website should be considered as primary source verification:

1. License number
2. License status
3. Date the Georgia license was first issued
4. License expiration date
5. Public orders issued by the Georgia Composite Medical Board, including those issued under its former name (Composite State Board of Medical Examiners)
6. A notation that the Georgia Medical Board has issued no public orders against the licensee
7. Job descriptions and approved physician supervisors (for physician assistants)

The following data elements on the Board's website should not be construed as primary source verification:

1. Specialty board certification, as this is not a requirement for licensure in Georgia.
2. Specialty, because the Board licenses physicians to practice medicine and surgery, rather than to practice a specific specialty. (The Board may limit a licensee's practice through a consent order.)
3. Practice address, because the Board regulates the practice of medicine through licensing the individual rather than the practice site.
4. Information listed in the physician profile, which is provided directly by the physician to the public, as required by the Patient Right to Know Act.

*LaSham Hughes*  
 LaSham Hughes, MBA  
 Executive Director

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

**CREDENTIALING AGENTS: Click to print the Board's official statement of primary source verification. The following data elements on the Board's website should be considered as primary source verification.**

- License number
- License status
- Date the Georgia license was first issued
- License expiration date
- Public orders issued by the Georgia Composite Medical Board, including those issued under its former name (Composite State Board of Medical Examiners)
- A notation that the Georgia Medical Board has issued no public orders against the licensee
- Job descriptions and approved physician supervisors (for physician assistants)

## Board Disciplinary Action Report

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The following report lists public disciplinary actions taken by the Board between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014. 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 [www.medicalboard.georgia.gov](http://www.medicalboard.georgia.gov).

### Revocations, Voluntary Surrenders, and Suspensions

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Name	Prof	Lic	Order	Date
Adams, Mark Alan	Physician	48133	Voluntary Surrender	3/20/14
Atlanta Pain Rehabilitation	Pain Mgt Clinic	222	Voluntary Surrender	9/22/14
Bacon, William Louis	Physician	9760	Voluntary Surrender	1/2/14
Battista, David Mark	Physician	68107	Voluntary Surrender	3/14/14
Dodds, Nedra Regina	Physician	39170	Suspension	2/28/14
Eppelbaum, Lawrence Edward	Physician	38830	Voluntary Surrender	6/18/14
Gibson, Michael Anthony Sr	Physician	57975	Suspension	4/4/14
Horton, William Jeffrey	Resp Care Prof	2226	Suspension	10/30/14
Innovative Pain Management Center	Pain Mgt Clinic	110	Voluntary Surrender	9/18/14
Johnson, Nathaniel III	Physician	32336	Voluntary Surrender	7/18/14
Marlow, Lea	Physician	63370	Voluntary Surrender	4/17/14
Momah, Dennis Somto	Physician	36578	Voluntary Surrender	9/26/13
Moseley, John Leihugh	Physician	30153	Voluntary Surrender	2/6/14
Orr, Sean Christopher	Physician	63510	Suspension	3/6/14
Phillips, James Milton	Physician	58999	Voluntary Surrender	7/17/13
Shuman, Robert Daniel III	Physician	68465	Summary Suspension	8/22/14
Tan, Mike Yap	Physician	17494	Voluntary Surrender	10/31/14
Taylor, Donald Ray	Physician	31842	Suspension	1/9/14
Taylor, John Nicholas	Physician	49211	Revocation	11/7/13
York, James A	Physician	49371	Voluntary Surrender	3/26/14
Yost, Robert Brian	Physician	39701	Suspension	9/11/14



## Public Reprimands and Probation

Name	Prof	Lic	Order	Date
Ahmadi, Shalyn Benae	Physician Asst	3389	Public Reprimand	5/6/14
Almedom, Stifanos Tesfu	Physician Asst	3619	Probation	9/22/14
Anderson, Wallace Steve	Physician	28708	Public Reprimand	5/1/14
Attaway, Dean Scott	Physician	21634	Public Reprimand	11/7/13
Byers, Kenneth Wayne	Physician	20969	Probation	6/19/14
Columbus Pain Center	Pain Mgt Clinic	302	Public Reprimand	9/25/14
Comprehensive Pain Care	Pain Mgt Clinic	303	Public Reprimand	10/7/14
Croom, Christopher Scott	Physician	29433	Probation	5/1/14
Daugherty, Steve Dennis	Physician	28259	Public Reprimand	3/6/14
Davidson, David Alan	Physician	43916	Probation	9/11/14
Desantis, James Michael	Physician	30595	Public Practice Restriction	10/10/13
Dopson, Kelley Sue Bethel	Physician	25144	Public Reprimand	2/6/14
El-Attar, Mohamad Ali Adnan	Physician	41286	Public Reprimand	11/13/13
Fouch, Scott Ashley	Physician Asst	3334	Probation	7/23/13
Fugedy, James Emery	Physician	32502	Public Reprimand	7/11/13
Georgia Pain Physicians - Ringgold	Pain Mgt Clinic	275	Public Reprimand	6/18/14
Gibson, Michael Anthony Sr	Physician	57975	Probation	4/4/14
Gordon, Julian Benjamin	Physician	51763	Probation	9/13/13
Hemingway, Allison Winn	Physician Asst	3089	Public Reprimand	4/17/14
Kumar, Kush	Physician	57093	Public Reprimand	5/1/14
Levine, Keith Andrew	Physician	22583	Public Reprimand	5/1/14
Levy-Eliceiri, Carlos Alberto	Physician	19967	Probation	7/11/13
Lyons, Charles Bradley	Physician	37603	Public Reprimand	5/1/14
Macon Medical Center	Pain Mgt Clinic	268	Probation	4/4/14
Mahaffey, Lucinda S H	Physician Asst	2523	Public Reprimand	9/13/13
Mahon, Melvyn Vanroy	Physician	27864	Public Reprimand	4/4/14
Markes, Alvina C	Physician Asst	2735	Probation	10/10/13
Nelson, Robert Lee	Physician	22951	Public Reprimand	12/9/13
Ononuju, Chidozie Joshua	Physician	63695	Public Reprimand	7/11/13
Osinuga, Oladayo Adisa	Physician	51703	Public Reprimand	7/17/13
Rao, Hothur V Sanjeeva	Physician	18723	Public Reprimand	3/6/14
Securo, Anthony T	Physician	51736	Probation	10/10/13
Smith, Ethel Louise	Physician	31510	Probation	5/1/14
Specialty Clinics Spine Intervention - B	Pain Mgt Clinic	291	Public Reprimand	9/11/14
Taylor, Donald Ray	Physician	31842	Probation	4/4/14
Thomas, Soren Shia	Physician	26895	Public Reprimand	10/9/14
Victor, Jules III	Physician	18122	Public Reprimand	10/9/14
Walker, David Morris	Physician	29964	Public Reprimand	9/13/13
Washington, Clarence Joseph	Physician	24879	Public Reprimand	8/9/13
Weber, Warren McClure	Physician	26677	Public Reprimand	7/10/14
Williams, Norris	Physician Asst	1844	Probation	6/14/14

## Public Fines

Name	Prof	Lic	Fine	Date
Ahmadi, Shalyn Benae	Physician Asst	3389	\$1,000.00	5/6/14
Anderson, Wallace Steve	Physician	28708	\$8,000.00	5/1/14
Attaway, Dean Scott	Physician	21634	\$20,000.00	11/7/13
Byers, Kenneth Wayne	Physician	20969	\$1,000.00	6/19/14
Columbus Pain Center	Pain Mgt Clinic	302	\$10,000.00	9/25/14
Comprehensive Pain Care	Pain Mgt Clinic	303	\$10,000.00	10/7/14
Daugherty, Steve Dennis	Physician	28259	\$5,000.00	3/6/14
Davidson, David Alan	Physician	43916	\$2,000.00	9/11/14
Dopson, Kelley Sue Bethel	Physician	25144	\$1,000.00	2/6/14
El-Attar, Mohamad Ali Adnan	Physician	41286	\$10,000.00	11/13/13
Georgia Pain Physicians - Ringgold	Pain Mgt Clinic	275	\$10,000.00	6/18/14
Gibson, Michael Anthony Sr	Physician	57975	\$500.00	4/4/14
Hemingway, Allison Winn	Physician Asst	3089	\$1,000.00	4/17/14
Kumar, Kush	Physician	57093	\$10,000.00	5/1/14
Levine, Keith Andrew	Physician	22583	\$10,000.00	5/1/14
Lyons, Charles Bradley	Physician	37603	\$25,000.00	5/1/14
Macon Medical Center	Pain Mgt Clinic	268	\$10,000.00	4/4/14
Mahaffey, Lucinda S H	Physician Asst	2523	\$1,500.00	9/13/13
Markes, Alvina C	Physician Asst	2735	\$500.00	10/10/13
Nelson, Robert Lee	Physician	22951	\$4,000.00	12/9/13
Ononuju, Chidozie Joshua	Physician	63695	\$500.00	7/11/13
Orr, Sean Christopher	Physician	63510	\$500.00	3/6/14
Osinuga, Oladayo Adisa	Physician	51703	\$3,000.00	7/17/13
Rao, Hothur V Sanjeeva	Physician	18723	\$3,500.00	3/6/14
Smith, Ethel Louise	Physician	31510	\$15,000.00	5/1/14
Specialty Clinics Spine Intervention - B	Pain Mgt Clinic	291	\$500.00	9/11/14
Victor, Jules III	Physician	18122	\$5,000.00	10/9/14
Washington, Clarence Joseph	Physician	24879	\$1,000.00	8/9/13
Weber, Warren McClure	Physician	26677	\$5,000.00	7/10/14
Williams, Reginald Antonio	Physician	55788	\$500.00	7/11/13

## Amendments to Consent Orders

Name	Prof	Lic	Order	Date
Harding, Susan Mildred	Physician	31013	Amendment to Order	7/10/14
Horton, William Jeffrey	Resp Care Prof	2226	Amendment to Order	9/13/13
Junco, Anthony Jr	Physician	38821	Amendment to Order	3/6/14
Knight, Vincent Karl	Physician	54912	Amendment to Order	8/9/13
Knight, Vincent Karl	Physician	54912	Amendment to Order	9/11/14
Reed, Jeffrey Scott	Physician	58580	Amendment to Order	9/7/13
Smart, John K	Physician	65615	Amendment to Order	1/9/14
Ward, Jacob Tucker	Physician	32075	Amendment to Order	5/20/14

## Terminations of Public Orders

<b>Name</b>	<b>Prof</b>	<b>Lic</b>	<b>Order</b>	<b>Date</b>
Beirne, Mark Jospeh	Physician	68846	Probation Terminated	11/13/13
Board, Elizabeth Maude	Physician	42184	Probation Terminated	4/4/14
Chao, Thomas Jorge	Physician Asst	3497	Probation Terminated	7/11/13
Chapkowski, Sandra Lee	Physician	46745	Probation Terminated	6/6/14
Crusor, Julie Michele	Physician	60820	Probation Terminated	6/6/14
Doherty, Dennis Christopher	Physician	31731	Probation Terminated	9/11/14
Edwards, Hannibal	Physician	52552	Probation Terminated	2/6/14
Ellis, Daryl Arthur	Physician	38747	Probation Terminated	7/10/14
Filmore, Gerald L	Physician	50288	Probation Terminated	1/9/14
Fouch, Scott Ashley	Physician Asst	3334	Suspension Lifted	7/23/13
Fouch, Scott Ashley	Physician Asst	3334	Probation Terminated	8/7/14
Gordon, Julian Benjamin	Physician	51763	Probation Terminated	7/10/14
Hall, Hugh Wood	Physician	40088	Probation Terminated	8/7/14
Heldzinger, Derek	Physician	65259	Probation Terminated	9/12/13
Hightower, Richard R Jr	Physician	39367	Probation Terminated	2/6/14
Hollis, Dan Stephen	Physician	18498	Probation Terminated	4/4/14
Junco, Anthony Jr	Physician	38821	Probation Terminated	6/6/14
Kapasi, Amarish R	Physician	54759	Terms Lifted	6/6/14
Kelly, James Corbitt	Physician	17841	Probation Terminated	9/13/13
Kuitems, Frank David	Physician	27213	Suspension Lifted	3/6/14
Lentz, Randy Scott	Physician	50500	Terms Lifted	7/11/13
Lubin, Barry Howard	Physician	38659	Probation Terminated	1/9/14
Marler, Kevin Dwain Md	Physician	55782	Probation Terminated	9/13/13
Mitchell, Stephen Wyatt	Physician	29495	Probation Terminated	5/1/14
Ojewole, Abiola Olutayo	Physician	61991	Probation Terminated	9/17/13
Paterson, Spencer Michael	Physician	33669	Probation Terminated	7/10/14
Prior, Steven Thomas	Physician	59495	Probation Terminated	7/11/13
Reed, Jeffrey Scott	Physician	58580	Probation Terminated	9/22/14
Sanchez-Gonzalez, Armando	Physician	27712	Probation Terminated	2/6/14
Sanders, Lisa Marie	Physician	37189	Probation Terminated	8/9/13
Scott, Yvonne Miller	Physician	29945	Terms Lifted	10/21/13
Straub, Robert Jordan	Physician	53183	Probation Terminated	7/10/14
Sutlive, William Greene III	Physician	23235	Probation Terminated	7/10/14

## Terminations of Public Orders *(continued from page 14)*

Profession	Lic #	Name	Date	Discipline
Physician	55436	Sipsy, Lonnie Keith	4/4/2013	Terminated Probation
Physician	31334	Stuart, Lloyd S	12/7/2012	Terminated Probation
Resp Care Prof	2099	Tucker, Christopher	6/6/2013	Terminated Probation
Physician	63747	Wang, Yihan	7/19/2012	Terminated Terms
Physician	40283	Wilson, Brummitte Dale	5/4/2013	Terminated Probation
Physician	39984	Wright, Terrill Mark	7/12/2012	Terminated Probation

## Respiratory Care Professional News

### NBRC and CoARC Eliminate Special Certificate of Completion

The National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) and the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) recently took actions relating to the Special Certificate of Completion (Policy 13). CoARC has rescinded Policy 13 and the NBRC Board voted to eliminate the Special Certificate of Completion as a route to the Therapist Multiple Choice Examination. The recent changes by CoARC and NBRC will affect the eligibility of some respiratory therapy students attempting the new Therapist Multiple Choice (TMC) Examination.

### Board Revises Education Verification Form

As of January 1, 2015, the Georgia Medical Board's [Form A \(Education Verification Form\)](#) for initial licensure will be changed. The option "Bachelor's Degree with Associate Equivalency Degree" will be removed from the application. This change will align Georgia with other states that offer licensure to respiratory therapists.

## Board Issues Call for Advisory Committee Nominations

The **Orthotics & Prosthetics Advisory Committee** has vacancies for Orthotist and Prosthetist members. Qualified candidates must be licensed in good standing to practice orthotics and/or prosthetics in Georgia, and must provide the Committee with a resume and three reference letters. The Committee typically meets once a month. Please forward your nomination and candidate materials to Katonya Reynolds at [kreynolds@dch.ga.gov](mailto:kreynolds@dch.ga.gov).

The **Perfusion Advisory Committee** has vacancies for Clinical Perfusionist members. Qualified candidates must be licensed to practice clinical perfusion in Georgia, and must provide the Committee with a resume and three reference letters. The Committee typically meets once a month. Please forward your nomination and candidate materials to [lhughes@dch.ga.gov](mailto:lhughes@dch.ga.gov).

### APRN Protocol Reviews

The Board is required by O.C.G.A. § 43-34-25 to review APRN protocols that include prescriptive authority. If your protocol with an APRN does not delegate your authority to write and sign prescriptions, order tests, and/or order medical devices, you are not required to send the protocol the Board. In that case, however, you and the APRN must still enter into an agreement to comply with O.C.G.A. § 43-34-23, and you must keep a copy of that agreement onsite at each practice location where the APRN practices pursuant to the agreement.

Protocols that include prescriptive authority must be submitted to the Board before being submitted to the DEA. The DEA will not issue a license to an APRN until the Board has approved the protocol.

## Calendar of Upcoming Board Meetings

January 8, 2015	2 Peachtree St, NW, 36th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303
February 5, 2015	2 Peachtree St, NW, 36th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303
March 5, 2015	2 Peachtree St, NW, 36th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303
April 2, 2015	2 Peachtree St, NW, 36th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303
May 7, 2015 May 8, 2015	Georgia Regents University Augusta, Georgia <i>Specific location to be determined</i>
June 4, 2015	2 Peachtree St, NW, 36th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303
July 9, 2015	2 Peachtree St, NW, 36th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303
August 6, 2015	2 Peachtree St, NW, 36th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303
September 3, 2015	2 Peachtree St, NW, 36th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303
October 1, 2015	2 Peachtree St, NW, 36th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303
November 5, 2015 November 6, 2015	Mercer University Macon, Georgia <i>Specific location to be determined</i>
December 3, 2015	2 Peachtree St, NW, 36th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303

## Upcoming State Holidays

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

**2015**

### **Thursday, January 1**

New Year's Day

### **Monday, January 19**

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

### **Monday, April 27**

Confederate Memorial Day

### **Monday, May 25**

Memorial Day

### **Friday, July 3**

Independence Day

### **Monday, September 7**

Labor Day

### **Monday, October 12**

Columbus Day

### **Wednesday, November 11**

Veterans Day

### **Thursday, November 26**

Thanksgiving Day

### **Friday, November 27**

Robert E. Lee's Birthday (observed)

### **Thursday, December 24**

Washington's Birthday (observed)

### **Friday, December 25**

Christmas Day

## Contact Information for GCMB Services

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### Licensure Applications

**Carol Dorsey, Licensure Unit Manager**  
404-651-7854; cdorsey@dch.ga.gov

#### Physician

**Johnita Daniel** (last names A-G)  
404-463-6162; jdaniel1@dch.ga.gov  
**Candis Dickerson** (last names H-O)  
404-657-6491; cdickerson@dch.ga.gov  
**Deborah Bruce** (last names P-Z)  
404-656-7067; dbruce@dch.ga.gov

#### Physician Assistant, Clinical Perfusionist

**Kahlilah Bell**  
404-657-6495; kbell2@dch.ga.gov

#### Respiratory Care Professional, Orthotist & Prosthetist

**Katonya Reynolds**  
404-463-2292; kreynolds@dch.ga.gov

#### Acupuncturist, Residency Training Permit

**Carol Dorsey**  
404-651-7854; cdorsey@dch.ga.gov

#### APRN Protocol Review

**Kia Hargrove**  
404-463-5038; khargrove@dch.ga.gov

#### Perfusionist, Cosmetic Laser Services Practitioner

**Kia Hargrove**  
404-463-5038; khargrove@dch.ga.gov

#### Ordering License Cards and Certificates, Ordering a Database of Licensees

**Deionna Harris**  
404-656-3913; dharris6@dch.ga.gov

### Enforcement, Compliance, and Other Services

**Director of Enforcement**  
**Jennifer Bass, MS**  
404-807-0811; jrbass@dch.ga.gov

**Director of Investigations**  
**Emmalie Kirkland, CMBI**  
404-463-0635; ekirkland@dch.ga.gov

#### Filing Complaints, Malpractice Reports, and Other Enforcement Reports

**Shonda Roberts, Unit Supervisor**  
404-657-6489; sroberts@dch.ga.gov  
**Sharon Cloud**  
404-657-6494; scloud@dch.ga.gov  
**Jeanette Carter**  
404-463-8903; jecarter@dch.ga.gov

#### Obtaining Certified Copies of Public Orders

**Sharon Cloud**  
404-657-6494; scloud@dch.ga.gov

#### Consent Order Compliance Issues, Open Records Requests

**Betsy Cohen, Esq.**  
404-657-3194; bcohen@dch.ga.gov

#### Ordering Verification of Georgia Licensure

**Physician: [www.veridoc.org](http://www.veridoc.org)**  
**All other GCMB professions:**  
**Jeanette Carter**  
404-657-1725; jecarter@dch.ga.gov

### Customer Service Issues

**Robert Jeffery, Director of Operations**  
404-657-6492; rjeffery@dch.ga.gov

## Georgia Composite Medical Board

2 Peachtree Street NW  
36th Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Phone: 404-656-3913  
Fax: 404-656-9723  
email: medbd@dch.ga.gov

The Georgia Medical Board is  
online! Go to



[www.medicalboard.georgia.gov](http://www.medicalboard.georgia.gov)

### Active Licenses on December 5, 2014:

Physician	33,846
Administrative Physician	13
Institutional Physician	3
Volunteer in Medicine	11
Provisional Physician	1
Residency Training Permit	1,987
Physician Assistant	4,151
Respiratory Care Professional	5,153
Acupuncturist	236
Auricular Detoxification Specialist	1
Clinical Perfusionist	153
Orthotist	74
Prosthetist	52
Orthotist & Prosthetist (dual)	107
Pain Management Clinic	196
Assistant Laser Practitioner	72
<b>Total, all license types</b>	<b>46,072</b>

### Georgia Composite Medical Board Management Staff

**LaSharn Hughes, MBA**, Executive Director

**Robert Jeffery, MBA**, Director of Operations

**Carol Dorsey**, Licensure Unit Manager

**Diane Atkinson**, Board Secretary

**Phyllis White**, Operations Analyst

**Jean Rawlings Sumner, MD**, Medical Director

**Jennifer Bass, MS**, Director of Enforcement

**Emmalie Kirkland, CMBI**, Director of Investigations

**Betsy Cohen, JD**, Legal Services Officer

**Shonda Roberts**, Enforcement Supervisor