

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LaSharn Hughes, MBA



BOARD CHAIRPERSON
Alice House, MD

2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 36th Floor • Atlanta, Georgia 30303 • Tel: 404.656.3923 • <http://www.medicalboard.georgia.gov>
E-Mail: medbd@dch.ga.gov

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND AND ADOPT RULES

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Composite Medical Board (hereinafter "Board") proposes amendments to the Georgia Composite Medical Board Rule, **Rule 360-15-.01 "Continuing Education."** An exact copy of the proposed rule changes are attached to this Notice.

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rules and a synopsis of the proposed amendments is forwarded to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on the interested parties' mailing list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed rules and a synopsis of the proposed rules may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the office of the Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 36th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. These documents will also be available for review on the Board's website at www.medicalboard.georgia.gov.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at **8:30 a.m.** on **January 7, 2016** at the 36th Floor Board Room, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rules. At the public hearing, any interested person who will be affected by these rules may present his or her written comments to the Board no later than **December 18, 2015** or make comments at the public hearing. Comments may be directed to Diane Atkinson, Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 36th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3465 or may be received by the Board by e-mail at matkinson@dch.ga.gov.

The proposed amendments will be considered for adoption by the Board at its meeting scheduled to begin at **8:30 a.m. on January 7, 2016** at the Board offices on the 36th Floor Board Room, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303

The Board voted to adopt this Notice of Intent on **November 6, 2015** meeting. The Board will consider at its meeting on **January 7, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.** the comments from the public hearing whether the formulation and adoption of these proposed rule amendments imposes excessive regulatory costs on any license or entity and whether any cost to comply with the proposed rule amendments could be reduced by a less expensive alternative that accomplishes the objectives of the statutes which are the basis of the proposed rule. Additionally at its meeting on **January 7, 2016** the Board will consider

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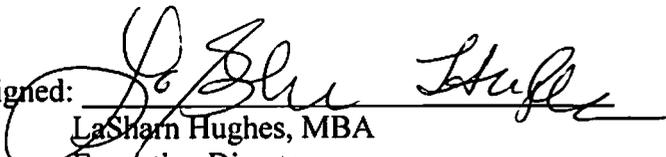
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whether it is legal or feasible in meeting the objectives of the applicable laws to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(3) (A) (B)(C)(D). This Notice is adopted and posted in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4 of the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act. A synopsis of the proposed rules and an economic impact statement are attached to this Notice.

The authority for promulgation of these rules is O.C.G.A. Sections 43-34-3, 43-34-5, 43-34-11, 43-34-24, 43-34-26, and 43-34-41.

Date: November 13, 2015

Signed: 
LaSharn Hughes, MBA
Executive Director
Georgia Composite Medical Board

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ECONOMIC IMPACT AND SYNOPSIS FOR AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 360-15 Continuing Education

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The attached rules are promulgated under the authority of the Medical Practice Act, Title 43, Chapter 34. The Composite State Board of Medical Examiners licenses and regulates nine professions. The formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. Additionally, it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of the Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses listed at O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D).

RULE SYNOPSIS:

Rule 360-15-.01 “Requirements for Physicians”

Purpose/Main Feature: The purpose of this amendment is to organize the rules for better understanding and to add a provision for the Board to waive certain continuing medical education requirements for physicians who conduct peer reviews on behalf of the Board.

Authority: O.C.G.A. Sections 43-34-3, 43-34-5, 43-34-11, 43-34-24, 43-34-26, and 43-34-41.

Rule 360-15-.01. Requirements for Physicians

(1) Physicians licensed to practice medicine pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-34-26 shall complete Board approved continuing education of not less than 40 hours biennially, with the following exceptions:

(a) Physicians enrolled in full time graduate medical education programs (residencies and fellowships) which are accredited by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association.

(b) Physicians who are initially licensed by the Board and who have not renewed their licenses for the first time.

(c) Physicians whose licenses are not active, such as those who are Inactive or Revoked. Physicians who are suspended or in some other way disciplined by the Board must meet the requirements unless otherwise stipulated by Board Order.

(d) Physicians who are retired, who have an active license, and who provide uncompensated health care services pursuant to Code Section ~~43-34-41~~; shall be required to complete 10 hours of Board approved continuing education biennially.

(e) Physicians specifically exempted from this requirement due to cases of hardship, disability, illness, service in the United States Congress, service in the Georgia General Assembly or military service, if supported by adequate documentation acceptable to the Board.

1. Physicians seeking such an exemption must submit a written request and documentation to support their eligibility for such an exemption.

2. Said request for an exemption should be submitted to the Board in a sufficient time period prior to the expiration of the license to receive a determination from the Board as to whether an exemption would be granted.

~~(f) — Physicians who do not hold a certification in pain management or palliative medicine, and whose opioid pain management patients comprise 50% or more of the patient population must demonstrate competence by biennially obtaining 20 (twenty) hours of continuing medical education ("CME") pertaining to pain management or palliative medicine.~~

~~1. Such CME must be an AMA/AOA PRA Category I CME, a board approved CME program, or any federally approved CME. The CME obtained pursuant to this rule may count towards the CME required for license renewal.~~

(2) The Board accepts the following as meeting its requirement for Board approval:

(a) A.M.A. (American Medical Association) Category 1 credit;

(b) A.O.A. (American Osteopathic Association) Category 1 credit;

(c) A.A.F.P. (American Academy of Family Physicians) Prescribed credit;

(d) A.C.O.G. (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists) Cognates, Category 1;

(e) A.C.E.P. (American College of Emergency Physicians) Category 1.

1. It is the responsibility of the licensee to verify approval with the source of the program, not with the Board, and the licensee should verify approval before taking the course.

(3) Physicians who do not hold a certification in pain management or palliative medicine, and whose opioid pain management patients comprise 50% or more of the patient population must demonstrate competence by biennially obtaining 20 (twenty) hours of continuing medical education ("CME") pertaining to pain management or palliative medicine.

1. Such CME must be an AMA/AOA PRA Category I CME, a board approved CME program, or any federally approved CME. The CME obtained pursuant to this rule may count towards the CME required for license renewal.

~~(3)~~ (4) In meeting the continuing education requirements, the Board will waive one hour CME requirement for physicians for each four hours of documented work by the physician in uncompensated health care services such as free clinics up to a maximum of ten CME hours per biennium. In order to receive the waiver, the physician shall submit to the Board documentation of such work at the time of renewal.

(5) In meeting the continuing education requirements, the Board will waive up to eight CME hours per biennium for peer reviews of Board investigative cases for the Board. Specifically, a physician may obtain waiver of two (2) CME hours for each investigative case peer review conducted at the request of the Board.

~~(4)~~ (6) Physicians who must meet the requirements of this Chapter must document the completion of Board approved continuing education of not less than 40 hours during the two year term of the license. The license will expire on the last day of the month in which the applicant's birthday falls. License must be renewed biennially by the last day of the month in which the applicant's birthday falls and the licensee must satisfy the Board approved continuing education requirements during the biennial renewal cycle to be eligible for renewal.

~~(5)~~ (7) Each licensed physician who must meet these requirements must maintain records of attendance and supporting documents for continuing education for a period of 5 years from the date of attendance. At a minimum, the following must be kept:

- (a) Name of provider;
- (b) Name of program;
- (c) Hours/continuing education Units completed;
- (d) Date of Completion;
- (e) Evidence of A.M.A. Category 1 credit or A.O.A. Category 1 credit.

O.C.G.A. Sections 43-34-3, 43-34-5, 43-34-11, 43-34-24, 43-34-26, and 43-34-41.