

Georgia Composite Medical Board



Fiscal Year 2018 Annual
Report and Newsletter





Georgia Composite Medical Board

December 2018 Newsletter and FY 2018 Annual Report

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Board Elects New Leadership



Pictured: John Jeffrey Marshall, MD, Chair (left) and Ronnie Wallace, Vice Chair (right)

Dr. J. Jeffrey Marshall received his medical degree from University of Florida. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine, and his fellowship in Cardiology and Angioplasty, at Medical College of Virginia. He is board certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Disease and Interventional Cardiology. Dr. Marshall is the Chairman of The Heart Center of Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC). He led the creation of the angioplasty program at NGMC and a regional emergency heart attack response program called Northeast Georgia Regional STEMI System, which has received national recognition for its life-saving work. Dr. Marshall is former President of the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI), which recognized him as a Master Interventionalist (MSCAI) in 2016. He also previous served on the faculty at Emory University, where he was an associate professor of Medicine and Cardiology for 11 years, as well as the faculty at Medical College of Virginia.

Mr. Ronald J. Wallace is the co-founder and President of Webb Creek. For over thirty (30) years Mr. Wallace has been involved in banking, both at community and super regional levels, holding positions of President and CEO as well as EVP of Retail, Commercial, Mortgage and SBA lending areas. Additionally, Mr. Wallace has been involved in economic development activities at both the local and state level including being a State Certified Economic Development Trainer and having started and managed a successful incubator program. Mr. Wallace served local government for twelve years as Rome City Commissioner and Mayor. Additionally, he served state government for many years on the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Board of Directors. He was appointed to its executive committee and chaired the DC/DC Retirement Committee and the State Education Board of GMA. Mr. Wallace was also named to the Georgia Municipal Association Hall of Fame.

New Members Appointed to the Board



Pictured: Thomas Harbin, MD (left) and Rob Law, CFP (right)

The Georgia Composite Medical Board welcomes its newest members: Thomas Harbin, MD and Rob Law, CFP, as a consumer member.

Members of the Georgia Composite Medical Board

John Jeffrey Marshall, MD
Chairperson
 Gainesville

Thomas Harbin Jr., MD
 Atlanta

Ronnie Wallace, MBA
Vice Chairperson
 Rome

Rob Law, CFA
Consumer Member
 Atlanta

John S. Antalis, MD
Past Chairperson
 Dalton

B.K. Mohan, MD
 Riverdale

Keisha Callins, MD, MPH
 Macon

David W. Retterbush, MD
Past Chairperson
 Valdosta

Gretchen Collins, MD
 Lawrenceville

Joe Sam Robinson, MD
 Macon

E. Daniel DeLoach, MD
Past Chairperson
 Savannah

Barby J. Simmons, DO
 Atlanta

Charmaine Faucher, PA-C
Ex-Officio Member
 Kennesaw

Richard L. Weil, MD
Past Chairperson
 Atlanta

Alexander S. Gross, MD
Past Chairperson
 Atlanta

Board Committees

1. The **Investigative Committee** (4 Board members) examines initial complaints, results of all investigations, and medical malpractice reports.
2. The **Physician Licensing Committee** (4 Board members) evaluates each applicant's fitness to practice by establishing and applying standards for licensure and practice; reviews all non-routine applications; sets policies for staff on how to handle non-routine applications.
3. The **Wellness Committee** (5 Board members) reviews all cases in which a practitioner's practice might be affected by a behavioral, cognitive, physical, or substance use issue; meets with the practitioner and his or her advocates and treatment providers to assess the individual situation and ability to return to practice; recommends restrictions or sanctions as warranted.
4. The **Rules Committee** (all board members) develops rules to govern the performance of practitioners regulated by the Board; assists in defining, assessing, and assuring the continued competency of all licensees throughout their careers.
5. **Advisory Committees** (each with at least 2 board members, plus practitioners from the professional community) for each profession regulated — Perfusion, Acupuncture, Respiratory Care, Physicians Assistant, Orthotists & Prosthetists, APRN Protocol, Cosmetic Laser Professionals.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)

During the 2017 legislative session, the Georgia General Assembly passed House Bill 249, which provided several changes to the PDMP:

1. **Dispensers are required to enter prescription information for Schedule II, III, IV controlled substances within 24 hours.** This provides prescribers more efficient access to information with less wait time as they make the best clinical decisions possible for their patients.
2. **All prescribers were required to register in the PDMP by January 1, 2018.** Currently only about 98% of prescribers in Georgia are registered in the PDMP. Prescribers already registered **DO NOT** need to re-register.
3. **Prescribers are required to check PDMP before prescribing opiates or cocaine derivatives in Schedule II drugs or benzodiazepines.** This requirement applies to the first time a prescriber checks the PDMP and every 90 days thereafter.

Registration

To register in PDMP, go to georgia.pmpaware.net/login.

You will need:

- Your name and business address
- Primary phone number
- Last 4 digits of SSN
- DEA number
- NPI number
- Professional license number and type
- Health care specialty

Opioid Prescribing

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

Under the new law, prescribers and dispensers are allowed to register two delegates (staff without a DEA number) per shift or rotation to check the PDMP and enter prescription information.

If you have any questions about the PDMP or registering, please send an email to pdmpsupport@dph.ga.gov or call 404-463-1517.



The Complaint Process

When to file a complaint

If you believe a provider licensed by this Board has:

- ◆ Violated provisions of the Medical Practice Act
- ◆ Acted in a manner that is considered “unprofessional conduct”
- ◆ Provided a level of care that would fall below the minimum standard of care

Anonymous Complaints

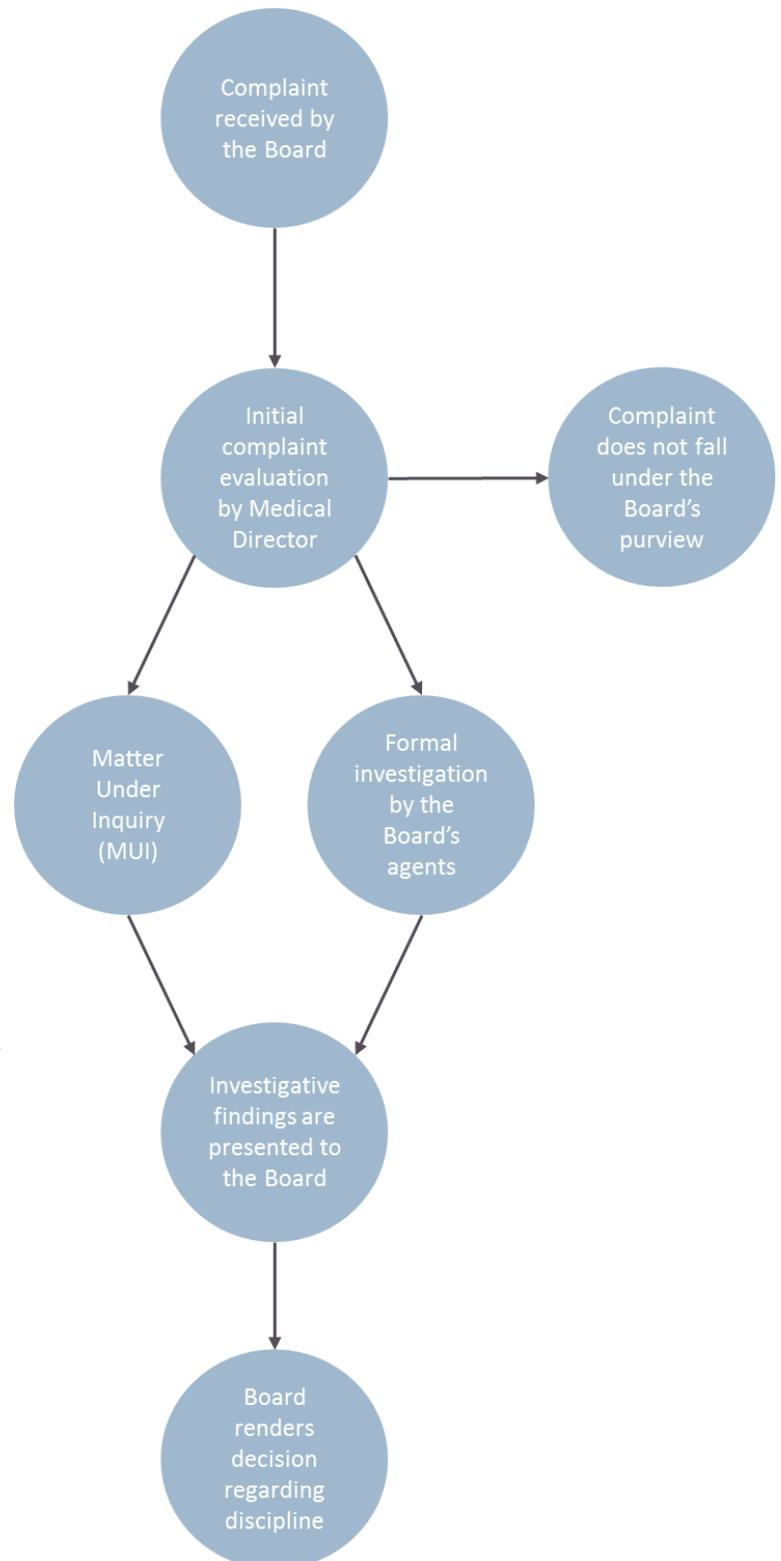
The Medical Board prefers to receive signed and dated complaints. The Board’s investigative files are confidential. However, doctors and other allied health care professionals within the jurisdiction of the Medical Board are disciplined through an administrative law procedure. At some point in this procedure a hearing may be required. In order to defend him or herself, the physician or other licensee has a right to face their accuser. This is a basic principle in the American judicial process. Therefore, the Medical Board does not accept anonymous complaints except in cases where the physician or health care provider is an immediate danger to the citizens of Georgia or a complaint involving the death of a patient. Please remember that if the Board does accept an anonymous complaint, there must be sufficient evidence, absent the identity of the complainant, for the Board to determine whether a sanction

To file a complaint, please fill out our online [Complaint Form](#) or download the paper form and mail it to:

Georgia Composite Medical Board
2 Peachtree Street NW, 6th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303

Please note: We are unable to take complaints by phone. All complaints must be submitted in writing or by online submission.

What happens after a complaint is filed?



Declaration of Patients' Rights

Rule 36-27-.02. Declaration of Patients' Rights

- (1) Physicians are required to post a declaration of the patient's rights to file a grievance with the Board concerning a physician, staff, office, or treatment received.
- (2) The declaration shall contain the following language with no alterations, deletions, or additions:

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

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

- (3) The declaration shall be prominently displayed in a sign that is 8 1/2 x 11 inches in type that is no smaller than 24 point Times Roman print in black on white background. It shall be displayed in the physician's waiting room in an area that is not obstructed and can be easily viewed by patients.

Board Adopted Positions

- ◆ **Physician Scope of Practice (07/12/2018)**: Physicians shall have acquired the appropriate level of education and training intending to expand their practice to an area outside their residency/fellowship, post-graduate education.
- ◆ **Board Guidance (02/09/2017)**: A medical practice advertising "treatment of pain" is required to be licensed as a pain management clinic.
- ◆ **Official Opinion of the Attorney General (10/28/2016)**: Registered nurses and licensed practical nurses may be able to access the GAPDMP database as delegates of physicians who have the authority to prescribe or dispense.
- ◆ **Official Opinion of the Attorney General (10/07/2016)**: A physician is required to report to the Georgia Composite Medical Board a payment made as a result of a high-low agreement in a medical malpractice case, even if there is a judgment in favor of the physician.
- ◆ **AG Memorandum (03/26/2009)**: An advanced practice registered nurse who distributes drug samples must be authorized to do so under a nurse protocol agreement.
- ◆ **Official Opinion of the Attorney General (12/28/2000)**: A physician assistant is allowed to prescribe Schedule III, IV, and V controlled substances while acting under the requisite supervision of a physician and pursuant to the requisite job description, thereby permitting the physician assistant to have a DEA number.

Maintaining Medical Records

If you leave your practice or retire, please read the following rule:

- (a) A physician shall be required to maintain a patient's complete medical record, which may include, but is not limited to, the following: history and physical, progress notes, X-ray reports, photographs, laboratory reports, and other reports as may be required by provision of the law. A physician shall be required to maintain a patient's complete treatment records for a period of no less than 10 years from the patient's last office visit.
- (b) The requirements of this rule shall not apply to a physician who has retired from or sold his medical practice if:
1. such physician has notified his or her active patients of retirement from or sale of practice by mail, at the last known address of his or her patients, offering to provide the patient's records or copies thereof to another provider of the patient's choice and, if the patient so requests, to the patient;
 2. has caused to be published, in the newspaper of the greatest circulation in each county in which the physician practices or practiced and in a local newspaper that serves the immediate practice area, a notice which shall contain the date of such retirement or sale that offers to provide the patient's records or copies thereof to another provider of the patient's choice, and if the patient so requests, to the patient; and
 3. has placed in a conspicuous location in or on the façade of the physician's office, a sign announcing said retirement or sale of the practice. The sign shall be placed 30 days prior to the retirement or the sale of the practice and shall remain until the date of retirement or sale.
 4. Both the notice and sign required by Rule 360-3-.02 shall advise the physician's patients of their opportunity to transfer or receive their records.
- (c) The period specified in this rule may be less than the length of time necessary for a physician to protect himself or herself against other adverse actions. Therefore, physicians may wish to seek advice from private counsel or their malpractice insurance carrier.

Medical Malpractice Coverage

The physician license renewal form includes the 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 35,946 physicians with active licenses, 32,279 (**89.8%**) physicians responded to the question (as of July 2018). 14,148 (**43.8%**) of the respondents were age 56 or older. **1.1%** of the respondents are no longer actively practicing.

2,512 (**7.8%**) respondents said they have no direct or umbrella malpractice coverage. 1,769 (**70%**) of those who responded, "no," are over the age of 56, and 1,128 (**44.9%**) are practicing in Primary Care.

Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2018

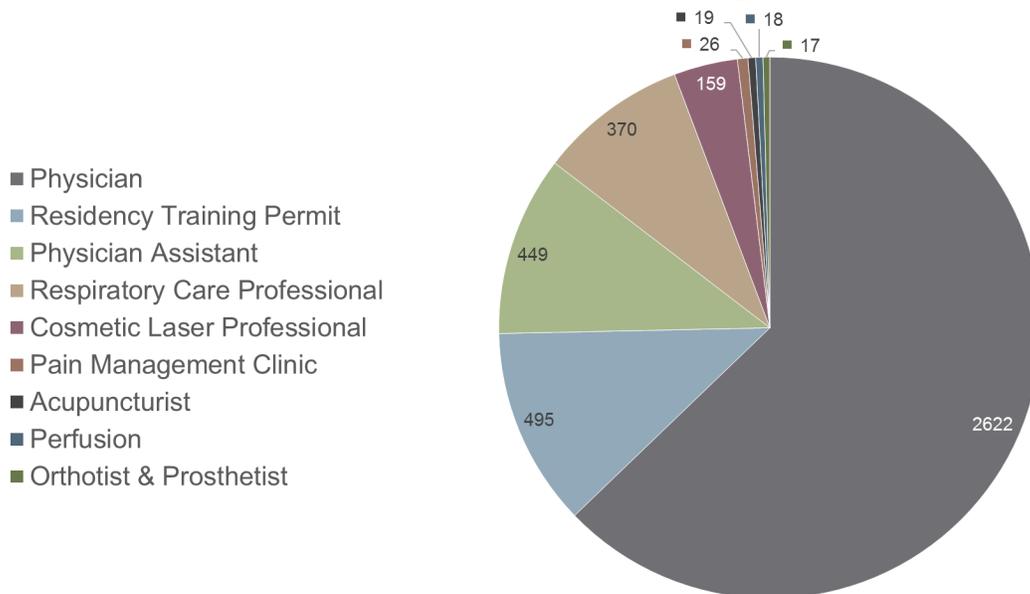
Licensure

The Board is responsible for protecting the citizens of Georgia by ensuring that qualified healthcare providers have the education, training, and the ability to practice with skill and safety. The Board also reviews Advanced Practice Registered Nurse protocols for prescriptive authority.

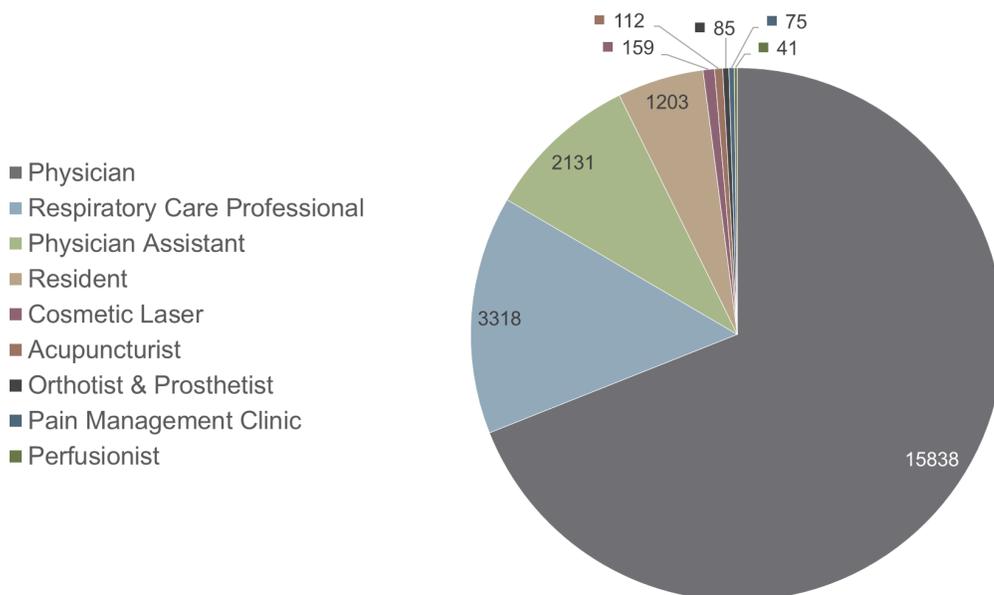
In FY 2018, the Board received **4,175** applications and issued **4,341*** new licenses. The Board also processed **22,962** renewal applications and renewed **19,808** licenses. From applications, the Board generated **\$6,731,057** in revenue.

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

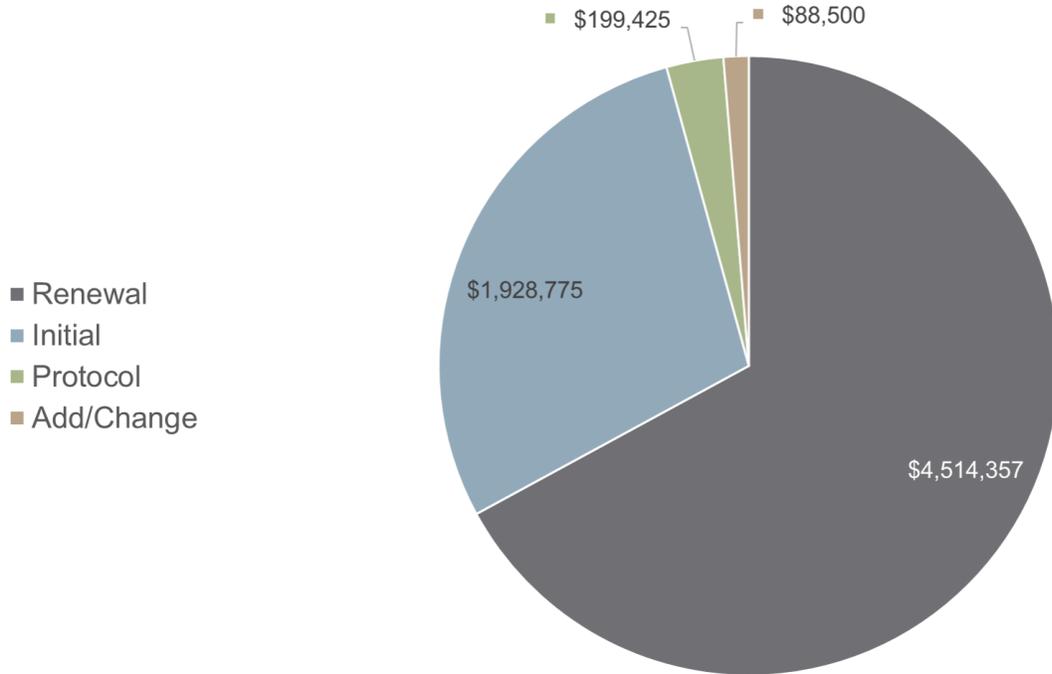
Initial Applications for FY 2018 by Profession



Renewals Processed in FY 2018



Application Type by Revenue for FY 2018



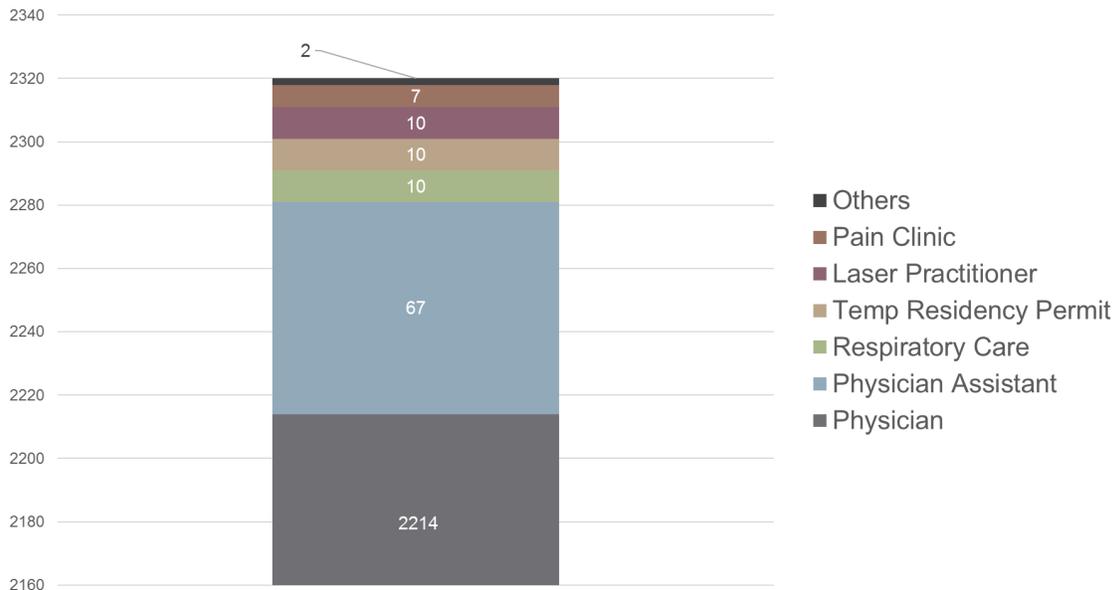
Enforcement

The Georgia Composite Medical Board is responsible for regulating and enforcing the *Medical Malpractice Act* and the Rules adopted by the Board.

During FY 2018, the Board received **2,320** new complaints, a 3% increase from FY 2017. Of the allegations, **1,834** were found to be within the jurisdiction of the Board either as a Matter Under Investigation (MUI) or required an agent investigation.

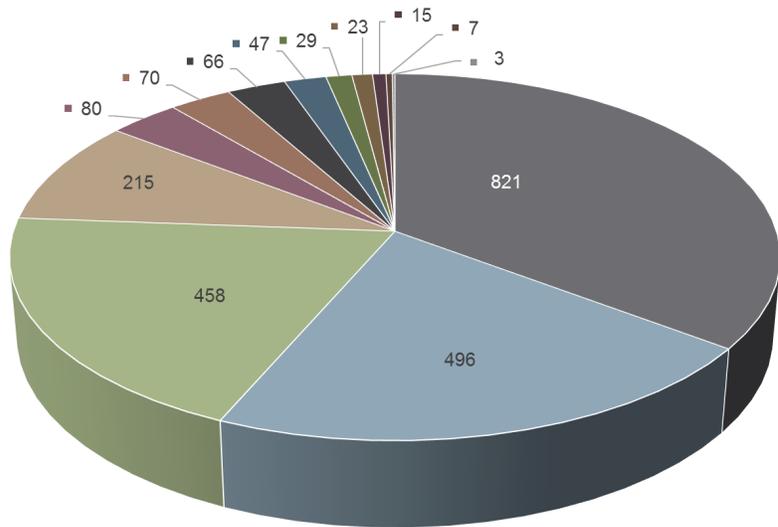
Refer to page 5 for an explanation of the Board’s complaint process.

Complaints Received by Profession for FY 2018



FY18 Complaints Received by Allegation

- Unprofessional Conduct
- No Jurisdiction
- Allegation Not Specified
- Malpractice
- Prescribing
- Records Release
- Disciplinary Action in Another State
- Unlicensed Practice
- Sexual Misconduct
- Rule/Law Violation
- Practice Privileges
- Impairment
- Qualifications



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

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

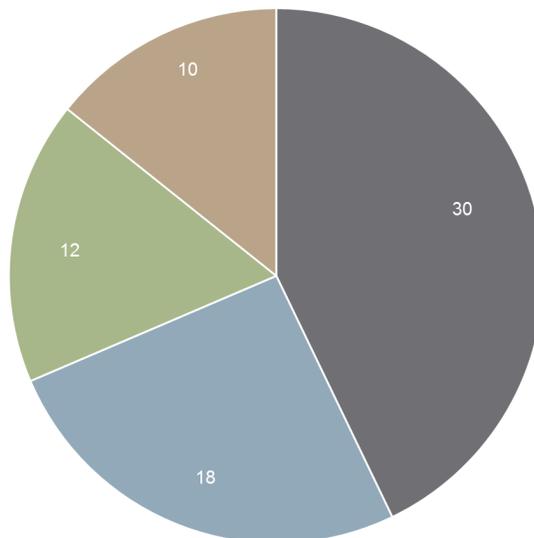
One complaint may contain multiple allegations.

Discipline

During FY 2018, the Board issued **70** public sanctions against licensees through various dispositions (public fine, reprimand, suspension, revocation, etc.).

Disciplinary Actions for FY 2018

- Public Reprimand
- Private Reprimand
- Voluntary Surrender
- Suspension



Finance

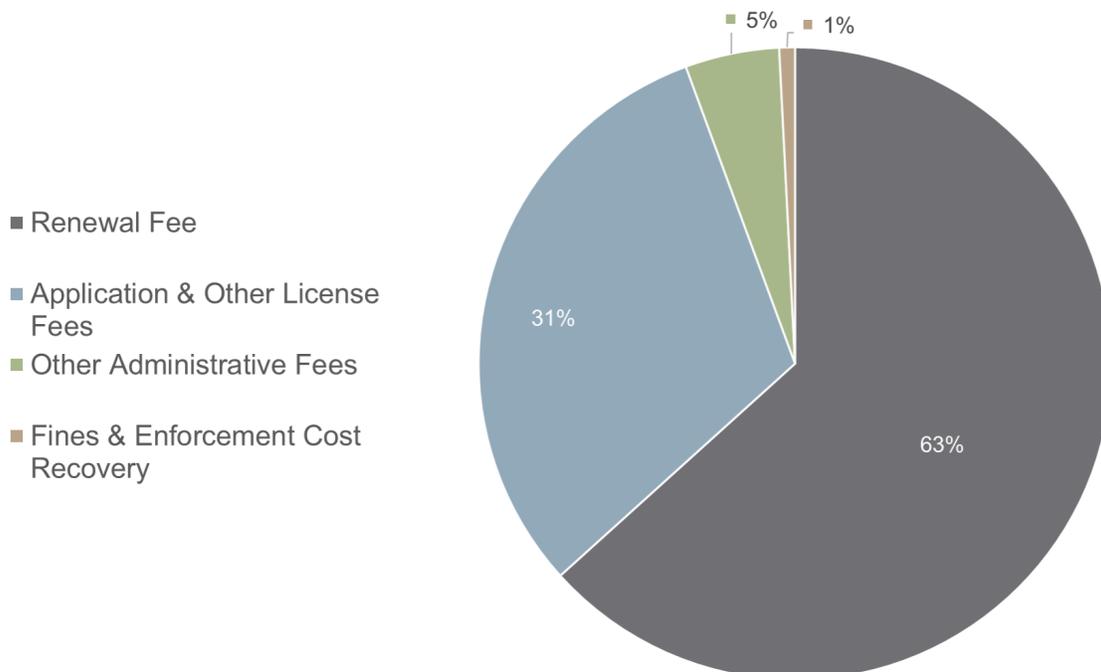
The Georgia Composite Medical Board operates with a budget appropriated by the General Assembly and certain administrative fees. The services that the Board provides to the people of Georgia are delivered in an efficient, cost-effective way.

In FY 2018, the Board's total budget was **\$2,781,625**, appropriated by the General Assembly, with which the Board enhanced the health and safety of Georgia's patients through its licensing and regulatory activities. During the year, the Board collected **\$7,131,119.00**, more than double that amount in fees, which were turned over to the state's treasury.

This is a **156.37%** return of investment on the budget granted by State Legislature. These funds are returned to the general treasury.

Revenue Collected, FY 2018

Fee Category	FY 2018	Percent Change over FY 2017
Renewal Fee	\$4,514,357.00	+4.79%
Application & Other License Fees	\$2,216,700	+23.85%
Other Administrative Fees	\$342,936.00	-7.43%
Fines & Enforcement Cost Recovery	\$57,126.00	-35.46%
Total Revenue Collected	\$7,131,119.00	+8.76%



Board Disciplinary Action Report

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

Revocations, Voluntary Surrenders, and Suspensions

Profession	License	Name	Order	Date
Physician	032120	ANDERSON, BASIL LAMONT	Revocation	07/03/2017
Physician	036932	BYNES, FRANK HOWARD JR.	Voluntary Surrender	09/22/2017
Physician	014892	BURTON, JOSEPH LAWSON	Voluntary Surrender	10/12/2017
Physician	035210	BIRD, GEORGE MACK	Suspension	11/02/2017
Physician	042035	PATTERSON, MARIAN ANTOINETTE	Suspension	03/05/2018
Physician	013844	DEHGAN, ROBERT BAHMAN	Suspension	03/19/2018
Physician	021566	OHRI, ACHHINDER KUMAR	Suspension	04/12/2018
Physician	033534	BRADY, MICHAEL NELSON	Suspension	06/07/2018
Physician	041812	GRAPER, CHARLSE EDWARD	Voluntary Surrender	06/07/2018
Physician	039318	DAVIS-BOUTTE, WINDELL CATHERINE	Suspension	06/07/2018
Physician	025733	CARTER, RICHARD FORD	Suspension	06/12/2018

Public Reprimands and Probation

Profession	License	Name	Order	Date
Physician	032592	JOHNSON-JORDAN, DEBRA ELAINE	Public Reprimand	08/10/2017
Physician	038079	RIZZO, PETER FOLEY	Probation	08/10/2017
Physician	032592	JOHNSON-JORDAN, DEBRA ELAINE	Probation	08/10/2017

Public Reprimands and Probation (continued)

Profession	License	Name	Order	Date
Physician	066890	RAHULAN, VIJIL K	Public Reprimand	08/31/2017
Physician	076267	MOUSAVI, FATEMEH	Public Reprimand	10/05/2017
Physician	021387	COLLINS, DAVID RICHARD	Public Reprimand	11/02/2017
Physician	061430	GAVRIKOV, VITALIY	Probation	11/02/2017
Physician	040887	CLARK, ROBERT MILTON	Public Reprimand	11/03/2017
Physician	042035	PATTERSON, MARIAN ANTOINETTE	Probation	03/05/2018
Physician	042035	PATTERSON, MARIAN ANTOINETTE	Public Reprimand	03/05/2018
Physician	013844	DEHGAN, ROBERT BAHMAN	Public Reprimand	03/19/2018
Physician	051926	DISANTO, VINSON MICHAEL	Public Reprimand	04/12/2018
Physician	021566	OHRI, ACHHINDER KUMAR	Public Reprimand	04/12/2018
Physician	027575	JACKSON, KEITH RICHARD	Public Reprimand	05/03/2018
Physician	050694	BURTON, INGRID RENEE	Public Reprimand	05/03/2018
Physician	033534	BRADY, MICHAEL NELSON	Public Reprimand	06/07/2018

Public Fines

Profession	License No.	Name	Date
Physician	066890	RAHULAN, VIJIL K	08/31/2017
Physician	076267	MOUSAVI, FATEMEH	10/05/2017
Physician	021387	COLLINS, DAVID RICHARD	11/02/2017
Physician	061430	GAVRIKOV, VITALIY	11/02/2017
Physician	027575	JACKSON, KEITH RICHARD	05/03/2018

Other Disciplinary Actions

Profession	License	Name	Order	Date
Physician	034280	WILCOX, MOSES EDWARD	Public Practice Restriction	08/31/2017
Physician	076267	MOUSAVI, FATEMEH	Public Practice Restriction	10/05/2017
Physician	076267	MOUSAVI, FATEMEH	CME	10/05/2017
Physician	021387	COLLINS, DAVID RICHARD	CME	11/02/2017
Physician	033534	BRADY, MICHAEL NELSON	Public Practice Restriction	06/07/2018

Newly Adopted Rules

The following rules have been adopted during FY 2018:

Rule 360-3-.02(21) Unprofessional Conduct Defined	2/5/2018
Rule 360-8-.02 Standards of Operation	2/5/2018
Rule 360-31-.13 O & P	2/5/2018
Rule 360-32-.02 and Rule 360-32-.04	2/5/2018
Rule 360-38 PDMP	2/5/2018
Rule 360-35-.2 Licensure	11/27/2017
Rule 360-37 PDMP—Notice of Intent and Synopsis	11/27/2017
Rule 360-38 PDMP—Notice of Intent and Synopsis	10/13/2017

Rules can be found at the Secretary of State's website at http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/General/rules_and_regulations.

The Georgia PHP – Improving Physician Health and Public Safety across Our State

Paul H. Earley, MD, DFASAM and Robin F. McCown

Physician Health and Wellness programs launched in the 1970's as the medical community began to recognize that addiction is a disease and those who suffer from the illness need confidential treatment, including physicians and physician assistants. Today, 47 states and the District of Columbia are served by Physician Health Programs (PHP's). Each of these programs assist healthcare providers with substance use disorders, many help with other mental health conditions and some provide wellness services.

Georgia is one of the last states in the US to offer such a program. Back in 2010, Senate Bill 252 allowed the Georgia Composite Medical Board to contract with an outside entity to provide the PHP services. The Georgia PHP was formed and opened its doors in August 2012. Since that time, the Georgia PHP has provided services to almost 500 licensees and is currently supporting approximately 240 individuals (mostly physicians) to remain healthy and productive. The Georgia PHP is not a treating facility. We function more like an employee assistance program, triaging referrals, funneling them for assessment if needed, ensuring they obtain the proper initial treatment and provide the long-term monitoring that generates an astounding record of recovery. Recently, Georgia PHP expanded services to include individuals with other mental health conditions, ensuring that they too are able to safely practice and maintain their health.

Physicians who develop substance abuse disorders live in secrecy and shame. We are supposed to know better. The data show something different. Physicians develop addiction disorders with the same frequency as the general public. Not surprisingly, the most common substance that physicians' abuse is alcohol. Dependence upon the medications we prescribe or administer—primarily opioids—is the second most common form of substance misuse. This type of addiction seems to be an occupational hazard, access accelerates and exacerbates the illness. Despite the frequency and severity of addiction among physicians, we do extremely well if and when proper care is obtained. Multiple well-designed studies demonstrate that over 80% of physicians who engage in a PHP program maintain verified abstinence for five years or more (the common length of a monitoring agreement). Although we become ill, proper care allows us to regain health, our families trust and, importantly, public safety is ensured.

In the past, if a physician became ill with a substance-related disorder, their illness would have to be reported to the Georgia Medical Board. No one liked this arrangement, most of all the members of the medical board. Today, if a physician is suspected of having an addiction problem, they can be referred to the Georgia PHP directly. As long as that physician cooperates with proper assessment and established treatment protocols, they do not have to be reported to the medical board in the vast majority of cases. If a hospital or practice partners, friends, spouses or relatives are concerned about a physician or PA, they can call us directly. After appropriate evaluation, we often find that a substance use disorder is not present. In such cases, we direct that individual to other types of care, if indicated. So, if you are reading this and are concerned about someone you care about, please call us or email us.

Our growth is not without its growing pains. Unfortunately, the Georgia legislature mandated a Professional Health Program, but did not fund it. Therefore, we are supported solely by participant fees, unlike most states across the U.S. The Georgia physicians we monitor are the sole source of our survival. Because we are a wellness and public safety program, it doesn't make sense that only ill physicians should pay for our services. In most states, however, funding comes from multiple sources, including direct state funds, licensure fees, assistance from malpractice carriers, hospital and their associations, and physician societies. We ask for your help in this regard. Our vision is to improve the health of all Georgians through the health of Georgia's physicians. To make a donation or to get additional information, please visit our web site www.gapnp.org or call 855-MY-GAPHP.



Frequently Asked Questions

Rules and Laws

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.

Cosmetic Laser Licensure

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.

Board Issues Call for Advisory Committee Nominations and Physician Peer Reviewers

The **Cosmetic Laser Professionals Advisory Committee** has vacancies for Cosmetic Laser Practitioner members. Qualified candidates must be licensed in good standing to practice cosmetic laser services 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 LaSharn Hughes at lhughes@dch.ga.gov.

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 LaSharn Hughes at lhughes@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 LaSharn Hughes at lhughes@dch.ga.gov.

The Board is also in search of **Physician Peer Reviewers** for assistance in our investigative review process. See our [flyer](#) for more information.

Active License Count on December 19, 2018

Physicians*	36,483	
Physician Assistants	5,137	
Respiratory Care Professionals	5,630	
Auricular Detoxification Technicians	0	*Also includes Provisional, Institutional, and Volunteer in Medicine Physicians
Acupuncturists	270	**Includes professionals who are Orthotists, Prosthetists, and those who hold a dual license for O&P
Perfusionists	164	
Residents in Training	2,485	***Includes Senior and Assistant Laser Practitioners
Orthotists & Prosthetists**	225	
Pain Management Clinics	226	
Cosmetic Laser Practitioners***	892	
Total, all license types	51,512	

License Renewal Reminder:

Please check the status of your license at the Board's website, <https://medicalboard.georgia.gov/>. You can also review your identification card for your expiration date. **Once your license expires, you should not practice.** Please make sure your email is on file with the Board. The Board sends your renewals through email, via SendGrid.

Update your profile:

Please keep your physician profile up to date using the [Update and Correction Form](#). Each licensee shall notify the Board within thirty (30) days, in writing, of all changes of address. Any mailing or notice from the Board shall be considered to be served on the licensee when sent to the licensee's last address on file with the Board.

Georgia Composite Medical Board Management Staff

LaSharn Hughes, MBA, Executive Director

Carl Bedingfield, MD, Medical Director

Diane Atkinson, Board Secretary

Karl Reimers, Director of Investigations

Phyllis White, Operations Manager

Phyllis Douglas, JD, Legal Services Officer

Editor: Harini Indrakrishnan

The Board thanks **Dr. Keisha Callins**, Board member from Macon, for over four years of service to the Georgia Composite Medical Board. She will be missed.

Upcoming Board Meetings

January 10, 2019	Board Meeting 2 Peachtree Street, NW, 5 th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303
February 7, 2019	Board Meeting 2 Peachtree Street, NW, 5 th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303
March 7, 2019	Board Meeting 2 Peachtree Street, NW, 5 th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303
April 11, 2019	External Board Meeting GA-PCOM Suwanee, Georgia 30024
May 2-3, 2019	External Board Meeting MCG at AU Augusta, Georgia 30912
June 13, 2019	Board Meeting 2 Peachtree Street, NW, 5 th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303
July 11, 2019	Board Meeting 2 Peachtree Street, NW, 5 th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303
August 8, 2019	Board Meeting 2 Peachtree Street, NW, 5 th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Upcoming State Holidays

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

2019

Tuesday, January 1

New Year's Day

Monday, January 21

Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday

Monday, April 22

State Holiday

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day

Thursday, July 4

Independence Day

Monday, September 2

Labor Day

Monday, October 14

Columbus Day

Monday, November 11

Veterans Day

Thursday, November 28

Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 29

State Holiday

Tuesday, December 24

State Holiday

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day

Board Offices Moved

The Board offices moved from the 36th floor to the 6th floor; board meetings will now be conducted on the 5th floor wood-paneled board room. Since the move, we are still experiencing problems with our phones, as some are not connected. These problems have been reported with an expedited repair request. If you are unable to reach a staff member, please send an email to the employee you are trying to reach or to <https://medicalboard.georgia.gov>.

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