

2002 Press Releases

February 14, 2002

11 Doctors Disciplined

During its February 7-8 Board meeting, the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners disciplined 11 licensed physicians, who received one or more of the following actions: one surrender/revocation; four suspensions, of which one was stayed and probated under various terms and conditions; one restriction; and one public reprimand. In addition, three administrative penalties totaling \$8,500 were assessed.

Governor Appoints New Board Members

Governor Rick Perry has appointed four new board members. Patricia S. Blackwell, of Midland, is administrative assistant for the West Texas Geological Society and served six years on the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners. A public member of the board, she replaces Penny Angelo, also of Midland. Roberta Kalafut, D.O., of Abilene, earned her medical degree from Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at Johns Hopkins Hospital and Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Maryland. She is presently Vice Chief of Staff at Abilene Regional Medical Center and maintains a private practice in physical medicine and rehabilitation in Abilene. She replaced R. Russell Thomas, D.O., of Austin. John W. Pate Jr., M.D., graduated from the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Texas Dental Branch, Houston, and the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston. He is board certified in Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery and Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He replaces Vernon Ryan, M.D., of San Angelo. Saleh M. Shenaq, M.D., of Houston, is a native of Jordan and attended Cairo University School of Medicine in Egypt. He is Professor of Surgery, and Program Director, Plastic Surgery Residency Training, at Baylor College of Medicine. He replaces William H. Fleming, III, M.D., also of Houston. All terms expire April 13, 2007.

Rule Changes

The Board adopted the following proposed rule changes that were published in the *Texas Register*: Chapter 161, General Provisions: rule review, repeal of §§161.1-161.5, and new §§161.1-161.13, regarding the purpose and function of the board, clarification of its organization and structure, and description of each committee's responsibilities. Chapter 163, Licensure: amendments to §§163.1-163.5, 163.9, and 163.10 regarding the performance and delivery of medical education, examinations, education and documentation requirements, relicensure requirements, and the use of the Federation of State Medical Boards' Credentials Verification Service (FCVS).

Chapter 171, Postgraduate Training Permits (new title): amendments to §§171.1-171.7 relating to eligibility and documentation requirements of Physician in Training Permits and Visiting Professor Permits, along with general cleanup of the chapter. Chapter 180, Rehabilitation Orders: repeal of §180.1 and new §180.1 regarding the purpose of rehabilitation orders and the factors to be considered when proposing and determining eligibility for a rehabilitation order. Chapter 181, Contact Lens Prescriptions: rule review and amendments to §§181.1-181.3 and 181.5-181.7 for general cleanup of the chapter and update of Occupations Code cites. Chapter 183, Acupuncture: amendments to §183.4 regarding licensure documentation. Chapter 185, Physician Assistants: amendments to §§185.4 and 185.9 regarding physician assistants not currently in active practice and reactivation of an inactive license.

Proposed Rules

The Board proposed the following rule changes for publication in the *Texas Register* and comment: Chapter 184, Surgical Assistants (new chapter): new rule resulting from HB 1183 of the 77th Legislature requiring the board to license and regulate surgical assistants. Chapter 185, Physician Assistants: proposed amendment to §185.16, prohibiting a physician assistant from being supervised by a physician under a board order. Chapter 189, Compliance Program: proposed new chapter concerning requirements of responsibilities for probationers and the system for monitoring a probationer's compliance. Chapter 193, proposed amendment to §193.6 concerning designation of prescriptive authority to alternative practice sites as specified in SB1166.

For copies of rule changes or proposed rules, write the Board at MC 901, P.O. Box 2018, Austin, TX 78768-2018, or e-mail jill.wiggins@tmb.state.tx.us