

2002 Press Releases

May 21, 2002

25 Doctors Disciplined

During its May 16-17 Board meeting, the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners disciplined 25 licensed physicians. Twenty-three received one or more of the following actions: 10 surrender/revocations, of which one was stayed and probated under various terms and conditions; six suspensions, of which two were stayed and probated under various terms and conditions; five restrictions; and two public reprimands. Five administrative penalties totaling \$12,500 were assessed. In addition, the board temporarily suspended the licenses of two physicians during May. The board also took disciplinary action against one acupuncturist. At its meeting on April 26, the Texas State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners took disciplinary action against five physician assistants.

Board Passes Resolution

The board passed the following resolution at the May 16-17 board meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners considers the protection of the people of Texas as the agency's first priority. In order to better protect the people, the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners renews its commitment to dedicate all available resources of personnel and funds to enforcement efforts and activities directed to investigating and disciplining those physicians whose professional performance or behavior has resulted in patient harm to include death, serious bodily injury, or sexual impropriety.

Rule Changes

The Board adopted the following proposed rule changes that were published in the *Texas Register*: Chapter 175, Fees, Penalties, and Applications. Amendment to §175.1 regarding an increase in the annual registration permit fee for physicians to be used to create a system for on-line renewals. Chapter 184, Surgical Assistants. New §§184.1, .6, .8, .13 and .15, regarding the regulation of surgical assistants as mandated by HB 1183 of the 77th Legislature. Based on comments received, §184.4 will be withdrawn.

Proposed Rule Changes

The Board proposed the following rule changes for publication in the *Texas Register* and comment: Chapter 163, Licensure. Proposed change to ♦163.1(12) adding definition language relating to ♦substantially equivalent to a Texas medical school♦ and ♦163.5 adding language regarding documentation related to the supervision of medical students. Chapter 165, Medical Records. Proposed revision to reference access to billing records and separate fees to be charged for requested medical records and billing records. Chapter 175, Fees, Penalties, and Applications. Proposed amendment to ♦175.1 to add \$5 to Physician Assistant registration to cover costs of the development of on-line registration. Chapter 183, Acupuncture. Proposed amendment to ♦183.20 concerning Continuing Acupuncture Education, allowing carryover of CAE credits from one year to the next; also allows a small amount of CAE credit for CAE presenters. Chapter 184, Surgical Assistants. Proposed new ♦184.4 regarding qualifications for licensure as a surgical assistant will be published as an emergency rule, in addition to following the regular rule-making process. Proposed new ♦♦184.17-.24 related to disciplinary guidelines, administrative penalties, complaint procedure notification, investigations and impaired surgical assistants. Chapter 190, Disciplinary Guidelines. Proposed amendments to ♦190.1 regarding clarification of the definition of practice inconsistent with public health and welfare and general clean-up of the chapter. Chapter 193, Standing Delegation Orders. New ♦♦193.11 and 193.12 concerning the use of lasers.

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