

2005 Press Releases

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Texas Medical Board Expediting Temporary Licenses for Out of State Physicians

The Texas Medical Board has created an expedited process for physicians coming into Texas from Louisiana and other areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina, as well as physicians coming from other states wishing to assist with the relief effort.

The agency is using its ability to issue temporary permits, which require a licensed Texas physician to sponsor the incoming visiting physician, and extending the normal 10-day expiration to 45 days, during which time the agency will re-evaluate those physicians wishing to stay in Texas for a longer period. There is no fee for the temporary permit.

The agency posted information on its web site Thursday, and began processing permits Friday. Licensure staff worked over the holiday weekend to accept and process permits and by Tuesday morning 28 had been issued, some to Louisiana doctors wanting to volunteer or needing to work and others from California, the District of Columbia, Kentucky, New Jersey and Wisconsin.

There were sporadic e-mail problems during the weekend due to required network maintenance resulting from the agency's name change to Texas Medical Board on September 1, but they are now resolved. Information is on the TMB web site at www.tmb.state.tx.us. Under Whats New click on Katrina Emergency Request or go directly to http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/news/katrina_emergency.php and see Visiting Physician Temporary Licenses, where there is a link to a form listing all the requirements for the new permits, which may be faxed to (512) 305-7009.

TMB is dedicated to its mission to protect the public by assuring that only qualified physicians treat patients in Texas, while making the process of admitting qualified physicians as quick and free of red tape as possible. Anyone without access to the Internet or with questions not answered on the web site may call the agency Customer Information Center at (512) 305-7030.

-30-

The Texas Medical Board, the state agency that regulates physicians, physician assistants, surgical assistants and acupuncturists, provides consumer protection through licensure, investigation and disciplinary action. The Board, under President Roberta M. Kalafut, D.O., and Executive Director Donald W. Patrick, M.D., J.D., and mandated by Senate Bill 104 of the 78th Legislature and S.B. 419 of the 79th Legislature, is strengthening and accelerating the disciplinary process for licensees who fail to meet the required standards of professional proficiency and behavior. Information on filing a complaint is on the agency web site at www.tsbme.state.tx.us or by calling (800) 201-9353.

Media contact Public Information Officer Jill Wiggins at
jill.wiggins@tmb.state.tx.us or (512) 305-7018

Non-media contact: (512) 305-7030 or (800) 248-4062

Open records requests for orders may be made to

or write to:

Texas Medical Board
MC 251
P.O. Box 2018
Austin, TX 78768-2018

To receive press releases by e-mail: jill.wiggins@tmb.state.tx.us