



## Message from the TMB President

### Rulemaking Update



**Dr. Zaafran**

In my last message, I highlighted several bills passed during the most recent legislative session that specifically impacted TMB licensees. Since then, Board staff have been actively working to identify and implement the necessary process changes.

#### **HB 2038 - The DOCTOR Act**

A major focus of the Board recently has been the implementation of HB 2038, also known as the DOCTOR Act. As a reminder, this bill:

- Creates a new licensure pathway for internationally trained physicians.
- Establishes a license type for U.S. medical school graduates who do not match into a residency program.

This legislation requires the adoption of rules and earlier this month, on September 11, Board staff hosted a stakeholder meeting to discuss draft rules.

A significant portion of the meeting focused on provisional licensure for international applicants who would practice under supervision for four years in specific facilities before being eligible for a full, unrestricted license.

Key discussion points included:

- Clarifying the definition of “affiliated” practice settings.
- Exploring options to allow greater flexibility in provisional license placements and practice settings.
- Evaluating the role of initial and ongoing competency assessments.

There was also robust discussion on how to support these physicians in becoming board certified. While specialty board certification is not required for licensure or renewal

in Texas, it is often essential for hospital privileges and insurance coverage. We are committed to ensuring that this pathway does not create a class of “second-tier” physicians. TMB will continue working with the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) to find a path forward.

Board staff are currently finalizing proposed rules for HB 2038. These will be presented at the full Board meeting on **October 17, 2025**. If approved, the rules will be submitted to the Texas Register for a minimum 30-day public comment period. Board staff will make any necessary revisions to the proposed rules based on public comments received and put a final rule before the full Board for adoption at the **December 12, 2025**, meeting. The rule will take effect 20 days after adoption, and the Board expects to begin accepting applications around the first of the year.



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## Psychotropic Ketamine Therapy Standards

Earlier this year, I committed to a more thorough review of low-dose ketamine therapy and its regulatory oversight.



At the September 11 stakeholder meeting, participants offered valuable feedback. While all recognized the therapeutic potential of ketamine, discussions focused on:

- Ensuring proper dosing and patient safety,
- The need for continuous cardiac and respiratory monitoring,
- The importance of immediate physician availability during administration, and
- The role of advanced practice providers.

While the Board is not under a legislative deadline to adopt rules in this area, we acknowledge that additional regulatory guidance is needed. We will continue to evaluate these issues carefully and appreciate the input from all participants at the meeting.

## Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Rules

We have also begun receiving feedback on changes to the Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) rules (formerly Rule 200, now Rule 171) that took effect earlier this year.

Let me clarify two of the most frequently raised concerns:

### ▶ Treatment Disclosure and Consent Form

The updated rules introduce a standardized disclosure and consent form for documenting CAM treatments in the patient record. This replaces more variable consent documentation practices from the previous rules. The goal is to simplify compliance for physicians and improve clarity for patients.

### ▶ Removal of Certain Language

Some are concerned about the removal of language stating that physicians “should be allowed a reasonable and responsible degree of latitude” in offering therapies, and that “patients have a right to seek” CAM. While this language has been streamlined, it does not limit a physician’s ability to offer CAM or a patient’s right to seek it.

These revisions aimed to remove redundant language already addressed in statute. The very existence of the TMB rules on CAM confirms its legitimacy and availability. We understand that the changes caused some confusion, but rest assured — patients continue to have access to CAM, and physicians remain fully authorized to provide it.

The new disclosure form is designed to improve transparency and compliance, making it easier for both patients and providers to engage with CAM responsibly.

## Stay Engaged with TMB Rulemaking

Finally, I encourage everyone to stay informed and involved in our rulemaking process. The best way to track updates is by signing up for email notifications from the Texas Secretary of State’s Office. Subscribers receive alerts on proposed and adopted rules, public hearings, open meetings, and more.

To sign up, [email](#) the Texas Register or call 512-463-5561.

Thank you again to all who continue to engage with the Board. Your feedback and participation are vital to developing thoughtful, effective policies that serve both physicians and patients across Texas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Sherif Zaafran".

Dr. Sherif Zaafran, M.D., FASA  
Texas Medical Board President

## New Respiratory Board Member



Matthew Goldwater, RCP, of Georgetown, is the senior sales executive for ventilation at Dräger. He is a member of the American Association for Respiratory Care and an assistant coach with the Georgetown Youth Baseball Association. Goldwater received a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy from Texas State University and a Master of Business Administration from The University of Texas at Tyler.

## New Website Features Article

We're excited to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website — built with **you** in mind. This update delivers a more modern look, enhanced mobile responsiveness, and powerful new features designed to make your experience smoother, faster, and more intuitive.

### What's New?

#### Improved User Experience

Our clean, modern design ensures a more intuitive and enjoyable browsing experience. Whether you're on a desktop, tablet, or smartphone, the site adjusts seamlessly for optimal viewing. Navigation is now faster and more user-friendly, helping you find what you need with ease.

#### Quick Access to Top Pages

We've made the most visited pages easily accessible from the top navigation menu on every page:

- **Look Up a License**
- **File a Complaint**
- **Search Board Action**
- **My TMB**

#### Enhanced Search Functionality

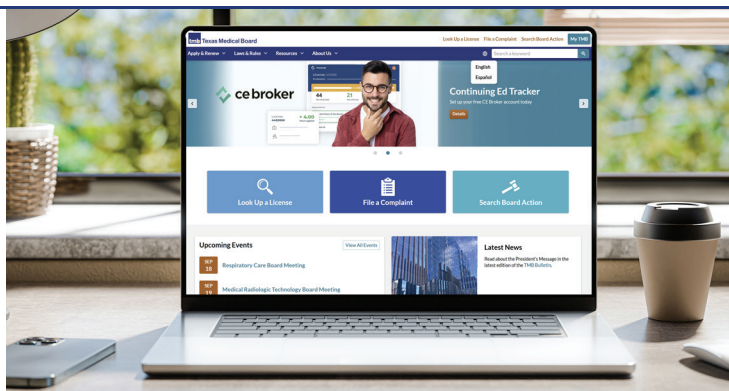
Our upgraded search tool features advanced filters for more accurate and efficient results. Whether you're looking for documents, information, or resources, our smarter search helps you find it faster.

#### Simplified Navigation

To make browsing even easier, we've streamlined our main menu into just four core sections:

- **Apply & Renew**
- **Laws & Rules**
- **Resources**
- **About Us**

Fewer options mean faster decisions and less time spent hunting for information.



#### Tailored Experience by Profession or User Type

You can now select your profession (e.g., Physician, Physician Assistant) or user type (Public, Applicants, Licensees) for a customized experience.

#### Additional Features

##### Helpful Links & Subnavigation

Jump straight to popular content with fewer clicks. The subnavigation system improves efficiency and reduces time spent navigating.

##### Interactive Forms Table

Our new forms table in the Resources > For Applicants & Licensees section allows you to search and filter forms quickly and easily.

##### Events Calendar

View previous and upcoming Board & Committee meetings at a glance. Future enhancements will include webinars and training events.

### What's Next?

This redesign is just the beginning. Over the coming months, we'll continue to roll out new features and enhancements to better serve your needs like our new chatbot that can answer common questions anytime and connect users to a live call center during business hours.

We'd love to hear from you! Your feedback helps us improve. Please share your thoughts or suggestions to our **Communications Department**.

## Set Up Your Free CE Broker Account Today!

Attention! Due to recent legislation, continuing education compliance for all healthcare practitioners must be verified through a continuing education tracking system **BEFORE RENEWAL**.

The TMB will maintain its collaboration with CE Broker to fulfill this mandate. CE Broker is an online continuing education compliance platform that allows licensees to find, track, and report continuing education coursework. CE Broker's basic account is **free**, and premium features are available at a cost for those who want additional tools.

Licensees renewing **on or after September 1, 2026**, must have an active basic CE Broker account and ensure that all completed continuing education coursework is reported on

the platform. Licensees will be unable to renew if the TMB cannot verify their CE compliance through CE Broker.

Setting up your account now allows you to start tracking and organizing your CE in one place and get familiar with the platform — so you are fully prepared when the requirement takes effect.

Need help getting started or want to understand the audit process? Visit our **YouTube channel** for helpful videos that walk you through how to set up your CE Broker account and explain what to expect if you are selected for a **CE audit**.

For more information about this opportunity, please visit **TMB Continuing Education Tracking**.

## Physician Fingerprinting Renewal Requirement



As part of recent legislation, physicians are required to submit fingerprints prior to having their license renewed unless they were fingerprinted for licensing after January 15, 2018. *Please note that this is a one-time requirement; additional fingerprint results will not be required for subsequent renewals.*

Licensees are encouraged to begin the process early. If you wish to submit your fingerprints before your renewal period, please e-mail [Registrations](#) and request instructions for your fingerprint submission, along with the required 6-digit ID number for submitting your fingerprints.

You can complete the fingerprint requirement at any point prior to your license expiration date.

Reminders of the fingerprint requirement will be included in the renewal notice sent out 90 days prior to the licensee's current expiration date. Detailed instructions will be included in the e-mail renewal reminder notices.

For further information on how to begin the process and access other important [FAQs](#), please visit our website.

## Case Review Experts Needed

TMB is calling for physicians in several specialties to serve as experts in reviewing standard of care cases, specifically in the following areas: Medical Oncology, Neuropsychiatry, Obstetrics, Pathology Laboratory Medicine, Pediatric Gastroenterology, Pediatric Neurology, Pediatric Pulmonology, Radiology (mammograms), and Transplant Surgery.

As an expert to the Board, your identity for any individual case will be confidential. **Reimbursement for time spent performing case review is offered as is credit towards the continuing medical education requirements for Texas state licensure.** The requirements for serving are:

- Active license to practice in Texas or a state that is a member of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
- Active practice
- No history of negative peer review action or license restriction
- Acceptable malpractice history
- Initial board certification by an organization that is a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties, the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists or the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Please consider helping us to improve the quality of medical practice in Texas. For more information, please email **Expert Panelists**.



## TMB Honored with 2025 Wellbeing First Champion Recognition

We're proud to share that the Texas Medical Board has once again been recognized as a Wellbeing First Champion by the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation for 2025!



This recognition confirms that our licensing applications do not contain intrusive mental health questions or stigmatizing language and serves as a symbol of our ongoing dedication to the mental health and wellbeing of healthcare workers in this state.

As we recognize National Recovery Month this month and look forward to Mental Illness Awareness Week next month (October 6 -12), we also want to highlight the important work of the Texas Physician Health Program (TXPHP). TXPHP provides confidential support to health professionals who may be navigating potentially impairing conditions, including those in recovery. Through early intervention, referral to treatment, and monitoring, the program helps practitioners return to practice safely and confidently. At TMB, we believe that supporting the mental health of our licensees is just as important as supporting their patients.

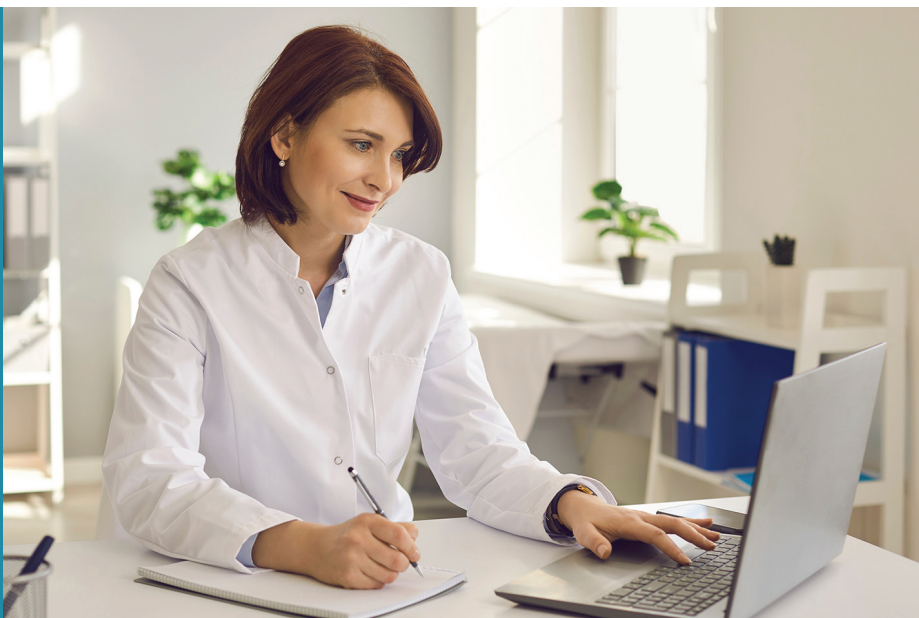
To learn more about the excellent work being done at the **TXPHP** and the **Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation**, please visit their respective websites.





Texas  
Medical  
Board

## CME OUTREACH



### Schedule TMB's FREE One-Hour CME Virtual Sessions for Your Group

TMB offers one-hour CME-eligible virtual presentations to inform and educate physician licensees about the regulation of the practice of medicine through physician licensure and enforcement. Available sessions are listed below:

#### Upholding Professional Accountability: What You Need to Know About Physician Licensure, Discipline, and Regulation in Texas

- A. Overview of TMB Licensure and Enforcement Processes
- B. Review of Board Rules and Common Violations
- C. Legislative Update
- D. Question and Answer Session

#### TMB Chronic Pain Primer

- A. Overview of TMB Enforcement Process
- B. Review of Statutes and Rules on Pain Management
- C. The Prescription Monitoring Program and PMC Inspections
- D. Question and Answer Session

TMB can provide the CME as one hour of formal hours of study in medical ethics and/or professional responsibility to be applied toward TMB registration requirements. If your hospital, medical, or specialty society is already designated as, or works in conjunction with, a provider of AMA PRA Category 1 CME, we can assist in applying for Category I accreditation for the TMB presentations. A minimum of 15 participants is required.

**If you have questions or would like to schedule a presentation for your group, please email [Outreach](#).**

## Tick-Borne Diseases

Per [statute](#), physicians treating tick-borne diseases must complete CME in this area. Any course taken must meet Formal Category 1 or 1A requirements. For more information on continuing education (CE) hours that must be obtained to meet a respective occupation's active licensure requirements, please visit the [TMB Continuing Education Requirements](#) page.



## Update on Military Fee Waiver for Physician Applicants



As of September 1, 2025, the Military Fee Waiver no longer requires a separate review process for **Physician** applicants before submitting an online application. Applicants who are military service members, spouses of service members, or military veterans can directly indicate

their status within the online application, and the application fee will be waived accordingly.

Please note that the application fee will be required if, upon review of the military documentation, it is determined that an applicant does not qualify for the fee waiver.

This change currently applies **only to Physician applicants**. For all other license types, the Military Fee Waiver remains a separate review process at this time.

This change is part of a series of IT enhancements the Board is currently exploring. We look forward to sharing more updates in the future about how we are streamlining processes for our entire licensee community!

For more information on the [military fee waiver](#), please visit the TMB website.

## Welcome New Licensees

The Texas Medical Board issued 1,727 licenses between July 12, 2025 and September 2, 2025. The Board is pleased to welcome these individuals to our licensee community! An acknowledgment of this accomplishment for each licensee can be found under the 'Latest News' section on the [TMB website](#).



## Formal Complaints

Name	License Number	Date Filed	Allegations
Shaker, Mena A., D.O., Houston	R9281	08/29/2025	Failure to meet standard of care; improper supervision or delegation; peer review action; failure to practice medicine in an acceptable professional manner; inadequate medical records.
Romero-Arreola, Fermin, M.D., Laredo	M2234	08/29/2025	Failure to meet standard of care; peer review action; unprofessional conduct; nontherapeutic prescribing; inadequate medical records.
Baluch, Amir, M.D., Dallas	N5550	08/29/2025	Failure to meet standard of care; improper supervision or delegation; unprofessional conduct; nontherapeutic prescribing; inadequate medical records.
Armando Pacheco, David, M.D., Beaumont	S3036	08/29/2025	Unprofessional conduct; violation of Board rules.
Gilcrease, Gary Lawrence, M.D., Kyle	K9069	08/27/2025	Unprofessional conduct; violation of prior Board order; violation of Board rules.
Trabulsi, Adnan, M.D., Houston	L2704	08/27/2025	Unprofessional conduct; failure to practice medicine in an acceptable professional manner.
Sampath, Karthik, M.D., Allen	Q1734	08/20/2025	Impairment; unprofessional conduct.
Suarez Jaramillo, Javier, P.A., Donna	PA10788	08/18/2025	Failure to practice in an acceptable professional manner; unprofessional conduct; inadequate medical records.
Kaufman, Ronald Wayne, RCP, Plano	RCP00054411	07/30/2025	Impairment; unprofessional conduct; violation of Board rules.
Charepoo, Rambod, M.D., Austin	S4112	07/25/2025	Unprofessional conduct; violation of prior Board order; violation of Board rules.
Cabret, Michelle Lynn, M.D., Austin	Q7536	07/25/2025	Failure to meet standard of care; failure to practice in an acceptable professional manner; nontherapeutic prescribing; inadequate medical records.

## Disciplinary Actions

The following disciplinary actions have been taken since the previous bulletin was issued. To read previous bulletins and news releases, visit the [TMB Newsroom](#).

To view disciplinary orders and Board action history, visit the TMB website, click on “[Look Up a License](#)” or “[Search Board Action](#)”, accept the usage terms, then type in an individual’s name. Click on the name shown in the search results to view an individual’s full profile. Within the profile is a button that says “Current Board Action.”

Texas Medical Board Disciplinary Actions			
Name	License Number	Action Type	Action Date
Khan, Kiran	No License	Agreed Cease and Desist	7/30/2025
Mazzare, Mark A., M.D.	K3331	Revocation by Operation of Law	8/4/2025
Bean, Lawrence, M.D.	M1503	Temporary Suspension	8/13/2025
Dunbar, Dwayne, M.D.	U4791	Temporary Suspension	8/13/2025
January, Bruce Edward, M.D.	K7561	Agreed Order	8/15/2025
Rousch, Daniel Eric, D.O.	J4488	Agreed Order	8/15/2025
Heldridge, Tod Charles, M.D.	G8175	Agreed Order	8/15/2025
Churukian, Allan, M.D.	T0447	Waiver Order	8/15/2025
Pickstone, Stephen Mark, M.D.	V0296	Waiver Order	8/15/2025
Garcha, Sonny, M.D.	S3169	Waiver Order	8/15/2025
Stankovic, Miljan, M.D.	T3391	Waiver Order	8/15/2025
Lockwood, Matthew Max, M.D.	Q9418	Waiver Order	8/15/2025
Liu, James Hou, M.D.	K0898	Waiver Order	8/15/2025
Srinivasan, Saranya, M.D.	Q4848	Waiver Order	8/15/2025
Benson, Olajide Oladele, M.D.	Q9956	Agreed Order	8/15/2025
Gaitonde, Ashwin, M.D.	N8650	Agreed Order	8/15/2025
Anderson, C. Erik, M.D.	N3447	Agreed Order	8/15/2025
Mitchell, Kristen Blake, M.D.	S0193	Agreed Order	8/15/2025
Isaac, Sanjai Ronald, M.D.	J6498	Agreed Order	8/15/2025
Bruce, Lena Rochelle, M.D.	H6081	Agreed Order	8/15/2025
Ince, Christopher Werner, M.D.	N4491	Agreed Order	8/15/2025
Lagunas, Yolanda, M.D.	H0541	Agreed Order of Voluntary Surrender	8/15/2025
Feste, Joseph Rowland, M.D.	C8968	Mediated Agreed Order of Probated Revocation	8/15/2025
Adair, Maureen Lenore, M.D.	F6376	Agreed Order of Voluntary Surrender	8/15/2025
Davis, Randy John, D.O.	N2053	Agreed Order of Voluntary Surrender	8/15/2025
Valtierra, Elva Marlise	No License	Agreed Cease and Desist	8/19/2025
Camacho, Alison	No License	Agreed Cease and Desist	9/2/2025
Brass, Navy Nhan Vu	No License	Agreed Cease and Desist	9/2/2025

## Disciplinary Actions - continued

Name	License Number	Action Type	Action Date
Kealy, Jared, M.D.	U8752	Temporary Suspension	9/3/2025
Ahmad, Mohammed, M.D.	Q8815	Suspension by Operation of Law	9/4/2025
Adeyinka, Jumi	No License	Agreed Cease and Desist	9/9/2025
Durham, Desiree	No License	Agreed Cease and Desist	9/10/2025
Duelley, Eleanor	No License	Agreed Cease and Desist	9/15/2025

### Texas Physician Assistant Board Disciplinary Actions

Name	License Number	Action Type	Action Date
Knight, John Jasper, Jr., P.A.	PA17268	Waiver Order	7/18/2025
Moore, Donna Louise, P.A.	PA06036	Agreed Order of Voluntary Surrender	7/18/2025
Brown, Jonathon Edward, P.A.	PA03658	Temporary Suspension	9/12/2025

### Texas State Board of Acupuncture Examiners Disciplinary Actions

Name	License Number	Action Type	Action Date
There were no Acupuncture Board disciplinary actions taken since the previous bulletin was issued.			

### Texas Board of Respiratory Care Disciplinary Actions

Name	License Number	Action Type	Action Date
Redmond, Dequindra, RCP	RCP00075432	Default Order	9/18/2025
Newton, Alicia, RCP	RCP00078124	Agreed Order	9/18/2025
Richards, Sakura Miko, RCP	RCP00073988	Agreed Order of Voluntary Surrender	9/18/2025
Tambe-Ashu, Marie Claire M., RCP	RCP00072811	Agreed Order	9/18/2025
Tinajero, Jesus Alfonso, RCP	RCP00066853	Agreed Order of Voluntary Surrender	9/18/2025

### Texas Board of Medical Radiologic Technology Disciplinary Actions

Name	License Number	Action Type	Action Date
Schreiber, Brian Wayne, MRT	GMR02001803	Temporary Suspension	8/28/2025
Acosta, Mandy, NCT	NCR00161898	Agreed Order of Voluntary Surrender	9/19/2025
Gibbs, Angela Marie, MRT	GMR00097969	Agreed Order of Voluntary Surrender	9/19/2025
Munoz, Destiny, NCT	NCR02005646	Agreed Order of Voluntary Surrender	9/19/2025
Clish, Dustin Cody, MRT	GMR02003133	Consent Order	9/19/2025

## TMB MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to protect and enhance the public's health, safety, and welfare by establishing and maintaining standards of excellence used in regulating the practice of medicine and ensuring quality health care for the citizens of Texas through licensure, discipline, and education.

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Additional information on Boards, including meeting dates, agendas, minutes, and board member biographies, is available in the **Boards and Committees** section of the TMB's website.

Find us at

