



MONTANA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Issue 3 June 2010

News and Views

Read the latest news and find out about the most recent state regulatory changes for your occupation in the Board of Medical Examiners eNewsletter *News and Views*. Here are the Board's picks for important news.

Medical Marijuana Certifications

A physician certifying an individual to use medical marijuana should follow the same standard of care as required when any conventional medication is prescribed. The Board issued this statement in a recently adopted position paper "Medical Marijuana: Physician's Written Certification for Medical Marijuana and the Bona Fide Physician-Patient Relationship." The position paper provides guidance to physicians and was developed over the course of several months in response to numerous calls from physicians and the general public and a review of complaints filed. To read the entire position paper click [here](#).

New Board Members

The Board of Medical Examiners is at full membership with two new appointments. Eileen Sheehy of Billings has been appointed as a public member representative by Governor Brian Schweitzer. Don Sullivan of Helmville replaces Kay Bills-Kazimi as the liaison member selected by the Montana Academy of Physician Assistants.

Regulatory Changes

The Board of Medical Examiners has adopted most of the proposed changes to the administrative rules as listed in MAR Notice 24-156-73. The adopted changes include both administrative and substantive changes and cross all the occupations licensed by the Board. Based on comments received, the Board did elect to further evaluate rule changes related to PA chart reviews, work experience requirements for PAs practicing in ERs, and the SPEX requirement for physicians. Click to view the [adoption notice](#) and [proposal notice](#).

Interim Committee Looks at Medical Marijuana Act

The Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee invited the Board of Medical Examiners to participate in one of several panel discussions on the topic of medical marijuana. Dr. Dean Center represented the Board on the regulatory agency panel providing observations and answering questions from the legislative members. The Board later formulated a set of recommendations that was provided to the interim committee suggesting the replacement of "bona fide physician patient relationship" with terminology that instructs physicians to follow medical standard of care, and amending the law to allow for certifications of less than one year, and to permit a physician to revoke a certification.

Online Uniform Application Available

Physician licensure applicants can now complete the Montana application online. The Board adopted the Federation of State Medical Boards Uniform Application for Physician Licensure (UA). Montana is the 12th member board to begin using this tool that is designed to enhance license portability. The UA includes common application elements for state licensure and allows for the collection of the additional information unique to Montana regulations. Applicants who utilize the Federation Credentials Verification Service have an added benefit as 70% of the application is pre-populated.

Address Changed?

If you have had a change of address, please remember to inform the Board office. Address change forms are available online under the "Forms" tab at www.medicalboard.mt.gov.

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Join us at a Board meeting!

2010 Board meetings

July 23
September 17
November 19

2011 Board meetings

January 21
March 18