



MONTANA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

News and Notes

Issue 3 Sept. 2011

Governor Appoints Acupuncturist Tanja Brekke to Board

Governor Brian Schweitzer has named Bozeman Licensed Acupuncturist Tanja Brekke of Bozeman to represent Montana acupuncturists on the Board of Medical Examiners. Ms. Brekke has practiced acupuncture for 20 years, 16 of them in Bozeman. Welcome to the board!

Drs. Upchurch, Guggenheim Re-appointed to Board

Governor Schweitzer has re-appointed Dr. James Upchurch, M.D. and Dr. Mary Anne Guggenheim, M.D. to new terms on the Board. Congratulations to both of them.

Marquand Chosen as BOME Exec. Dir.; Branscum Moves to MMA

Longtime Montana journalist and media producer Ian Marquand has been chosen to be the BOME's new Executive Director. He replaces Jean Branscum, who now is Executive Vice-President of the Montana Medical Association. In addition to his journalism career, Ian has served as a consultant specializing in communications and has experience serving statewide and national organizations.

Legislative Update

The Board of Medical Examiners will be on the agenda of the Montana Legislature's Economic Affairs Interim Committee on Thursday, Oct. 6 at 2:30 p.m. The committee is reviewing all state regulatory boards and commissions as required by HB 525. Search for the full agenda at <http://leg.mt.gov>.

Rocky Mountain Rural Trauma Symposium—Sept. 22-23 in Kalispell

The Board of Medical Examiners once again is helping sponsor this symposium in Kalispell and will be well represented. Look for EMT Training Coordinator Ken Threet, EMT Application Specialist Jerry Morse, BOME member Dwight Thompson and Executive Director Ian Marquand.

"Informal" Discussion Sessions on Proposed EMT Rule Change

EMT Training Coordinator Ken Threet will conduct informal discussion sessions for proposed changes in rules for EMT classification. These sessions will result in a revised draft.

September dates: **9/21 in Kalispell; 9/24 in Billings; 9/25 in Sidney; 9/26 in Malta; 9/27 in Havre; 9/28 in Great Falls.**

October dates: **10/23 in Missoula; 10/24 in Butte; 10/25 in Bozeman.**

All sessions run from 7:00-9:00 p.m. For details on locations, call Ken at (406) 841-2359.

New Prescription Rule: Signature + Printed Name Required For All

As of June 24, all hand-written prescriptions in the State of Montana "must contain the prescriber's hand-written signature and the name of the prescriber stamped, typed, printed, or clearly handwritten." This rule already was in place for Medicaid prescriptions; the Board of Pharmacy now requires it for all hand-written prescriptions. In addition, hand-written prescriptions must be tamper-resistant. The new rules do not affect electronic prescriptions. (Find them at ARM 24.174.510)

Renewing in October? Renew By Oct. 7 Before Database Changes

If you are an Acupuncturist, Nutritionist, Podiatrist or Physician Assistant whose license expires on Oct. 31 of this year, please renew prior to Oct. 7. Shortly after that date, BOME and the other Department of Labor & Industry professional licensing entities will change to a new computer database. The resulting "data migration" will bring changes in the renewal process. Renewing early will allow everyone to use the existing process.

Medical Marijuana Update

On June 30, District Judge James Reynolds of Helena blocked portions of SB 423, the legislature's "medical marijuana" bill. Among other things, the preliminary injunction blocked the portion of the law that required the Board to conduct a review of any physician found by DPHHS to have certified 25 or more people for medical marijuana cards in a 12-month period. A hearing on a permanent injunction still has not been scheduled. An effort to ask voters to repeal SB 423 is underway.

Next Board Meeting: Friday, Oct. 7

The next meeting of the full Board will be Friday, Oct. 7, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the Fourth Floor Conference Room at 301 S. Park in Helena. An agenda will be available soon.

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