

THE EXAMINER

May, 2012

A publication of the North Dakota State Board of Medical Examiners

www.ndbomex.com

This edition of the Examiner summarizes the North Dakota State Board of Medical Examiners' licensure and disciplinary actions during the first quarter of 2012, as well as noting significant rules or policies of the board.

Board and Staff

North Dakota State Board of Medical Examiners:

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Lynette McDonald, Deputy Executive Secretary
Coreen Redmann, License Renewals
Marijo DeMott, Physician Assistant and Resident Licenses, Physicians Health Program and Continuing Medical Education
Lynn Schreiner, Credentialing

Licenses

The Board licenses 3,388 physicians, 277 physician assistants and 5 fluoroscopy technicians. Each license application that meets basic eligibility requirements is acted upon by the board. Of those applications meeting the basic eligibility requirements in the first quarter of 2012, the board took the following actions:

Medical licenses issued:

Permanent licenses:	114
Provisional temporary licenses:	103
Locum tenens licenses:	16
Resident licenses:	5
Total:	238

Physician Assistant licenses issued:

Permanent licenses:	7
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Disciplinary Orders

The following disciplinary orders were issued following the March, 2012, board meeting:

Lorenz, Kevin M., MD (NDL 7221)

Bismarck, ND

License indefinitely suspended.

Physician found to have habitual use of alcohol, committed unprofessional conduct and violated an agreement with the Board.

March 23, 2012

Mack, David R., MD (NDL 9493)

Anchorage, AK

Assessed a fine of \$2,500.00.

Physician failed to comply with CME requirements.

March 23, 2012

Moraleda, Roberto A.H., MD (NDL 7501)

Devils Lake, ND

License restored to unconditional status.

Physician met all conditions imposed in previous Board Order.

March 26, 2012

Norberg, Alonna K. Knorr, MD (NDL 9235)

Fargo, ND

Voluntary restriction of ability to practice medicine.

Physician has medical disability that currently prohibits her from practicing medicine.

March 23, 2012

Vearrier, Tracy L., PA-C (NDL PAC0301)

Bismarck, ND

License restored to unconditional status.

Physician Assistant met all conditions imposed in previous Board Order.

March 26, 2012

Board Notes

Governor Appoints Two Board Members

The Board is pleased to welcome two new board members, appointed by Governor Dalrymple.

Genevieve M. Goven, MD, is board-certified in family practice and practices at the Sanford Valley City Clinic. Dr. Goven is a 1990 graduate of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Jonathan S. Haug, MD, is a board-certified anesthesiologist and Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology at Altru Health System in Grand Forks. He is a 2001 graduate of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Direct Access to the ND Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ND PDMP)

All practitioners with prescribing privileges can and should get direct access to the ND PDMP. Direct access will allow practitioners to receive online real-time patient profiles of all controlled substances and Tramadol prescriptions dispensed to the patient by North Dakota licensed pharmacies. Practitioners are allowed to authorize delegates to run reports under their direction.

Apply for 24/7 online access to your patient's controlled substance and tramadol history with the ND Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Apply today at www.nodakpharmacy.com/directaccess.asp.

For questions/assistance please contact Kathy Zahn at 701-328-9537 or ndbophdmp@btinet.net.

Mark J. Hardy, R.Ph., Assistant Executive Director
North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy

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Board Targets Out-of-State Prescribers of Tramadol

The Board is cooperating with the state Attorney General in the investigation and possible criminal prosecution of out-of-state physicians who are prescribing Tramadol to a number of North Dakota residents without being licensed in the state and without performing any physical examination of the patient.

In the typical case, these physicians are signing prescriptions based upon "health questionnaires" that are submitted online or over the telephone. There is no consultation with any North Dakota physician. These prescriptions are then filled by out-of-state pharmacies and mailed to the recipient.

This is considered to be the practice of medicine in North Dakota, as the patient physically resides here. To prescribe without being licensed to practice medicine is a Class B misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a fine of \$1,000.00, or both, for each offense.

At its March meeting, the Board authorized the expenditure of \$20,000 to be used by law enforcement officials to extradite any out-of-state physicians who may be prosecuted.

Physicians, physician assistants and health care providers, generally, are encouraged to contact the board if they become aware of any Tramadol prescriptions being written by out-of-state physicians. The Board will investigate such referrals to ascertain whether the physicians are properly licensed and have conducted the required examinations.

Mission Statement

The Board's mission is to protect the public's health, safety and welfare by regulating the practice of medicine, thereby ensuring quality health care for the citizens of this state.

Future Board Meetings

All board meetings are open to the public. The meetings are held at the board offices at 418 East Broadway, Suite 12, Bismarck, ND. Commencing at 8:00 o'clock, a.m., the meetings will be held:

July 27, 2012

November 16, 2012

March 22, 2013

Contacting the Board

For all forms, including license application forms and complaint forms, and for all laws governing license eligibility and the operation of the Board of Medical Examiners, please visit our website: www.ndbomex.com.

General inquiries may be directed to:

North Dakota State Board of Medical Examiners

418 East Broadway, Suite 12

Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701/328-6500

Email: lmcdonald.ndbme@midconetwork.com