



# ALABAMA Board of Medical Examiners Medical Licensure Commission

## Newsletter and Report

www.albme.org

October 2017

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## A Message from the Executive Director Big changes to web site, online renewal applications

by Norris Green

This fall, the Board and Commission expect to introduce a newly designed online license and registration renewal applications site.

### Renewal site changes

The renewal site will have a more modern look and functionality to make it easier to navigate and find information. A big change will be a secure Licensee/Registrant Portal that will allow a licensee to change addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, and other demographic information. Be sure to limit access to yourself. Also be certain any information submitted is accurate, as this information will become a part of our database. A misspelling or incorrect digit could result in your not receiving important information or your license/registration certificates.

### Online renewal process

There will be a new process for online renewals this year. You will first log into the Licensee/Registrant Portal to verify your demographic information. You will notice the design of the site has changed dramatically. After verifying your information, you will be able to enter the license renewal portal. Some of the application questions have changed, so be sure to read the questions carefully before answering.

### License/Registrant Portal

The Licensee/Registrant Portal will allow you to log in at any time during the year to access a duplicate license or registration certificate and update your contact information, board certification status, other states in which you are licensed, primary hospital, and type of practice. Coming in 2018, even more features will be added, including initial license applications; collaborative practice initiation and termination; online registrations for office-based surgery, use of lasers, and pain management; and more.



Norris Green

### You are responsible

Licensees should complete the renewal applications themselves. The excuse of “my office manager did it” will not mitigate any penalties incurred for an incorrect answer. Confirm for yourself that you have sufficient **documented** CME and that the documentation clearly states “AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™,” “cognates,” or “prescribed credits.” Be especially careful about ACLS

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*The education of the doctor which goes on after he has his degree is, after all, the most important part of his education.*

*– John Shaw Billings*

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## 2018 license and registration renewals

- All licenses and registrations (excluding PA registration agreements) are renewed annually.
- Orange renewal reminder postcards are sent to all licensees' addresses of record in October.
- Online renewal requires last name and last four digits of social security number. **Note:** You do not need the postcard to renew.
- You will first be taken to a demographics page to confirm your address, telephone number(s), email address, etc. After completing the demographics, you may proceed to renewing your license and registration(s).
- Online renewal site opens Oct. 1, 2017.
- Online renewal site: [www.alrenewals.org](http://www.alrenewals.org).
- **IMPORTANT: Practitioners are required to complete renewal applications. Delegation of this responsibility could result in disciplinary action should fraudulent information be inadvertently submitted to the Board or Commission.**
- Renew license first. If you have an ACSC, pain management registration and/or collaborative practice agreement, you will be prompted to renew them. Credit card payments are made separately for each licensure/registration renewal. After license has been renewed, a receipt can be printed upon completion of each transaction.
  - **MD/DO Licenses**
    - Expire Dec. 31
    - \$300 license renewal fee
    - Grace period Jan. 1 – Jan. 31 (**\$100 late fee added**)
  - **ACSC Registrations (DEA and PDMP registrations required)**
    - Expire Dec. 31 (if not renewed, many not write c.s. after this date.
    - \$150 renewal fee
    - **NO grace period**
  - **Collaborative Practice (CP) Registrations**
    - Expire Dec. 31
    - \$100 renewal fee
    - **NO grace period**
    - To terminate a CP registration, go to [www.albme.org/terminationform.html](http://www.albme.org/terminationform.html).
  - **Pain Management Registrations**
    - Expire Dec. 31
    - \$100 first location
    - No charge for additional locations
    - **NO grace period**

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### CME requirement for physicians and physician assistants

Twenty-five (25) *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*<sup>™</sup> or equivalent are required annually (calendar year). **Credits must be earned Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 of each year.** Licensees are responsible for reading and being familiar with Board Rules concerning CME.

## Notice to Limited License and Retired Senior Volunteer License holders

Ala. Code §§ 34-24-75 and 34-24-75.1 require that a physician holding a Limited License or a Retired Senior Volunteer (RSV) license complete renewal applications for both the Limited or RSV Certificate of Qualification (COQ) and the Limited or RSV license.

A Limited or RSV COQ renewal application must be submitted to the Board **before** a Limited or RSV license renewal application can be submitted to the Medical Licensure Commission.

The COQ renewal application must be submitted before Nov. 23, 2017, in order to be eligible for license renewal. If the COQ is not renewed by this date, the licensee will be required to start the application process from the beginning and obtain a new license.

**To obtain the COQ renewal application, please contact the dean, program director or chief medical officer of the program or at the facility where you are a participant.**

## Attention nonpermanent legally present licensees

All legally present alien licensees practicing in this state are required to **submit yearly a Declaration of Lawful Presence form with proof of legal presence as a nonpermanent alien**. This information must be received and processed through SAVE in order to renew licenses for 2018. The Board's online renewal program will not allow any license to be renewed until legal presence documentation has been received and approved by SAVE. Likewise, manual renewals will not be processed without proper documentation.

To download the form, go to [www.albme.org/Documents/Forms/declarationform.pdf](http://www.albme.org/Documents/Forms/declarationform.pdf).

Questions? Contact B.B. McMahan at (334) 833-0173.

## 2018 license and registration renewals, cont.

### Physician assistant renewals\*

Renew license first. If you have a QACSC and/or an LPSP, you will be prompted to renew them. The QACSC must be renewed **before** the LPSP can be renewed. Credit card payments are made separately for each license/registration type. A receipt can be printed upon completion of each transaction.

- **PA /AA Licenses**

- Expire Dec. 31
- \$100 renewal fee
- **NO grace period**

Note: PA Registration Agreements do not have to be renewed.

- **PA QACSC**

- Expires Dec. 31
- \$60 renewal fee
- **NO grace period**

- **PA LPSP (DEA and PDMP registrations required for renewal)**

- Expires Dec. 31 (if not renewed, may not write c.s. after this date)
- \$10 renewal fee
- **NO grace period**

\* If the supervising physician has not renewed his/her medical license and ACSC by Dec. 31, 2017, the QACSC/LPSP will become inactive and no refund will be given.

**Important:** Before renewing a QACSC/LPSP, applicant must earn 4 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ in prescribing controlled

drugs every two years after the initial 12-hour Prescribing and Pharmacology course is taken. For a list of Board-approved courses, visit [www.albme.org/cscme.html](http://www.albme.org/cscme.html).

### CRNP/CNM QACSC/LPSP renewals\*\*

The QACSC must be renewed **before** the LPSP can be renewed. Credit card payments are made separately for each license/registration type. A receipt can be printed upon completion of each transaction.

- **QACSC (DEA and PDMP registrations required for renewal)**

- Expires Dec. 31
- \$60 renewal fee
- **NO grace period**

- **LPSP**

- Expires Dec. 31
- \$10 renewal fee
- **NO grace period**

\*\* If the collaborating physician has not renewed his/her medical license, ACSC and collaborative agreement by Dec. 31, 2017, the QACSC/LPSP will become inactive and no refund will be given. Collaborating physicians can renew online at [www.alrenewals.org](http://www.alrenewals.org).

**Important:** Before renewing a QACSC/LPSP, applicant must earn 4 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ in prescribing controlled drugs every two years after the initial 12-hour Prescribing and Pharmacology course is taken. For a list of Board-approved courses, visit [www.albme.org/cscme.html](http://www.albme.org/cscme.html).

## Changes coming to Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

by Nancy Bishop, RPh, ADPH, State Pharmacy Director

### New software

The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) is preparing for a change in software. The current software, RX Sentry, was purchased by Appriss Health in December 2016. At this time, our migration to Appriss' PMP AWARe software is scheduled for Fall 2017. Please be on the lookout for emails pertaining to the migration.

### Username to change

When the migration occurs, your username will change to your email address. If the email address on file is shared by other providers, please update your account in the current system to an email address that is unique to you.

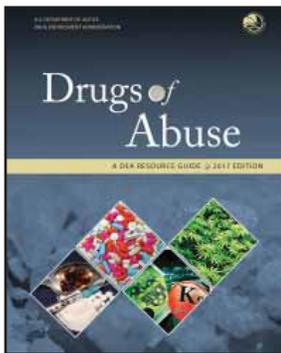
### New help desk number

The PDMP Help Desk number has changed to 1-855-925-4767. Choose Option 1 if you are requesting assistance for retrieving your password or username, searching patient histories, looking at mid-level prescriber histories, and reviewing delegate access history. Choose Option 2 if you are an uploader who is reporting data into the system.

### For more information

The Help Desk can also be reached by email at [alpdm-info@apprisshealth.com](mailto:alpdm-info@apprisshealth.com). To contact PDMP staff, call (334) 206-5226 or email, [pdmp@adph.state.al.us](mailto:pdmp@adph.state.al.us).

## DEA releases 2017 edition of *Drugs of Abuse* resource guide



In June 2017, the DEA released the *Drugs of Abuse* guide that is designed to be a reliable resource on the most commonly abused and misused drugs in the United States. The guide provides important science-based information about the harms and consequences of drug use, describing a drug's effects on the body and mind, overdose potential, origin, legal status, and other key factors. The 2017 edition updates the 2015 *Drugs of Abuse* publication with the

most current information on new and emerging trends in drugs misuse and abuse, including fentanyl, other opioids, and synthetic drugs.

For more information and to view the 2017 *Drugs of Abuse* resource guide, visit <https://go.usa.gov/xN7Qm>.

## Important reminder for collaborative practice physicians!

A collaborative practice registration fee of \$100 and a commencement form are required when beginning a new Collaborative Practice Agreement. This \$100 fee is the **responsibility of the physician** and must be paid before the application for Collaborative Practice can be considered for final approval. **Final approval** is crucial for the future credentialing of the CRNP or CNM.



## FDA to require expanded training on opioids

To help curb the nation's opioid overdose epidemic, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, MD, announced in July 2017 the agency will expand its requirements for prescription opioid manufacturers to provide prescriber training to clinicians, including nurses and pharmacists as well as physicians.

Until this point, the FDA required manufacturers of only extended-release, or long-acting, painkillers to provide this type of education. However, the requirement is being extended to include manufacturers of immediate-release, or short-acting, opioids.

The FDA's blueprint for training will also be updated to include not only how to assess and manage patients for treatment with opioids but also information on non-opioid therapies for pain.

Although manufacturers must provide the education, there is no mandate on physicians to take the training.

## Achieve a successful transition to MACRA's Quality Payment Program (QPP)

In October 2016, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015 repealed the Medicare Part B Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) payment system and adopted a new two-track system. MACRA's QPP program is designed to streamline the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), Value-Based Modifier (VM) and Meaningful Use Incentive programs into one process.

### AQAF can help

The Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation (AQAF) in Birmingham has been contracted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to assist Alabama clinicians. The goal is to ensure every Alabama clinician successfully transitions into the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) or an Alternative Payment Model (APM), the two main programs in the MACRA legislation finalized last October.

AQAF assists clinicians in understanding the four categories of the QPP: quality, cost, advancing care information, and clinical practice improvement activities, and helping every practice choose its pace to participate so that every Alabama clinician can achieve a positive or neutral Medicare Part B Fee Schedule payment adjustment.

### Help desk assistance

For FREE technical assistance, email AQAF staff at [TechAssist@AQAF.com](mailto:TechAssist@AQAF.com) or [TechAssist@Qsource.org](mailto:TechAssist@Qsource.org), or call toll-free, 1-844-206-5540, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT. For more information about QPP and to check your eligibility, visit <https://qpp.cms.gov/>.

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## Web site, renewal application changes, cont.

and PALS courses, many of which are not accredited and do not confer Category 1 Credit. If you take an unaccredited ACLS/PALS course, the Board and Commission will allow you two valid credits each. Failure to obtain the required annual 25 credits can result in a reprimand and a fine.

### ACSC and other registrations

After completing the license application and submitting payment information, if you have an ACSC or other registrations, you will be asked if you want to renew them. It is a good idea to complete all your license and registration renewals at once. There were more than a few non-renewed ACSCs this year where the licensee apparently renewed the license but for some reason did not renew the ACSC and then forgot to go back in and complete the ACSC renewal. The Board has been more aggressive in filing disciplinary charges against physicians who write controlled substances prescriptions without having renewed the ACSC. Additionally, if a collaborative practice agreement is not renewed, the collaboration is not authorized until a renewal is made and the fee paid, resulting in the nurse practitioner not being able to work and possibly having issues with billable services.

All licensees and registrants should have received a postcard at the beginning of October with instructions on how to access the online renewal applications site.

## PAs, CRNPs or CNMs prescribing to self or immediate family

Board Rule 540-X-7-.28 (4) states that a physician assistant who is registered to a physician with prescriptive privileges shall not engage in prescribing for self or immediate family members. Rules 540-X-8-.11 (5) and 540-X-8-.25 (5) state the same provision concerning certified registered nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives.

### Prescribing controlled substances

With regard to prescribing controlled substances, Rule 540-X-12-.07 (6) states that a physician assistant shall not prescribe, administer, authorize for administration, or dispense any controlled substance to his or her own self, spouse, child, or parent. The same is stated in 540-X-18-.07 (6) for CRNPs and CNMs. Additionally, CRNPs and CNMs may not prescribe for individuals who are not patients of the practice, except when prescribing for the sexual partner(s) of a patient in accordance with an Expedited Partner Therapy protocol.

### Conflicts of Interest

The American Academy of Physician Assistants' *Guidelines for Ethical Conduct for the Physician Assistant Profession* states, "[t]reating oneself, co-workers, close friends, family members, or students whom the physician assistant supervises or teaches may be unethical or create conflicts of interest... PAs should be aware that their judgment might be less than objective in cases involving friends, family members, students, and colleagues and that providing 'curbside' care might sway the individual from establishing an ongoing relationship with a provider."

## Important CME notices

### For physicians

Beginning Jan. 1, 2018, all Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate (ACSC) holders must earn or obtain, every two years (for current registrants, during 2018-2019, 2020-2021, and so on), 2 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ or equivalent continuing medical education credits in **at least one** of the following areas:

- Controlled substances prescribing practices
- Recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances
- Controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management

### For physician assistants and nurse practitioners

Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate (QACSC) holders (PAs/CRNPs/CNMs) are required to obtain, every two years, 4 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ or equivalent continuing medical education credits through a board-approved course or courses. Note: Beginning with the 2018 renewal application, QACSC holders will be required to input the name and date of the course(s) taken and upload documentation of course completion.

Please see the Board's web page, Prescribing Controlled Substances FAQs, for more information: [www.albme.org/csfaq.html](http://www.albme.org/csfaq.html).

## Three days of CME with a maximum of 20 CME credits Nov. 17-19, 2017 Hyatt Regency Birmingham – The Wynfrey Hotel

### Friday, Nov. 17, 2017

- ✓ **Ensuring Quality in the Collaborative Practice**  
7:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

- ✓ **Medical Ethics**  
1:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

### Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017

- ✓ **Prescribing of Controlled Drugs\***  
7:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.  
(First four hours approved for QACSC renewal\*\*)

### Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017

- ✓ **Pharmacology of Controlled Drugs\***  
7:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
(Four-hour course approved for QACSC renewal\*\*)

**Register today – these courses fill up very quickly.  
Register before the November 3 deadline and secure the best pricing.**

For brochure with registration form and agenda of all Nov. 17-19 courses, go to [www.alamedical.org/Prescribing](http://www.alamedical.org/Prescribing).  
For information, call (334) 954-2500.

**Note: CME earned at November 2017 courses does not count toward new CME requirement for ACSC holders.**

\*To apply for a QACSC, PAs and NPs must attend the 8-hour course Saturday and the 4-hour course Sunday.

\*\*To renew a QACSC, PAs and NPs can attend first 4 hours on Saturday or 4-hour course on Sunday or another Board approved prescribing controlled substances course.

## Medical Foundation of AL awarded Accreditation with Commendation

At the recommendation of Timothy Holder, MD, Tulsa, OK, who conducted the reaccreditation survey of the Medical Foundation, the Council on Medical Education awarded the Medical Foundation the highest possible status, Accreditation with Commendation, at its August meeting.

The Medical Foundation is the joint provider of CME credit for all Board of Medical Examiner CME events as well as approximately 40 other CME activities in the state.

## Prescribing CME in 2018 New Topics, New Speakers!

### March 17-18

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa

### Aug. 3-5

Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort

### Nov. 17-18

Hyatt Regency Birmingham –  
The Wynfrey Hotel

Plus Medical Ethics on Nov. 16, 2018

**Registration and course information available soon.**

## Report of Public Actions of the Medical Licensure Commission and Board of Medical Examiners

**Mission: The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and the Medical Licensure Commission are charged with protecting the health and safety of the citizens of the state of Alabama.**

### MLC – May 2017

◆ On May 24, the Commission entered an Order temporarily suspending the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Phillip Lee Saunders, MD**, lic. no. MD.16564, Huntsville, AL, until such time as the Administrative Complaint of the Board of Medical Examiners shall be heard and a decision rendered thereon.

### MLC – June 2017

◆ On June 28, the Commission entered a Consent Order placing on probation the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Thomas R. Klinner, Jr., MD**, Ooltewah, TN.

### BME – June 2017

◆ On June 21, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of certificate of qualification and license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Gerald M. Hodge, MD**, lic. no. MD.7780, Gallion, AL.

◆ On June 21, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of certificate of qualification and license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Xiulu Ruan, MD**, lic. no. MD.25262, Mobile, AL.

◆ On June 21, the Board entered a Consent Order placing on probation the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of **Weston J. Welker, MD**, lic. no. MD.13209, Owens Cross Roads, AL.

### MLC – July 2017

◆ On July 26, the Commission entered an Order denying the application for reinstatement of license of **Paul M. Muratta, DO**, lic. no. DO.536, Gadsden, AL.

◆ On July 20, the Commission entered an Order returning to full, unrestricted status the license to practice medicine in

Alabama of **Scott A. Prechter, MD**, lic. no. MD.34434, Meridian, MS.

◆ On July 20, the Commission entered a Consent Order placing on probation the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Phillip L. Saunders, MD**, lic. no. MD.16564, Huntsville, AL.

### BME – July 2017

◆ On July 27, the Board issued an Order temporarily suspending the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of **Eugene Roy Long, MD**, lic. no. MD.16888, Pelham, AL, until such time as a hearing shall be held by the Board and a decision rendered thereon.

◆ On July 27, the Board issued an Order granting the application to reinstate the certificate of qualification of **Marla Shaver, MD**, lic. no. MD.27380, Lawrenceville, GA, if she passes the Special Purpose Examination.

◆ On July 19, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of certificate of qualification and license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Rassan M. Tarabein, MD**, lic. no. MD.18124, Daphne, AL.

◆ On July 18, the Board issued an Order denying the application for reinstatement of certificate of qualification of **Joseph N. M. Ndolo, MD**, lic. no. MD.21199, Fairhope, AL.

◆ Effective July 5, the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of **Frederick H. Stevens, MD**, lic. no. MD.12389, Athens, AL, is summarily suspended until such time as a hearing shall be held by the Board and a decision rendered thereon.

### MLC – August 2017

◆ On Aug. 25, the Commission issued an Order on Motion to Stay which prohibits **Elizabeth C. Korcz, MD**, lic. no. MD.28343, Hoover, AL, from writing prescriptions, dispensing or otherwise furnishing controlled substances for existing patients after Sept. 20, 2017, and to any new patients who have not been

previously treated by Dr. Korcz, effective immediately.

◆ On Aug. 25, the Commission issued an Order lifting the probation and restrictions previously placed upon the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Joseph F. Sejud, MD**, lic. no. MD.26914, Lacombe, LA.

◆ On Aug. 28, the Commission issued an Order denying the license reinstatement request of **Mark P. Koch, DO**, lic. no. DO.322, Monroeville, AL.

### BME – August 2017

◆ On Aug. 16, the Board issued an Order removing the restrictions on the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of **Kim P. Eubanks, MD**, lic. no. MD.26227, Atlanta, GA.

◆ On Aug. 16, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of certificate of qualification and license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Gilberto Sanchez, MD**, lic. no. MD.17969, Montgomery, AL.

◆ Effective Aug. 23, the Board issued an Order temporarily suspending the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate and Pain Management Registration of **Marie C. Cebert, DO**, lic. no. DO.656, Huntsville, AL.

### Actions for CME (reprimand, fine, additional CME required):

- **Weston J. Welker, MD**, lic. no. MD.13209, Owens Cross Roads, AL
- **Jeffrey S. Sosnowski, MD**, lic. no. MD.26590, Mobile, AL

### Actions on ACSC for prescribing controlled substances with expired ACSC (administrative fine):

- **Richard M. McKean, MD**, lic. no. MD.35324, Mobile, AL
- **David Rivera-Toro, MD**, lic. no. MD.33968, Eufala, AL



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## 2017 BME Meeting Dates

**October 18**

**November 16**

**December 13**

*The public portion of each meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. CT (unless otherwise indicated) in the Dixon-Parker Building located at 848 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, Ala.*

*Meeting agendas, minutes and a full list of meeting dates and times can be found on the Board's website:*

**[www.albme.org](http://www.albme.org)**

## 2017 MLC Meeting Dates

**October 25**

**November 29**

**December 21**

*Meetings are held in the Dixon-Parker Building located at 848 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, Ala.*

## QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE

### Alabama Board of Medical Examiners ..... (334) 242-4116

- Administration:** Norris W. Green, *Executive Director*  
Jane A. Wynn, *Director of Accounting, Office Manager*
- Legal:** Patricia E. Shaner, *General Counsel*  
Wilson Hunter, *Assoc. General Counsel*  
Rachel L. Riddle, *Assoc. Counsel for Board*
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Mary Leigh Meredith  
Andi Silberman
- Investigations:** Stan Ingram, *Chief*
- Physician Monitoring:** Jeff Grimsley, *Director*
- Pain Management Services:** Edwin Rogers, *Director*
- Physician Assistants:** Deana Bozeman, *Director*
- Collaborative Practice:** Patricia Ward, RN, *Nurse Consultant*  
Amy Wybenga, CRNP, *Nurse Consultant*

### Medical Licensure Commission ..... (334) 242-4153

**Executive Assistant:** Karen Silas

Official publication of the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and Medical Licensure Commission

**Questions?** Contact the BME Office at (334) 242-4116 or [bme@albme.org](mailto:bme@albme.org)  
and the MLC Office at (334) 242-4153 or [mlc@albme.org](mailto:mlc@albme.org).