



MEDICAL DIGEST

October 2019

www.albme.org

2020 License & Registration Renewals

• All licenses and registrations (excluding P.A. registration agreements) are renewed annually.

• Online renewal requires last name and last five digits of SSN.

• You will first see a demographics page. Confirm your address, telephone number(s), email address, etc. After completing the demographics, proceed to renewing your license and registration(s).

• Online renewal site will open 10/01/19.

• Online renewal site: 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 medical license first. If you have an ACSC, office based surgery or pain management registration, return to the home page to renew. A receipt can be printed upon completion of all renewals.

M.D./D.O. 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, may not write c.s. after this date)
- \$150 renewal fee
- NO grace period

COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE (CP) REGISTRATIONS

• There is NO RENEWAL REQUIRED for collaborative practice (CP) agreements

• Termination of CP agreements may be completed during license renewal; however, that is the responsibility of the physician, and those terminations are FINAL

• The physician may make changes to the hours worked by CRNP/CNM; however, these hours must not exceed 160 hours per week

• Physician may also terminate a CP registration at www.albme.org/terminationform.html.

PAIN MANAGEMENT (PM) REGISTRATIONS

- Expire Dec. 31
- \$100 first location
- No charge for additional locations
- NO grace period

OFFICE BASED SURGERY (OBS) REGISTRATION

All physicians who answer yes to the OBS question on the annual renewal are required to complete the OBS Registration. The question asks if you perform any office based surgery/procedure outside a hospital or outpatient facility which requires moderate or deep sedation or general anesthesia; liposuction with tumescent infiltration is used; or any procedure in which Propofol is administered, given or used.

• The OBS question appears in the Board Certification section of the renewal.

• Access to the OBS Registration appears in the License Information section of the renewals home page.

• OBS Registration must be completed before January 31, 2019. Failure to register if you answered yes could result in action against your license.

CME REQUIREMENT FOR PHYSICIANS AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Twenty-five (25) *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* 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.

NEW: ACSC holders are required to obtain two (2) *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* every two years in the area of controlled substances prescribing.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT RENEWALS

Renew license first. If you have a QACSC and/or an LPSP, return to the home page to renew them. The QACSC must be renewed before the LPSP can be renewed. A receipt can be printed upon completion of all renewals.

P.A. /A.A. LICENSES

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

Note: P.A. Registration Agreements do not have to be renewed.

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P.A. QACSC

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

P.A. LPSP

- Expires Dec. 31 (if not renewed, may not write cIIs 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, 2019, 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.

CRNP/CNM QACSC/LPSP RENEWALS*

The QACSC must be renewed before the LPSP can be renewed. A receipt can be printed upon completion of all renewals.

QACSC (DEA AND PDMP REGISTRATIONS REQUIRED FOR RENEWAL)

- Expires Dec. 31
- \$60.00 renewal fee
- NO grace period

LPSP

- Expires Dec. 31
- \$10.00 renewal fee
- NO grace period

** If the collaborating physician has not renewed his/her medical license, ACSC and collaborative agreement by Dec. 31, 2019, the QACSC/LPSP will become inactive and no refund will be given. Collaborating physicians can renew online at 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.

NOTICE TO LIMITED LICENSE/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 and approved by the Board before a Limited or RSV license renewal can be completed.

• The COQ renewal application submission deadline is October 16, 2019 in order to be eligible for license renewal. The final meeting of the Board for 2019 is December 11, 2019. No limited COQ renewal applications will be accepted after December 9, 2019.

• To obtain the COQ renewal application, please contact the Dean, Program Director or Chief Medical Officer of the program or facility where you are a participant. Programs have been provided with the proper forms.

ATTENTION LAWFUL ALIENS/FOREIGN NATIONAL LICENSEES

All lawful aliens/foreign national licensees practicing in this state are required to submit yearly a Declaration of Lawful Presence form with proof of legal presence as a non-permanent alien. This information must be received and processed through SAVE in order to renew licenses for 2019. The 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.

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

New Licensee Portal

Attention to All Licensees: MDs, DOs, PAs, AAs, CRNPs, CNMs

We are excited to introduce a Licensee Portal through which you will be able to renew your license (October 1, 2019-December 31, 2019), pay fees, add or change your address, telephone number, email address, print certificates, print receipts, and terminate agreements and certificates. See the “Enter Licensee Portal” tab above “Quick Links” at www.albme.org.



The Board Welcomes the Following New Employees:

Director of Communications – William D. Flowers, III

Board Licensing Assistants – Angela Morris and Rebecca Robbins

Commission Licensing Assistant – Heather Lindemann

Administrative Assistant – Melissa Fryer

The following Board and Commission employees have changed positions:

Donna Jordan – Investigative Analyst

Deana Bozeman – Physician Assistants Licensing Director

Kimie Bush – Physician Assistants Licensing Director’s assistant

ALBME'S SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Social media and electronic communications with patients continue to present many dangers for the modern physician. Maintaining the ethical and professional standards required to practice medicine in this day and age is increasingly difficult in an ever evolving social and digital landscape.

Questions you should ask yourself before posting anything on social media:

1. Would I say this in front of a patient if I were face-to-face?
2. Would I want my own physician to post something like this?
3. Do I want to explain this to the Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners?



The American Medical Association (AMA) and the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) have issued new guidelines to assist physicians in successfully utilizing the benefits of social media and electronic communications while minimizing the risks.

The AMA Code of Medical Ethics Opinion 2.3.2[1] specifically addresses professionalism in the use of social media. The AMA's seven

guidelines can be found on its website at <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/ethics/professionalism-use-social-media>.

In April 2019, the FSMB updated its Social Media and Electronic Communications[2] policy.

The sixteen social media guidelines officially adopted by the FSMB can be found on its website at <http://www.fsmb.org/siteassets/advocacy/policies/social-media-and-electronic-communications.pdf>.

Regardless of medium or platform, professionalism and the code of medical ethics always apply in regard to a physician's actions and communications.

[1] <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/ethics/professionalism-use-social-media>

[2] <http://www.fsmb.org/siteassets/advocacy/policies/social-media-and-electronic-communications.pdf>

Does your practice prescribe Gabapentin? Starting Nov. 18th Gabapentin will be a Schedule V Drug.

All physicians prescribing Gabapentin must possess a DEA registration and an Alabama Controlled Substance Certificate (ACSC)

ACSC holders are required to:

- Be registered to query the Physician Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)
- Obtain two AMA PRA Category 1TM credits or equivalent (Cat. 1-A, prescribed hours, cognates) every two years in the areas of:
 - Controlled substance prescribing practices
 - Recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, or
 - Controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management
- Utilize risk and abuse mitigation strategies as appropriate

All physician assistants, certified registered nurse practitioners, and certified nurse midwives prescribing Gabapentin must possess a DEA registration and a Qualified Alabama Controlled Substance Certificate (QACSC)

QACSC holders are required to:

- Have at least one year of work history in Alabama in a registration or collaborative agreement
- Obtain 12 AMA PRA Category 1TM credits within 12 months prior to making QACSC application
- Obtain four AMA PRA Category 1TM credits every two years
- Maintain an active registration or collaborative agreement with a physician
- Be registered to query the PDMP
- Utilize risk and abuse mitigation strategies as appropriate



2019 CME Series
**PRESCRIBING AND PHARMACOLOGY
OF CONTROLLED DRUGS**
Critical Issues and Common Pitfalls
November 23-24 | Birmingham
www.alamedical.org/prescribing

Administrative Rule Changes

540-X-8-03

Qualifications for Approval to Practice as a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (amended to provide for multistate registered nurse licenses)

540-X-8-05.1

Reinstatement of Lapsed Approval for Practice as a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (amended to provide for multistate registered nurse licenses)

540-X-8-06

Authorization for Practice as a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (amended to provide for multistate registered nurse licenses)

540-X-8-12

Limitations upon Utilization of Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (amended to provide for multistate registered nurse licenses)

540-X-8-17

Qualifications for Approval as a Certified Nurse Midwife (amended to provide for multistate registered nurse licenses)

540-X-8-19

Reinstatement of Lapsed Approval for Practice as a Certified Nurse Midwife (amended to provide for multistate registered nurse licenses)

540-X-8-20

Authorization for Practice as a Certified Nurse Midwife (amended to provide for multistate registered nurse licenses)

540-X-4-09

Risk and Abuse Strategies by Prescribing Physicians (amended to clarify application to all controlled substances; add standard for Lorazepam Milligram Equivalency (LME) and require PDMP check for prescribing over certain LMEs).

540-X-12-18

540-X-18-15

540-X-20-09

(new rules to provide for risk and abuse mitigation strategies for Physician Assistants and Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners/Certified Nurse Midwives holding QACSCs and LPSPs)

540-X-6-04

Conduct of Hearings in Contested Cases (amended to change number of members that constitute a quorum from five to six)

540-X-8-08, .11, .22, & .25

Requirements for Collaborative Practice and Prescriptions and Medication Orders (amended to clarify documentation required; align required prescription formats to electronic prescription software in common use)

540-X-19-02, .04, & .05

Definitions; Ownership and Operation; Training Requirements (amended to provide that medical director shall possess active, unrestricted license, ACSC, and DEA registration)

540-X-24

Physician Assistant Reentry into Practice (new rules providing requirements for reentry into practice of physician assistants who have been absent from clinical practice for more than two years)

540-X-1-03

Meetings of the Board (amended to change quorum from 5 to 6 members)

540-X-1-15

Fee for Application Packets (repealed rule requiring a \$20 fee for application packets)

540-X-3-16

Certificate of Qualification Issued Without Examination (Limited License) (amended to remove requirement for non-ECFMG applicants who did not receive training from a primarily English speaking medical school to meet with the Credentials Committee)

540-X-3

Appendix A, Application for Certificate of Qualification to Practice Medicine in Alabama (amended questions regarding convictions)

540-X-19-03

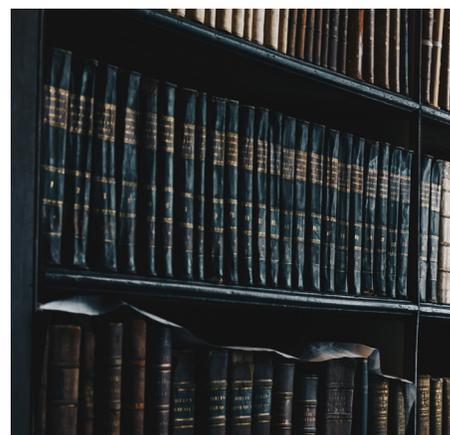
Pain Management Registration Required (amended to add grounds for denial of pain management registration)

540-X-23

Physician Re-entry Into Practice (new rule allows the implementation or recommendation of a reentry plan when a physician has not been in active practice for two years or more)

540-X-3

Appendices B and E, Application and Renewal Application for Limited Certificate of Qualification (amended to add additional demographic and institution questions)



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.

BME - July 2019

- On July 17, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of the certificate of qualification and license to practice medicine in Alabama of James Henry Edwards, MD, lic. no. MD.30616, Montgomery AL.

MLC - July 2019

- On July 23, the Commission entered an order temporarily suspending the license to practice medicine in Alabama of Herbert W. Jones, MD, lic. no. SP.139, Minneapolis MN.
- On July 23, the Commission entered a Consent Order placing on probation the license to practice medicine in Alabama of Ramesh B. Peramsetty, MD, lic. no. MD.21446, Tuscaloosa AL.
- On July 23, the Commission entered an order amending a previous order to reduce the payment plan of Russell W. Stevens, MD, lic. no. MD.26655, Mt. Vernon AL.
- On July 25, the Commission entered an order suspending the license to practice medicine in Alabama of James Davis Blake, MD, lic. no. MD.8072, Birmingham AL.

BME - August 2019

- Effective Aug. 22, the license to practice as a physician assistant of Jeffrey T. Norris, PA, lic. no. PA.326, Dothan AL, is placed on probation.
- Effective Aug. 20, the certificate of qualification to practice medicine in Alabama of Gary M. Bullock, DO, lic. no. DO.729, Hoover AL, is restricted with conditions.

- Effective Aug. 15, the Board revoked the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of Deborah J. Hart, MD, lic. no. MD.13847, Somerset KY.

- On Aug. 8, the Board denied the application for reinstatement of the certificate of qualification to practice medicine in Alabama of Joseph N. M. Ndolo, MD, lic. no. MD.21199, Fairhope AL.

MLC - August 2019

- On Aug. 21, the Commission denied the license reinstatement request of Mark P. Koch, DO, lic. no. DO.32, Monroeville AL.
- On Aug. 9, the Commission denied the request for relief from conditions on the license to practice medicine in Alabama of Michelle S. Jackson, MD, license no. MD.18274, Mobile AL.
- On Aug. 9, the Commission denied the request of Charles E. Runels, MD, lic. no. MD.14965, Fairhope AL, for modification of the Commission's Nov. 9, 2009, Order.
- On Aug. 9, the Commission placed on probation the license to practice medicine in Alabama of Judy O. C. Travis, MD, lic. no. MD.11061, Demopolis AL.

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

None to date.

Actions on ACSC for not being registered for PDMP (administrative fine):

None to date.

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

- Sharon P. Balcells, MD, lic. no. MD.18198, Birmingham AL
 - Celeste' S. Reese, MD, lic. no. MD.26026, Birmingham AL
 - Laura Lynn Steele, MD, lic. no. MD.27660, Mountain Brook AL
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Actions for not being registered for Office Based Surgery (administrative fine):

None to date.

Actions for not obtaining/renewing Pain Management Services registration (administrative fine):

None to date.





Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners

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Upcoming BME Meeting Dates

Oct. 16 • Nov. 21 • Dec. 11 • Jan. 15

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

Meeting agendas and a full list of meeting dates and times can be found online at www.albme.org.

Upcoming MLC Meeting Dates

Oct. 25 • Nov. 22 • Dec. 20 • Jan. 22

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

Have questions or need assistance?

Alabama Board of Medical Examiners (334) 242-4116

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Medical Licensure Commission (334) 242-4153

Executive Assistant Karen Silas

About MedicalDigest...

MedicalDigest is the official publication of the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and Medical Licensure Commission. It is published four times per year: January, April, July and October.

Past issues are archived and available on the Board's website at www.albme.org and listed as *Newsletter and Report*.

Questions? Please contact the Board of Medical Examiners at (334) 242-4116.