

Consumer Information

About Medical Doctors Physician Assistants Respiratory Therapists Perfusionists and Unlicensed Practice



Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

Reno Office

1105 Terminal Way, Suite 301
Reno, NV 89502

Telephone: (775) 688-2559

Toll-Free: (888) 890-8210 (within Nevada)

Mailing Address:

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RENO, NV 89502-2144

Las Vegas Office

6010 S. Rainbow Blvd., Bldg. A, Suite 2
Las Vegas, NV 89118

Telephone: (702) 486-3300

Website: www.medboard.nv.gov

E-mail: nsbme@medboard.nv.gov

UNLICENSED PRACTICE

Before you select a physician for your medical needs, check with us or the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine (contact information on previous page) to verify the physician is licensed to practice medicine in Nevada. Do not seek treatment from someone who is not licensed in Nevada. If the person is not licensed, he or she may be attempting to commit a felony, including fraud and assault and battery.

Report!

If you or someone you know has received treatment from an unlicensed person, report it to local law enforcement immediately or dial 211! If you have discovered someone who is not licensed and who is attempting to practice medicine on others, inform the potential patient not to be treated and call local law enforcement immediately or dial 211! You can remain anonymous.

Medicine is **NOT** practiced in non-medical settings.



THE BOARD

The Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board) is the state agency that licenses and regulates Nevada medical doctors (physicians), physician assistants, practitioners of respiratory care and perfusionists. Collectively, they are referred to as "licensees." The Board is comprised of nine members appointed by the Governor—six physicians actively practicing in Nevada and three members from the public.

At its quarterly meetings, the Board considers and acts on individual license applications, committee reports and policy issues affecting the practice of medicine. Meetings also include adjudications of disciplinary actions filed by the Board's investigative committees. Although some Board business is confidential under the law, Board meetings are otherwise open to the public. The Board's meeting schedule may be obtained from its website: www.medboard.nv.gov.

No tax dollars are used to support the Board. Licensing and registration fees charged to practitioners regulated by the Board provide the bulk of its revenue. Audits of the Board are conducted annually and reported to the Legislative Counsel Bureau of the Nevada State Legislature and to its licensees.

THE BOARD'S MISSION

The practice of medicine is a *privilege* granted by the state. The Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners licenses, monitors, disciplines, educates and, when appropriate, rehabilitates its licensees to assure their fitness and competence to serve the people of Nevada.

SERVICES THE BOARD PROVIDES

The Board can give you information on the background and status of medical doctors, physician assistants, practitioners of respiratory care and perfusionists licensed in Nevada. The Board can tell you how many years a licensee has practiced in Nevada; provide you with a licensee's education, training and malpractice history; and tell you whether the Board has taken disciplinary action against his or her license.

You can obtain this information by calling the office at (775) 688-2559 in the Reno/Sparks/Carson City area or (888) 890-8210 toll-free within the state, and a customer-service representative will provide you with the information over the phone. You can also visit the Board's website (www.medboard.nv.gov), where you can view the profiles of the Board's licensees.

All disciplinary actions are reported in the Board's newsletters and on its website.

A full roster of the Board's licensees is available in hard copy, on computer disk or via e-mail, for a fee.

Board representatives are happy to present public outreach programs before medical organizations, students and public groups, such as service clubs, upon request.

WEBSITE

The Board's website (www.medboard.nv.gov) contains information on the Board and the Board's licensees: meeting agendas and minutes, newsletters, the Board's most recent annual report and financial statements, forms and other helpful information.

DOES A DOCTOR HAVE TO RELEASE MEDICAL RECORDS TO A PATIENT?

Yes. A doctor does have to make a patient's records available to the patient or the patient's representative with the patient's written authorization. The doctor may charge up to 60 cents per page for photocopies of the records, and a reasonable fee for copies of x-rays and other health care records produced by similar processes.

THE MEDICAL PRACTICE ACT (MPA)

The Medical Practice Act, Chapter 630 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (and Chapter 630 of the Nevada Administrative Code) is a law created by the Nevada State Legislature to license and regulate Nevada physicians, physician assistants, practitioners of respiratory care and perfusionists.

THE INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS

Complaints against licensees of the Board are received from several sources, including patients, other members of the public, hospitals, other health care providers and institutions and medical malpractice insurers. The Board may also initiate a complaint on its own if it becomes aware of potential violations of the MPA.

CONDUCT THAT MAY WARRANT DISCIPLINE OF A LICENSEE

The following list includes, *but is not limited to*, acts that constitute grounds for initiating disciplinary action or denying licensure:

1. Conviction of a felony relating to the practice of medicine or the ability to practice medicine, or certain other felonies as listed in NRS 630.301(11);
2. Disciplinary action taken against a licensee in another state;
3. Malpractice: failing to use reasonable care, skill, or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances;
4. Sexual misconduct with a patient;
5. Disruptive behavior that interferes with patient care or has an adverse impact on the quality of care rendered to a patient;
6. Billing for services not rendered (fraud);
7. Engaging in conduct that brings the medical profession into disrepute;
8. Advertising the practice of medicine in a false, deceptive or misleading manner;
9. Abandonment of a patient;
10. Inability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety because of illness; a mental or physical condition; or the use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics or any other such substance.

While some types of behavior, such as poor bedside manner, are not conducive to a good doctor-patient relationship, they are not violations of the MPA.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

When the Board receives a complaint, it is reviewed to determine whether the Board has jurisdiction over the matter. If it is determined that the Board has jurisdiction, the facts of the complaint are thoroughly analyzed by a committee of Board members, staff and medical reviewers to determine if there has been a violation of the MPA.

If a violation is confirmed, the Board may file formal charges against the licensee, and the licensee will be afforded a public hearing. The charges filed by the Board and the formal decision of the Board after the hearing are public record. Copies of these documents are available to the public upon request, for a fee, or are available for free on the website.

If the charges are proved, the Board may suspend or revoke the license or place the licensee on probation. The Board can also order psychiatric treatment, additional education, passage of a competency examination or other discipline provided by the MPA. If the licensee has a problem with drugs or alcohol, the Board can require the licensee to participate in treatment and keep him or her from practicing until the problem is resolved.

HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

To file a complaint, you can download or print the complaint form from the Board's website (www.medboard.nv.gov) under the "Consumer Forms" section. Or call the Board office at (775) 688-2559 in the Reno/Sparks/Carson City area or (888) 890-8210 toll-free within the state and press 1 to reach the Investigations Division of the Board, which will mail you a complaint form.

By law, the Board cannot reveal whether an investigation has been initiated against a licensee unless the investigation has resulted in formal charges against the licensee.

WHAT THE BOARD DOES NOT DO

The Board cannot tell you what insurance plans a specific physician accepts, whether the physician is accepting new patients, or recommend or refer you to a specific physician. Local and national organizations are

a good source for finding physicians who practice certain specialties in your area. See the "Referral Organizations" below.

The Board also has no legal authority over the fees charged by a physician (unless it involves fraud) and cannot assist with getting fees reduced or refunded. The Office of the Governor, Consumer Health Assistance Program ((702) 486-3587 in the Las Vegas area or (888) 333-1597 toll-free within the state of Nevada) may be able to assist with fee disputes.

REFERRAL ORGANIZATIONS

Nevada State Medical Association (NSMA)
(775) 825-6788 (Reno)

Clark County Medical Society (CCMS)
(702) 739-9989 (Las Vegas)

Washoe County Medical Society (WCMS)
(775) 825-0278 (Reno)

American Medical Association (AMA)
(800) 621-8335 (toll-free)

Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance
Nevada State Division of Health (for hospitals)
(775) 684-1030

(800) 225-3414 (toll-free)

Nevada Hospital Association
(775) 827-0184

THE BOARD DOES NOT REGULATE:

Chiropractors	Optometrists
Clinics	Osteopaths
Dentists	Pharmacists
Family counselors	Physical therapists
Homeopaths	Podiatrists
Hospitals	Psychologists
Laboratories	Social workers
Laboratory technicians	Speech pathologists
Marriage counselors	Veterinarians
Nurses	X-ray technicians
Nursing homes	

or

Doctor's front office (clerical) staff
Emergency medical technicians
Medical insurance companies
Oriental medicine occupations

NEVADA STATE AGENCIES THAT REGULATE OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Board of Dental Examiners, (702) 486-7044

Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech Pathology, (775) 787-3421

Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors, (702) 486-7388

Board of Examiners for Social Workers, (775) 688-2555

Board of Homeopathic Medical Examiners, (775) 324-3353

Board of Nursing, (775) 687-7700

Board of Optometry, (775) 883-8367

Board of Oriental Medicine, (702) 837-8921

Board of Osteopathic Medicine, (702) 732-2147

Board of Pharmacy, (775) 850-1440

Board of Podiatry, (775) 789-2605

Board of Psychological Examiners, (775) 688-1268

Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, (775) 688-1788

Chiropractic Physicians' Board, (775) 688-1921

Physical Therapy Examiners' Board, (702) 876-5535

For agencies not listed above, call Nevada State Library Research Assistance at (775) 684-3360 or (800) 922-2880 toll-free within the state of Nevada.

Your insurance plan may also list which doctors in your area are covered by your insurance.