

This electronic newsletter shall serve as official notice from the Maryland Board of Physicians. It is the responsibility of every licensee to read and understand the contents of this newsletter.



June 2023

## FEATURED

- 2023 Legislative Updates
- New Expedited Licensing Pathways
- Genetic Counselor Licensure
- UA and FCVS Requirements for Physicians and PAs

## NEWS | UPDATES



### Upcoming License Renewals

- Licenses for athletic trainers will expire on September 30, 2023.
- Licenses for physician assistants will expire on June 30, 2023.
- Licenses for physicians with the last name starting with M-Z will expire on September 30, 2023.



### Online Applications for Allied Health Practitioners

The Board is in the process of transitioning all allied health practitioner's license applications to online applications. On May 1, 2023, the athletic trainer initial license application became the first application available online. Paper applications will no longer be accepted. You can access the online athletic trainer initial application [here](#).



### ACCME PARS - New Reporting Method for Continuing Medical Education

The Board has collaborated with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to

## 2023 Legislative Updates



The Maryland General Assembly's 2023 legislative session concluded on April 10, 2023. Legislation that successfully passed includes:

- **State Board of Physicians - Inactive and Emeritus Status**

This bill authorizes the Board to issue an emeritus license status for retired physicians. Beginning October 1, 2023, retired physicians with at least ten years of service in Maryland may apply for emeritus status. To be eligible for an emeritus license, physicians cannot have been subject to disciplinary action that has resulted in revocation or suspension of their license at any time in any jurisdiction in which they have been licensed nor can they be under investigation by the Board. Emeritus physicians may not practice medicine or prescribe medications in Maryland but may retain their professional title and are exempt from standard renewal and continuing education requirements. Emeritus status will be reflected on the physician's practitioner profile.

- **Health Occupations - Licensed Athletic Trainers - Dry Needling Approval**

This bill allows the Board to approve licensed athletic trainers to perform dry needling as a specialized task. To be eligible for approval,

implement a new, automated continuing medical education (CME) reporting system. Licensees can now request the educational provider to report their CME credits to ACCME's Program and Activity Report Systems (PARS). The Board will be able to access this information. Licensees will have to provide their name, month and day of birth, and license number or national provider identifier (NPI) for the educational provider to be able to automatically verify and share their participation. Any accredited CME provider can report CME credits through this program. Participation in PARS is voluntary and free of charge. Direct any questions to your participating accredited educational provider. More information can be found [here](#).



### **Military License Exemption**

The Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 was enacted on January 1, 2023. This federal legislation is an exemption for military service persons and their spouses to bypass the licensing process if they have an active license in a U.S. state, their license is in good standing, and they or their spouse have military orders to provide military service in Maryland. The exemption is valid only during their or their spouse's military orders. Those who are eligible for this license exemption must submit a completed form provided by the Board, a copy of their or their spouse's military orders, and a copy of their marriage certificate (if applicable) to the Board.

### **AMA Code of Medical Ethics**

The American Medical Association rolled out a new [website](#) recently that makes it easier for physicians to find guidance on medical ethics.

 **Reminders**

**Supervising Physicians**

licensed athletic trainers must complete 80 hours of instruction in approved continuing education courses, 40 of which must be hands-on practical training.

- **Reproductive Health Protection Act**

This bill states that a health occupations board may not revoke, suspend, discipline, take adverse action against, or refuse to issue or renew a license, certification, or other authorization to practice, or take reciprocal disciplinary action with another State's health occupation board, if the health care practitioner provided and/or supported legally protected health care in accordance with the standard of care and in accordance with Maryland's laws.

## **New Expedited Licensing Pathways for Physicians**

There are two expedited licensing processes available now:

- **Licensure by Endorsement - Available Now**



Under licensure by endorsement, the Board will accept licensure from another state as sufficient evidence that the applicant has met some or all of the

requirements for licensure in Maryland. Applicants must possess certification from the American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Osteopathic Association, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or the College of Family Physicians of Canada. Additional eligibility requirements include good moral character, no disciplinary actions, and fulfillment of any additional Maryland-specific requirements. A criminal background check, including fingerprints, is required.

- **Licensure by Reciprocity - Available Now for Virginia and D.C. Licensees**



Under licensure by reciprocity, Maryland will

Supervising physicians are reminded to notify the Board of the termination of an evaluation and treatment protocol for an athletic trainer within 15 days of the termination and within 5 days of the termination of a delegation agreement for a physician assistant.

### Death Certificates

Maryland law mandates that physicians and physician assistants complete a medical certification within 24 hours after receiving a death certificate. Section 4-212(b)(4) of the Health-General Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, states: "The medical certification shall be completed within 24 hours after receipt of the death certificate by the physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death, except when inquiry is required by the medical examiner."

Physicians and physician assistants with questions about completing death certificates may wish to utilize the following resources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): [Physicians' Handbook on Medical Certification of Death](#) and ["Instructions for Completing the Cause-of-Death Section of the Death Certification"](#).
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner: 410-333-3271 (*available 24 hours*)
- Vital Statistics Administration (Electronic Death Registration System): Email [edrs.help@maryland.gov](mailto:edrs.help@maryland.gov)

### Physician Scam Notice

All physicians should be aware of an ongoing scam in which they are called by someone claiming to be from the Baltimore Sheriff's Office. They are told they missed a federal court

accept medical licenses from Virginia and D.C. as sufficient evidence that the applicant has met Maryland licensure requirements. Applicants must have no disciplinary action, have good moral character, and meet any additional Maryland-specific requirements to be eligible. Foreign graduates licensed in Virginia are not eligible due to differences in training requirements. Physicians licensed in Maryland may also apply for licensure in Virginia or D.C. through licensure by reciprocity.

If you are interested in starting the process for licensure by endorsement or licensure by reciprocity, please keep in mind some important information about expedited licensing:

- Expedited licensure is restricted to physician applicants who have never been issued a Maryland medical license.
- Applicants must meet the requirements for the expedited pathway selected.
- Applicants must complete the screening questions and the online application.
- Applicants must submit payment for the application review and processing fee. Payment 1: Application review and processing fee of \$310.
- If the application is approved, the applicant will be required to sign in and make the second payment of the monthly licensure fee. Payment 2: Prorated \$20 monthly licensure fee assessed from the month of license application approval to the month of license expiration ([COMAR 10.32.01.12](#)). Prorated licensure fee will not exceed \$480.
- There are **no refunds** if the Board determines that the applicant does not qualify for the expedited pathway selected.

More information on expedited licensure can be found [here](#).

*Expedited licensure is **only available for physician applicants**. The Board is looking to expand these pathways to other practitioner groups in the future.*

## Genetic Counselor Licensure



date, that there are citations against them, and that they have been subpoenaed to appear at a trial. The scammers will then claim that they will be arrested and jailed unless they provide money to post bond for a civil option. The Federal Trade Commission has [offered tips on how to avoid a scam](#).

## BOARD EMAIL ADDRESSES

General Inquiries | Policy Questions |

Licensure Inquiries:

[mbpmail@rcn.com](mailto:mbpmail@rcn.com)

Matters regarding Maryland licensure through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact:

[mbp\\_compact@maryland.gov](mailto:mbp_compact@maryland.gov)

Physician Drug Dispensing Permits:

[mdh.mbpdrugdispense@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.mbpdrugdispense@maryland.gov)

Physician Assistant Drug Dispensing:

[mdh.mbpPADispense@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.mbpPADispense@maryland.gov)

## BOARD LINKS OF INTEREST

[Practitioner Profiles](#)

[Laws and Regulations](#)

[Recent Board Actions | Sanctions](#)

[Applications | Forms](#)

[Board Members](#)

Effective January 1, 2024, the Board will begin licensing genetic counselors. To be eligible for licensure, applicants must have graduated from an approved education program, be of good moral character, be at least 18 years of age, and be certified by the American Board of Genetic Counseling or its predecessor, the American Board of Medical Genetics. Individuals who are not certified genetic counselors but have been practicing as genetic counselors for at least 10 years, at least 5 of which have been consecutive and immediately preceding application, may apply for a license before December 31, 2024, if they have graduated from an approved education program and provide three letters of recommendation from licensed physicians or certified genetic counselors. Applicants will be required to complete an application, pay the application fee, and undergo a criminal background check, including fingerprints.



## UA and FCVS Requirements for Physicians and PAs



- Effective July 1, 2023, all physician applicants will be required to use the Uniformed Application (UA) for Licensure and the Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS). The UA is a single application that can be used when applying for licenses in multiple states, improving license portability. The FCVS is a fast and convenient way for physicians to store core credentials that can be used for multiple state medical boards.
- [Coming soon](#), physician assistant applicants will be required to use the Uniform Application for Licensure (UA).