MBP Fall 2025 eNews Bulletin

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.



NEWSLETTER

Fall **2025**

New Mandated Reports by Employers - Requirements Have Changed

Effective October 1, 2025, substantial changes have been made to the mandated reporting requirements. All employers and licensees should familiarize themselves with the new laws (§§ 14-413 (Physicians), 14-5A-18 (Respiratory Care Practitioners), 14-5B-15 (Radiation Therapists, Radiographers, Nuclear Medicine Technologists, and Radiologist Assistants), 14-5C-18 (Polysomnographic Technologists), 14-5D-11.5 (Athletic Trainers), 14-5E-18 (Perfusionists), 14-5F-19 (Naturopathic Doctors), 14-5G-20 (Genetic Counselors), and 15-103 (Physician Assistants)) and the Mandated Reports FAQs.

Some changes to the mandated reporting requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Expanding the reporting requirements to <u>all</u> employers of health care professionals regulated by the Board. An
 employer is a person or entity that enters an arrangement for professional services, whether paid or
 unpaid, contractual or otherwise, with an individual regulated by the Board. Some examples of
 employers required to report are high schools, universities, urgent care centers, private medical practices,
 telehealth companies, and staffing agencies that employ a licensee of the Board;
- 2. Establishing an exemption to reporting for all licensees who meet certain criteria and are in substance use disorder treatment;
- 3. Standardizing the language regarding the reporting requirements for all licensees;
- 4. Clarifying under what circumstances a report is required, and what is required in the content of the report.

An employer required to file a report may now utilize the online mandated report form.

Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Vaccination Guidance

• COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Order

Effective September 19, 2025, MDH issued a <u>standing order</u> authorizing qualified healthcare professionals to administer COVID-19 vaccinations to individuals who meet the criteria. The standing order shall remain in effect until September 18, 2026, unless withdrawn.

FEATURED

- New! Mandated Reports by Employers - Requirements Have Changed
- Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Vaccination Guidance

• COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV

MDH has issued <u>vaccination recommendations</u> regarding the COVID-19, influenza, and RSV vaccinations in preparation for the respiratory virus season. MDH remains committed to ensuring widespread access to vaccines and encourages providers to discuss vaccinations with their patients.

Reminders for Physician Assistants (PAs)

- PAs must notify the Board via their <u>Practitioner Profile</u> within 5 days of terminating a Collaboration Agreement (CA).
- PAs must retain their CA and all related documentation for Board inspection for 5 years after the CA's termination.
- PAs <u>cannot</u> hold both a CA and an active Delegation Agreement (DA) with the same PCTP. If a new CA is initiated, the existing DA must be terminated via their Practitioner Profile.
- PAs should not submit an advanced duties addendum application if the PA has not notified the Board of the newly executed CA.
- PAs do <u>not</u> need to notify the Board when removing a Patient Care Team
 Physician (PCTP) from the CA. A PCTP may be added or removed from a
 CA by immediately documenting the addition or removal in the CA on file
 at the PA's primary place of business.
- PAs do <u>not</u> need to notify the Board of the removal of prescriptive authority from a CA for non-disciplinary reasons unless they have an existing delegation agreement.
- No modification shall be made to an active Delegation Agreement that
 was approved prior to October 1st, 2024. Any change to a PA's current
 practice or supervision authorized by an active Delegation Agreement
 approved prior to October 1st, 2024, will require a new Collaboration
 Agreement to be executed.

Athletic Trainers and Dry Needling

Athletic trainers who have been approved by the Board to perform dry needling are reminded that they must notify the Board using the form supplied by the Board if the supervising physician changes. For more information regarding the practice of athletic training and/or the performance of dry needling, please review the Athletic Trainers Frequently Asked Questions.

FYI - Respiratory Care Practitioners Committee and Polysomnography Committee - Name Change

Effective October 1, 2025, the Respiratory Care Professional Standards Committee is renamed the Respiratory Care Advisory Committee, and the Polysomnography Professional Standards Committee is renamed the Polysomnography Advisory Committee. The name change standardizes the Committee names among all allied health professions.

- Reminders for Physician Assistants (PAs)
- Athletic Trainers and Dry Needling
- FYI Respiratory Care
 Practitioners Committee and
 Polysomnography
 Committee Name Change
- Medical Records Retention Requirements
- Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program
- Important Reminders

ALSO THIS MONTH

Upcoming Renewals

Genetic Counselor licenses will expire on January 31, 2026.

Perfusionist-Advanced licenses will expire on January 31, 2026.

Naturopathic Doctors licenses will expire on March 31, 2026.

Respiratory Care licenses will expire on May 30, 2026.

Survey for Patients and Caretakers with Rare Diseases

The Maryland Rare Disease
Advisory Committee (RDAC) has
developed a needs-assessment
survey for patients and
caregivers with rare diseases,
aiming to maximize its impact
by reaching patients with rare
diseases of all ages across
Maryland. To assist RDAC in this
effort, licensees are encouraged
to share the survey with their
patients. The survey is available

Medical Records Retention Requirements

Licensees should familiarize themselves with all requirements for medical records retention in Maryland. This includes:

- Maintaining medical records, laboratory, and X-ray reports for <u>seven</u> years after making the record or report.
- Notifying the patient or the parent/guardian of the minor patient by firstclass mail to the last known address <u>or</u> by email to the last known email address 60 days before the destruction.
- Prohibiting licensees from charging patients a fee for providing an attorney representing the patient with medical records that will be used to file a claim regarding Social Security disability or benefits.
- Notifying the Board in writing of the custodian and maintenance of the remaining medical records in accordance with State law (<u>Health General</u>, § 4-403). Medical records must be maintained by another healthcare provider, the administrator of the estate, or a designee who has agreed to maintain the records.

For more information, please refer to the $\underline{\text{Medical Record Retention \& Fees}}$ FAQs.

Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program

Are you interested in expanding healthcare access in underserved communities in Maryland? The Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants (MLARP) is an excellent opportunity to do just that! MLARP's intent is to improve the recruitment and retention of the health professional workforce, especially in areas of Maryland experiencing professional shortages.

MLARP provides healthcare professionals with higher education loan repayment assistance in exchange for a service commitment at an eligible practice site. This opportunity provides physicians, physician assistants, and final year medical residents with up to \$100,000 in loan repayment grants, dependent on licensure/certification.

The next annual application period for MLARP is from March 1, 2026, through April 15, 2026. The application process is competitive, with a technical scoring process based on State and Federal priorities and funding availability. Click here to learn more.

Important Reminders

Death Certificates

Maryland law mandates that physicians and physician assistants complete a medical certification within 24 hours after receiving a death certificate. § 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."

through the Maryland Department of Health <u>RDAC</u> website.

New Requirement: Dispenser Reporting of Noncontrolled Prescription Drug Dispenses

Maryland law (2022) aims to improve access to comprehensive medication history to support healthcare providers in making informed treatment and care coordination decisions with their patients. As of September 1, 2025, dispensers of noncontrolled prescription drugs (non-CDS), including dispensing prescribers, are required to submit non-CDS dispense information to the State-Designated Health Information Exchange (CRISP). CRISP will provide non-CDS dispense information to treating providers starting in early 2026. Visit the Maryland Health Care Commission's website or email mhcc.noncds@maryland.gov for more information on non-CDS reporting, including technical guidance for dispensers and the process to request a timelimited waiver from reporting.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Resources

Resources are available to prescribers to stay up to date on PDMP requirements:

- PDMP Training Video
- PDMP Fact Sheet
- Helpful Resources for Providers

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

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <u>Physicians Handbook</u> on <u>Medical Certification of Death</u> and <u>Instructions for Completing the</u> <u>Cause-of-Death Section of the Death Certification</u>.
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner: 410-333-3271 (available 24 hours)
- Vital Statistics Administration (Maryland Electronic Death Registration System): Email <u>adrs.help@maryland.gov</u>

Keep Your Name and Address Updated

Effective October 1, 2025, all licensees are required to notify the Board of a name or address change within <u>30 days</u> of the change. Having the correct name and address on file is crucial for receiving important notifications from the Board. To update your address, log in to your <u>Practitioner Profile</u>. To update your name, complete the <u>Physician Name Change Request Form</u> or <u>Allied Health Name Change Request Form</u>. Failure to update your name or address may result in a \$100 civil penalty.

In addition, PDMP has partnered with MedChi to develop a continuing medical education program, "Benzodiazepine Tapering Guidelines".



Board Email Addresses

General Inquiries | Policy Questions | Licensure Inquiries: mbpmail@rcn.com

Maryland licensure through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact: mbp_compact@maryland.gov

Physician Drug Dispensing Permits: mdh.mbpdrugdispense@maryland.gov

Links of Interest

Practitioner Profiles

Laws and Regulations

Board Actions

Applications / Forms

Board Members