# Maryland Board of Physicians

Board Chairman: Robert G. Hennessy, M.D., M.B.A. • Executive Director: C. Irving Pinder, Jr.

Spring 2008



### **Unprofessional Conduct**

The Maryland Medical Practice Act lists 40 "grounds" for which the Board of Physicians can discipline a physician, including "unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine" and "immoral conduct in the practice of medicine." These actions are serious offenses and may result in disciplinary action by the Board ranging from reprimand, probation, suspension or even revocation of license.

The term "boundary issues" is often used to refer to acts of sexual misconduct that exploit the physician/patient relationship and violate the public trust in the medical profession. This misconduct can occur between a physician (or other health care provider) and either the patient or a key third party, such as a spouse, parent, or quardian of the patient. Sexual misconduct is immoral conduct in the practice of medicine, whether the behavior is initiated by the physician or the patient. These behaviors can cause physical and mental harm to the patient or key third party. The term "sexual misconduct" includes both sexual improprieties and sexual violations.

Sexual improprieties are words or actions that are seductive, sexually suggestive, or disrespectful of a patient's privacy. These could include failing to use drapes during examination, deliberately watching a patient dress or undress if done in a sexually suggestive or sexually demeaning manner, examination of genital areas without gloves, inappropriate or sexual remarks about a patient's body or underclothing, or using the physician/patient relationship to solicit a date or romantic relationship.

#### Allied Health News

During the 2008 legislative session, Maryland law for respiratory care practitioners, radiation oncology/therapy technologists, medical radiation technologists and nuclear medicine technologists was revised with the passage of HB 1517 to reflect current practice and industry standards, and to bring consistency to the allied health professions provisions in Title 14 of the Health Occupations Article. HB 1517 repeals both the obsolete respiratory care practitioner Veteran's Internship Program and the practice of issuing temporary licenses to respiratory care practitioners. Due to the increased accessibility of the national certifying examination, these

Sexual violations are acts that include physical sexual contact or conduct with a patient that may be reasonably interpreted as sexual. This can include kissing in a romantic or sexual manner, touching breasts, genitals or any sexualized body parts for any purpose other than appropriate exmination or treatment or where the patient has hesitated or withdrawn consent, offering to provide goods or services, such as drugs, in exchange for sexual favors, as well as sexual intercourse, genital to genital contact, oral to genital contact, oral to anal contact, and genital to anal contact. More information about behaviors that may result in charges of immoral conduct can be found on the Board's website, www.mbp.state.md.us. Choose "Maryland regulations" and scroll down to the "Sexual Misconduct" regulations, COMAR 10.32.17. The Board also has a video available, "Crossing the Line" which discusses the balance of power in a physician/patient relationship, appropriate office atmosphere, and other relevant issues. This can be ordered or downloaded from the Board's website.

The Federation of State Medical Boards has published a document entitled "Addressing Sexual Boundaries: Guidelines for State Medical Boards" which provides additional information. See www.fsmb.org/grpol policydocs.html.

-Habib A. Bhutta, M.D.

Statements in this article are not meant to establish rules of general application or future effect and are not intended to constitute regulation within the meaning of the Maryland Law.

intermediary steps are no longer necessary or warranted for respiratory care practitioners. HB 1517 also updates the titles of radiation oncology/therapy technologists and medical radiation technologists to radiation therapists and radiographers, respectively; replaces "certification" with "licensure" to reflect current nomenclature; and replaces the current internship programs with the new practice of issuing temporary licenses for these professions. In addition, the Board is required to license radiologist assistants. The provisions of the new law enumerated above are effective October 1, 2008.

### 2008 Legislative Session **End of Session Report**

With the passage of HB 811/SB 764, the Board will likely participate on the yet to be appointed Task Force on the Discipline of Health Care Professionals and Improved Patient Care. This task force was the result of an amendment proposed by Mr. John Colmers, Secretary of DHMH. The task force is required to report to the legislature on or before December 1, 2008. There were several privately-sponsored bills introduced this session, attempting to undermine the mission of health occupations boards, but all such bills failed.

The Board's housekeeping bill for respiratory care practitioners and radiation technologists,

HB 1517, passed with amendments proposed by certain legislators in the final days of the session to also require the licensure of radiologist assistants. The bill has an effective date of October 1, 2008.

HB 1407, downgraded to a report, requires a study to determine whether there is an appropriate alternative written protocol to replace the current requirement for a certified nurse-midwife to have a signed written collaborative agreement with a licensed physician. The Boards of Nursing and Physicians must report to the legislature on the results and recommendations of the study proposed in HB 1407 on or before December 1, 2009.

Anotherbill, **HB525**, was downgraded to a report. HB 525 establishes an Advisory Council on Prescription Drug Monitoring in DHMH to make recommendations for a program that electronically collects and stores data concerning monitored prescription drugs. The Chairman of the Board or his designee is named as a member of the council. An interim report is due in 2008 and a final report is due December 31, 2009.

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### Communications between Physicians

Physicians, particularly those providing primary care, frequently refer patients to specialists, consultant physicians, or co-manage patients with other physicians. It is crucial that all physicians communicate with one another in order to provide high quality, safe, and effective care to the patient.

If a physician refers a patient to another physician for a consultation, the referring physician should provide the consultant with the reason for the referral, other relevant health information about the patient, and a list of medications prescribed for the patient, including psychotropic and pain medications. After the consultation, the referring physician should receive a report from the consultant that presents findings, recommendations, and any changes in medications or other patient instructions. While the consultant has an obligation to provide this report, the Board feels that the primary care physician also has an obligation to follow up if a consultant report is not received. The Board has found instances where a physician has

referred a patient for a procedure or consultation but failed to follow up if a report was not received. The patient may assume that "no news is good news" and ask no questions. The referring physician had good intentions, but failed to follow through. The result was a missed diagnosis, or failure to implement patient care recommendations in a timely manner.

Co-management of a patient can be even more complicated, since a written referral and consultant report are not relevant. Any physician who is treating a patient should have basic information about the patient's health history, including information about medications prescribed by other providers. Maryland law permits sharing of medical records between health care providers treating a patient, except for those developed primarily in connection with the provision of mental health services. Dialogue with other providers and with your patient is critical to providing high quality care to your patient and reducing the likelihood of complaints and Board investigations.

#### What's in a Name?

How are you listed on the Board's website? In this computer age, many people go online to check out a physician before stepping across the threshold. Physicians and other licensees are listed on the Board's website by the name on his or her license. If you practice under a different name, you cease to exist as a Maryland-licensed physician on the website. Potential patients are confused, and the Board may get a call saying that you are practicing without a license.

The Maryland Medical Practice Act states that a physician may practice medicine: "[U]sing only the name in which the license is issued." (Health Occupations Article, §14-314).

The Board's regulations further specify that practicing under a different name is considered to be unprofessional conduct and is grounds for discipline by the Board.

Staff in the Licensure Division match names on the various documents applicants must submit to insure that the applicant is actually the person who graduated from medical school, took the licensing exams, went through post graduate training, etc. The initial medical application form asks for the applicant's current legal name, and instructs the applicant to explain any differences between the name on any documents submitted and the current legal name.

Your license is issued in the name you listed on the application. If you wish to practice under a different name, you must submit to the Board an official document, such as a court order or marriage certificate, changing your name. The application for a name change also requires you to attach a passport-quality photo and asks for your original signature. These precautions help the Board to prevent "professional identity theft."

So please, look at your license and make sure that you are practicing under the name on your license. If you are not, visit our website, download an application for a name change, and send it in.

### **Breast Cancer Treatments and Breast Implantation**

Maryland has two laws relating to a physician's responsibility to inform patients about breast cancer treatment alternatives and breast implantation side effects, warnings, and cautions. Maryland Code Ann., Health-General §20-113 requires physicians to provide information regarding alternatives for treating breast cancer and the risks and benefits of each alternative. (If treatment begins within 5 days of diagnosis in order to save the life of the patient, this requirement is waived.) Maryland Code Ann., Health–General §20-114 requires physicians to inform patients about the advantages, disadvantages, and risks associated with breast implantation.

Physicians satisfy their responsibilities under these laws by providing patients with standardized written information within 5 days of treatment and obtaining the patient's signature on a form acknowledging receipt of the information. Written information and forms are available from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Center for Cancer Surveillance and Control, by calling Toni Brafa-Fooksman at 410-767-5281 or by e-mail at: fooksmant@dhmh.state.md.us.

Approved education materials on alternative treatements are also available as indicated below.

Breast Cancer – Treatment Guidelines for Patients http://www.cancer.org/downloads/CRI/Breast\_VIII.pdf or

What You Need to Know about Breast Cancer http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/wyntk/breast and

**Surgery Choices for Women With Early-Stage Breast Cancer** (if appropriate)

http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/SurgeryChoicesESBCPDF

The FDA Breast Implant Consumer Handbook has been approved as the required standardized written summary on breast implants. Copies may be downloaded from the FDA web site: http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/breastimplants/indexbip.html.

Any Maryland physician who fails to provide information to patients about risks, benefits, and alternatives with respect to breast cancer treatment and breast implantations may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Maryland Medical Practice Act.

#### **PHYSICIANS**

Leon Levitsky, M.D., License #: D09187 Area of Practice: Family Medicine (Annapolis, MD)

Revocation for a minimum of 6 years; stayed until Jan. 15, 2008, to give the physician the opportunity to permanently surrender his license in lieu of revocation. The physician practices medicine and keeps medical records far below acceptable, safe standards that are compatible with patient safety. Date of Action: December 31, 2007

A. Gerald Little, M.D., License #: D19592 Area of Practice: Unspecified (Owings Mills, MD)

**Revocation.** The physician pled guilty to a crime of moral turpitude, that is, four counts of health care fraud and one count of obtaining drugs by fraud, and thereby was subject to statute that mandates revocation of license. Date of Action: December 31, 2007

Florentino Loya, M.D., License #: D41296 Area of Practice: Family Medicine (Mitchellville, MD)

Stay of the suspension imposed by the May 24, 2006 Consent Order is lifted and an active suspension of 6 months is imposed effective 5 days from the date of the Order and until terms and conditions are met; if suspension is terminated, probation for 3 years with terms and conditions. Based on a peer review, the Board determined that the physician was not providing adequate medical care to his patients. Date of Action: December 24, 2007

Louis W. Miller, M.D. License #: D07421 Area of Practice: Internal Medicine/ General Preventive Medicine (Stevenson, MD)

**Summary Suspension**. The physician admitted that he used illegal drugs for a number of years; and, on or about December 2007, the physician was arrested and criminally charged with violations of the Maryland criminal code for possession of cocaine, drug paraphernalia, marijuana, and other CDS. Date of Action: December 10, 2007

Catherine A. North, M.D. License #: D36128 Area of Practice: Radiology (Phoenix, MD)

**Summary Suspension.** The physician is presently incompetent to practice medicine for reasons that included engaging in inappropriate medical practice and untreated stimulant and alcohol abuse. Date of Action: December 10, 2007

Colin C. Ottey, M.D. License #: D52294 Area of Practice: Internal Medicine (Lanham, MD)

Active Suspension imposed by the June 1, 2006 order is stayed; Probation for 3 years subject to terms and conditions. The physician has complied with the terms and conditions precedent for a stay of suspension. Date of Action: November 28, 2007

Manoochehr Pooya, M.D. License #: D05507 Area of Practice: Internal Medicine (Potomac, MD)

**Summary Suspension.** The Maryland Board took reciprocal action based on a Summary Suspension disciplinary action by the DC Medical Board based on sexual advances towards patients. Date of Action: December 28, 2007

Beth Rhodes-Mizerny, M.D. License #: D47767 Area of Practice: Otolaryngology (Prince Frederick, MD)

Reprimand; fine of \$5,000 payable no later than 1 year from the date of the order; and terms. The physician failed to cooperate with a lawful investigation of the Board. Date of Action: December 31, 2007

Michael R. Rudman, M.D. License #: D17106 Area of Practice: Family Practice (Middletown, MD)

Order of Revocation, dated Dec. 20, 2006, is vacated. Date of Action: Aug. 23, 2007

Anil Sanghera, M.D. License #: D24722 Area of Practice: Psychiatry (Baltimore, MD)

Surrender of license; the physician agrees not to apply for reinstatement for at least 5 years. The physician surrendered the license to avoid further prosecution on disciplinary charges now pending before the Board. Date of Action: November 28, 2007

Stephen C. Schellhase, M.D. License #: D56490 Area of Practice: Psychiatry (Baltimore, MD)

Termination of the suspension of the June 27, 2007 Consent Order; Probation for 3 years, effective January 23, 2008, subject to terms and conditions. The physician met the terms and conditions precedent to termination of the active suspension. Date of Action: January 23, 2008

Carol J. Scott, M.D. AKA Carol Ruth Scott, M.D. License #: D34537

Area of Practice: Emergency Medicine (Baltimore, MD)

Reprimand; fine of \$5,000 to be paid 120 days after the date of the order; reinstatement of license after compliance with terms; the February 23, 2000 Consent Order to remain in effect and incorporated in this order. The physician violated the February 23, 2000 Consent Order of the Board. Date of Action: May 23, 2007

Harry L. Sernaker, M.D. License #: D43515

Area of Practice: Anesthesiology & Pain Management (Baltimore, MD)

Reprimand; Probation for a minimum of 2 years subject to terms and conditions. The physician failed to keep adequate medical records in his practice of anesthesiology in regard to 5 patients to whom he provided anesthesia services in 2005. Date of Action: March 27, 2008

Mahmaud Shirazi, M.D. License #: D46962 Area of Practice: Internal Medicine (Salisbury, MD)

**Summary Suspension.** The Board concluded that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively required emergency action based on the investigatory information that the physician inappropriately touched three female patients in a sexual manner. Date of Action: June 18, 2007

Cindy Hang Sirois, M.D. License #: D65039 Area of Practice: Unspecified (Minnetonka, MN)

**Reprimand; fine of \$1,000**. The Board took reciprocal action based on disciplinary action in Alaska because the physician failed to be forthright in her response to all questions asked in her application document. Date of Action: December 19, 2007

#### **PHYSICIANS**

Nibondh Chaiyupatumpa, M.D., License #: D18850 Area of Practice: OB/GYN (Baltimore, MD)

Suspension for 3 months, stayed; Probation for a minimum of 2 years subject to terms and conditions. The physician failed to meet the standards of quality care in practicing family medicine in regard to four patients. Date of Action: December 19, 2007

Brian A. Chigbue, M.D., License #: D50457 Area of Practice: Internal Medicine (Laurel, MD)

**Summary Suspension.** The Board concluded that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively required action based on acts of sexual misconduct with two patients and a criminal indictment based on those acts. Date of Action: January 14, 2008

Michael Q. Durry, M.D., License #: D63673 Area of Practice: General Surgery (Baltimore, MD)

Suspension for 5 years with all but 12 months stayed; terms and conditions during active suspension; after 12 months and successful completion of terms and conditions; Probation for 5 years subject to terms and conditions. The physician was guilty of unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine; and engaged in sexual misconduct with a patient and inappropriate sexualized behavior with female hospital staff. Date of Action: December 19, 2007

Adam Faill, M.D., License #: D36425 Area of Practice: Internal Medicine (Bel Air, MD)

Suspension for 5 years; stay of suspension 3 months from the effective date of the order if the physician is in compliance with the order; Probation for 5 years subject to terms and conditions. The physician violated the Medical Practice Act because of substance abuse concurrent with his practice of medicine. Date of Action: December 19, 2007

Debra J. Freeman, M.D., License #: D40730 Area of Practice: Pediatrics (Oldsmar, FL)

**Summary Suspension.** The Board took emergency action based on investigative facts regarding the physician's psychiatric condition, criminal conduct, and her care and treatment of a newborn. Date of Action: February 14, 2008

Scott M. Gerrish, D.O., License #: H54098 Area of Practice: Internal Medicine (Ashburn, VA)

Administrative fine in the amount of \$1,000. The physician continued to practice medicine in Maryland after his medical license lapsed on Sept. 30, 2006 in violation of Md. Code Ann. Health Occ §14-601 and §14-606. Date of Action: December 17, 2007

Leslie C. Griffin, M.D., License #: D34457 Area of Practice: Radiology (Baltimore, MD)

**Reprimand; terms and conditions.** The physician failed to meet standards of care in her practice of radiology, that is, misinterpretation of ultrasound studies of a patient's breast resulting in a delay of diagnosis. Date of Action: December 31, 2007

John D. Griswold, M.D., License #: D26632 Area of Practice: Emergency Medicine (White Hall, MD)

**Surrender of License.** The physician's decision to surrender his license was prompted by a health condition that impacts on his ability to practice medicine. Date of Action: December 24, 2007

Kelvin B. Hao, M.D. License #: D50343 Area of Practice: Internal Medicine (McLean, VA)

Reprimand; Probation for a minimum of 3 years subject to terms and conditions. The physician failed to meet standards of care by failing to conduct a complete physical examination of a patient and to conduct and/or offer preventive cancer screening tests during the 2 years he treated the patient. Date of Action: March 27, 2008

John G. Harney, M.D., License #: D21716 Area of Practice: Internal Medicine (Baltimore, MD)

Reprimand; Probation for a minimum of 18 months and until terms and conditions are met. The physician failed to provide details of a patient's medical record to the patient and failed to cooperate with a lawful investigation of the Board. Date of Action: November 28, 2007

John M. Henderson, M.D., License #: D06274 Area of Practice: Psychiatry (Towson, MD)

**Surrender.** The physician's surrender is based on his desire to retire due to health reasons and to avoid further investigation of allegations of inappropriate behavior toward female office assistants, prescribing drugs to family and friends for whom he did not maintain medical records, and for self prescribing. Date of Action: December 19, 2007

Donald H. Hislop, M.D., License #: D08293 Area of Practice: Family Medicine (Annapolis, MD)

Petition for Reinstatement is granted; petition to terminate suspension denied; until certain conditions are met; if conditions have been met, suspension is terminated; Probation for 2 years subject to terms and conditions. The Board determined that the physician must undergo additional training in specific areas before the Board reinstates an active license. Date of Action: February 7, 2008

Howlett S. Jackson, M.D., License #: D20993 Area of Practice: Family Medicine (Havre de Grace, MD)

**Revocation.**The physician failed to cooperate with a lawful investigation of the Board. Date of Action: November 7, 2007

Harold R. Katz, M.D., License #: D30934 Area of Practice: Opthalmology (Baltimore, MD)

Reprimand; Probation for 5 years effective November 10, 2006 subject to terms and conditions. The physician had a relapse in his recovery from substance abuse in November 2006. Date of Action: February 27, 2008

George S.G. Lakner, M.D., License #: D25404 Area of Practice: Psychiatry (Washington, DC)

Suspension for 3 years effective August 29, 2005; fine of \$10,000. Upon appeal of the August 29, 2005 order, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals ruled that the Board was not authorized to impose one of the specific conditions in the order and remanded that matter for the Board to impose a new sanction. The Board issued its Mar. 19, 2008 order based on the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the August 29, 2005 order, which had been affirmed by the appeals court. Date of Action: March 19, 2008

#### **PHYSICIANS**

Sanjay F. Sood, M.D. License #: D55869 Area of Practice: Family Medicine (Los Angeles, CA)

Reprimand; should the physician reinstate his expired license, probation for 6 months. The Board sanctioned the physician based on discipline in another jurisdiction for prescribing CDS over the internet to patients whom he had not physically examined and for failing to disclose the discipline in California when making an employment application. Date of Action: December 20, 2007

Adaobi Stella Udeozor, M.D. License #: D41987 Area of Practice: Family Practice (Gaithersburg, MD)

The Board has removed the December 29, 2006 suspension from the physician's license based on the August 14, 2007 reversal of the Board's order by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. Date of

Action: August 14, 2007

Usha Varma, M.D. License #: D15066 Area of Practice: OB/GYN (Baltimore, MD)

Reprimand; Probation for 2 years subject to terms and conditions. The physician failed to meet the standards of quality care in her practice of obstetrics and gynecology with respect to one patient during the performance of a laparoscopic procedure. Date of Action: January 23, 2008

Melvin Yeshnik, M.D. License #: D30191 Area of Practice: OB/GYN (Westminster, MD)

Reprimand; Probation for 3 years subject to terms and conditions. The physician failed to meet standards of care in his practice of obstetrics and gynecology in regard to two patients who developed preeclampsia, one of whom also developed eclampsia. Date of Action: December 20, 2007

#### **ALLIED HEALTH PRACTITIONERS**

Nicholas Barry, MRT Certificate #: R06547 Area of Practice: Medical Radiation Technology (Elkridge, MD)

Administrative fine of \$500. The health care practitioner practiced medical radiation technology without a certificate, in violation of the Medical Practice Act, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ.§14-5B-17(a). Date of Action: February 28, 2008

Shireen R. Collins, MRT Certificate #: R05854

Area of Practice: Medical Radiation Technology (Chestnut Hill, MA)

Suspension for 1 year; immediately stayed; terms and conditions under probation. The Board issued this disciplinary action based on substance abuse issues. Date of Action: February 27, 2008

James V. Dicanio, P.A. License #: C01024 Area of Practice: Physician Assistant (Annapolis, MD)

**Summary Suspension.** The Board determined that the public health, safety, or welfare required emergency action based on, including but not limited to, unauthorized prescribing of schedule II narcotics to family members. Date of Action: December 9, 2007

Shane David Lloyd Applicant, No License Area of Practice: Medical Radiation Technology ( Boonsboro, MD)

Application for Certification as an MRT is denied. The applicant does not possess good moral character and violated other provisions of the Medical Practice Act based on convictions for fraud and driving under the influence. Date of Action: February 1, 2008

#### **NO LICENSE**

Aleksandr I. Dzhanashvili No License (Baltimore, MD)

**Permanent Revocation; any application for licensure, registration, or certification will not be accepted.** The first year resident in a hospital residency program, among other things, posed as a licensed physician, entered the premises of a nursing home on several occasions, and unlawfully removed narcotic-eluding patches from a ventilator-dependent patient. Date of Action: July 25, 2007

## Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps

The Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps (MPVC) continues to enroll new volunteers who are interested in helping Marylanders in the event of a catastrophic health emergency. The Board of Physicians is seeking licensedphysicians and other health care professionals. You can find out more information under "Volunteer Information" on the Board's homepage at www.mbp.state.md.us. For current volunteers, the MPVC is conducting a survey to help assess Maryland's readiness to respond to an emergency. You will be asked about deployment availability and other emergency response issues. Please take the time to complete the survey and return it. You will be helping all of us prepare for an emergency.

## 2008 Legislative Session End of Session Report (continued from front page)

**HB551/SB717**, as originally proposed, expanded the authority of pharmacists to administer vaccinations. As amended and passed, pharmacists may administer vaccinations for pneumococcal pneumonia or herpes zoster to adults who have a prescription, effective October 1, 2008. (Pharmacists may currently administer the flu vaccine.) The pharmacist must inform the prescribing doctor if the vaccination is administered. The Boards of Pharmacy, Nursing and Physicians must develop regulations. These bills are awaiting signature.

## Can a Physician Delegate Supervisory Responsibilities?

Medical radiation technologists, nuclear medicine technologists, radiation oncology/therapy technologists, and respiratory care practitioners all work under the supervision of a licensed physician. A question has arisen as to whether the responsibility for supervision of radiation technologists can be delegated to a physician assistant. There is nothing in the law which permits a physician to delegate supervisory responsibilities for allied health practitioners to a non-physician. Therefore, a physician may not delegate supervision to a physician assistant, advanced practice nurse, or other non-physician provider.

#### Renewal Reminder

Physicians with last names from A-L are required to renew their licenses between July and September 30, 2008. You will be able to complete the renewal process online or download a copy of the application, complete it, and send it by mail. The renewal fee is \$518; this fee includes support for the Physician Rehabilitation Program, peer review services, and \$32 which Maryland law requires that the Board collect and forward to the Maryland Health Care Commission.

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