

# Board of Physicians BULLETIN

Your Spring 2020 eNews Update

Spring, 2020

## FEATURED

- [Legislative Summary](#)
- [Board Website Updates](#)
- [Reminders](#)

## NEWS | UPDATES

### [Practitioner Resources during COVID-19](#)

The Board encourages practitioners to seek help in times of stress and crisis. Information is available on the Board's Website about the voluntary Maryland Professional Health Program (MPHP). The MPHP does not share information with the Board and participation does not need to be reported to the Board by the licensee.

However, if a licensee's condition / disorder / impairment / treatment is currently impacting the licensee's ability to practice medicine safely and competently, the Board should be notified.

#### Resource Info:

[Practitioner Resources - Voluntary Programs](#) | [Physician Health Program](#) | [Code of Maryland Regulations](#) (See COMAR 10.32.01.08G and COMAR 10.32.22 for reporting requirements).

### [Physician License Renewal](#)

On July 13, 2020, the Board will open online renewal of licenses for physicians with last names beginning with A-L whose licenses expire on September 30, 2020. Click [here](#) for the Board's license renewal portal.

### [DEA Registrants: Scam Warning](#)

## Legislative Summary



During the Maryland General Assembly session earlier this year, Board staff and Board members reviewed numerous bills to determine the impact on the Board and its licensees. Visit the Board's ["New Laws and Regulations"](#) page for a snapshot of bills that passed.

All health occupations boards are subject to legislative review as required by the Maryland Program Evaluation Act. The evaluation process is commonly known as a "Sunset Review" because the entities subject to evaluation usually have a termination date. Legislative action is required to extend the termination date and reauthorize a health occupations board.

The Board's 2019 Sunset Review resulted in the introduction of legislation and the enactment of House Bill 560 (Chapter 612) and Senate Bill 395 (Chapter 613). These were emergency bills that extended the termination date of the Board and its related allied health advisory committees by 10 years to July 1, 2030, and generally implemented recommendations from the 2019 evaluation. The legislation eliminates obsolete language; changes certain statutory provisions to be consistent for all practitioners; clarifies time limitations for certain exceptions to licensure; clarifies requirements for physician assistant and athletic trainer supervisory agreements; adds new disciplinary grounds; consolidates and standardizes the content of the Board's annual report; and requires the Board to provide feedback on some of the recommendations.



The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is urging its registrants to be aware of individuals impersonating DEA special agents. For additional information, visit: <https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov>

### [Name changes and CHRCs](#)

Maryland law requires that licensed physicians and allied health practitioners notify the Board in writing of any name change within 60 days after the change. Name change request forms are available on the Board's Website for licensees to download, complete, and mail to the Board. Click [Physician](#) | [Allied Health](#) to download the name change form.

It is especially important that licensees' names match the names licensees use to practice a health occupation profession when submitting to criminal history records checks (CHRCs). If there has been a legal name change, a licensee should submit a name change form to the Board before submitting to a CHRC.

In addition, it is important for licensees to make sure their addresses are current for official correspondence from the Board. Each licensee is required to notify the Board of a change in address within 60 days after the change.

## BOARD EMAIL ADDRESSES

General Inquiries | Policy Questions |  
Licensure by Reciprocity:  
[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)

## Board Website Updates

- Since March 2020, the Board has posted COVID-19 information. Under "Alerts" on the homepage, there are links to updates, resources, executive orders, the Maryland Department of Health's COVID-19 page, and the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps' page. The Board has also posted COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Go to the Covid FAQs tab on the [homepage](#).
- The Board now displays information from the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission on physician profiles, indicating if a physician is a "certifying provider."
- Licensure and Allied Health applications and forms are now available on the Website as fillable PDFs. Though the Board encourages individuals to utilize the fillable versions of applications and forms, the documents may be printed and completed by hand.
- Always check the Website for the latest version of the Board's documents, especially if you started an application but waited to complete it. The Board will not accept outdated applications and forms.

### REMINDERS:

## For Physicians Regarding Telehealth

Practitioners utilizing telehealth services are required to abide by professional ethics and the same standard of care as applicable to in-person health care settings. Visit the Board's Website for a set of [telehealth FAQs](#) covering numerous topics, including standard of care matters and the current state of emergency in Maryland. Also see the Board's regulations at Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) [10.32.05](#) and the [emergency legislation](#) that was passed during the 2020 legislative session.



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](#)

## About Death Certificate

Maryland law mandates that physicians and physician assistants (PAs) complete a medical certification within 24 hours after receiving the death certificate. Section 4-212 (a)(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 PAs are also required to give or transmit completed death certificates to morticians within 24 hours after the death occurred. Section 4-212 (e)(1) of the Health-General Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, states: *“A physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner who fills out a certificate of death shall give it or transmit it by approved electronic media, including facsimile, to the mortician within 24 hours after the death occurred.”* Physicians and PAs are reminded and strongly encouraged to comply with this important law.