

MARYLAND BOARD OF PHYSICIANS BULLETIN

Your Spring 2021 eNews Update



Spring 2021

FEATURED

- License Renewals
- 2021 Legislative Session
- Board Website Updates
- Regulations

NEWS | UPDATES

[Code of Maryland Regulations \(COMAR\)](#)

- **Physician Assistants:** Physician assistant regulations (COMAR 10.32.03) are in the process of being updated. In April 2021, the Board posted the draft regulations for stakeholders to review and provide informal comments prior to the submission for formal publication in the *Maryland Register*.
- **Sanctioning Guidelines:** The Board is updating COMAR 10.32.02.10 (“Sanctioning Guidelines for Physicians”). The draft of regulations includes language related to new disciplinary grounds (added through recent legislation) and sanctioning guidelines for minimum and maximum sanctions and fines. A draft of the revisions will be posted on the Board’s Website to invite informal comments.
- **COMAR 10.32.10:** The Radiation Therapy, Radiography, Nuclear Medicine Technology, and Radiology Assistance Advisory Committee has been working on revisions for COMAR 10.32.10. A draft of the updated regulations

SPECIAL ALERT Deadline for License Renewals

During the state of emergency declared by the Governor as a result of COVID-19, the Board granted extensions to several practitioner groups whose licenses were expiring between March 2020 and May 2021. The deadline date for those practitioners who took advantage of the extension and did not renew their licenses is June 30, 2021. Practitioners who were granted extensions include:

- Naturopathic Doctors (licenses expired in March 2020)
- Respiratory Care Practitioners (licenses expired in May 2020)
- Physicians with last names beginning with A-L (licenses expired in September 2020)
- Radiation Therapists, Radiographers, Nuclear Medicine Technologists, and Radiologist Assistants (licenses expired in April 2021)
- Polysomnographers (licenses expire in May 2021)

All practitioners listed above who have not renewed their licenses must do so by June 30, 2021. *Any license that is not renewed will expire on July 1, 2021, and a practitioner may not practice the profession until the license is reinstated.*

There will be no extension granted for physician assistants, whose licenses expire June 30, 2021. There also is no extension for physicians (last names beginning with M-Z) and athletic trainers, whose licenses expire September 30, 2021.

Perfusionists’ licenses expire in January 2022.

Questions may be sent to mdh.mbprenewal@maryland.gov.

2021 Legislative Session

During the Maryland General Assembly session earlier this

will be posted on the Board's Website to invite informal comments.

- **Respiratory Care Practitioners:** COMAR 10.32.11 is being updated to incorporate statutory changes from the 2020 Sunset legislation.
- **Perfusionists:** COMAR 10.32.20 is being revised to incorporate statutory changes from the 2020 Sunset legislation.
- **Naturopathic Doctors:** COMAR 10.32.21 is being revised to incorporate statutory changes from the 2020 Sunset legislation and prior legislation regarding the Naturopathic Doctors Formulary Council.
- **Administrative Expungement:** Draft regulations (under COMAR 10.32.02) creating an expungement process for administrative actions were posted on the Board's Website for informal public comments in April 2021.
- **Physician Licensure Qualifications:** COMAR 10.32.01.03 is being revised to remove a discrepancy between the regulations and existing statute addressing applicants who failed their examination three or more times. The Board has submitted the proposal to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH).
- **Telehealth:** The Board has submitted proposed revisions to its telehealth regulations (COMAR 10.32.05) to MDH.
- **Athletic Trainers:** The Board submitted to MDH proposed revisions to COMAR 10.32.08, regarding athletic trainers, to reflect statutory changes that went into effect October 1, 2020, and to include additional revisions for consistency with other Board

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.

Legislation passed in 2021 includes Senate Bill (SB) 34 / House Bill (HB) 299, "State Board of Physicians – Genetic Counselors – Licensing," which establishes a license for genetic counselors and a Genetic Counselor Advisory Committee within the Board. SB 34 / HB 299 requires that all individuals be licensed by the Board as genetic counselors before practicing genetic counseling in Maryland by January 1, 2024. In addition to the genetic counselor license, SB 34 / HB 299 also establishes a supervised genetic counselor license for individuals who have met all educational and training requirements for licensure but have not yet taken the national certifying examination.



Board Website Updates



- Since March 2020, the Board has been posting and updating COVID-19 information. The "Covid Alerts" section on the homepage offers amended directives and executive orders related to various health care matters. The Board also has posted [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).
- Licensure applications and forms are available on the Website as fillable PDFs. The Board encourages individuals to utilize the fillable versions.
- The Board is offering a new online application option for physicians who have completed the Federation of State Medical Board's Uniform Application (UA). Using the UA for initial medical licensure in Maryland is optional. The UA does not replace the Board's license application, but the UA

regulations.

- **Drug Dispensing:** The Board submitted to MDH its revisions to dispensing permit regulations (COMAR 10.32.23) to address dispensing authority delegated to physician assistants and to add new provisions regarding topical medication permits.
- **Polysomnographers:** The Board submitted proposed revisions to COMAR 10.32.06 to MDH.
- **Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialists (RCIS):** The proposal to update COMAR 10.32.12 regarding RCIS was submitted to MDH.

BOARD EMAIL ADDRESSES

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

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

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

Physician Assistant Drug Dispensing:
mdh.mbpPAdispense@maryland.gov

BOARD LINKS OF INTEREST

[Practitioner Profiles](#)
[Laws and Regulations](#)
[Recent Board Actions | Sanctions](#)
[Applications | Forms](#)
[Board Members](#)

eliminates the need for practitioners to re-enter certain core information. Click [here](#) for UA requirements and instructions.

Physician Assistant (PA) Delegation Agreements and Athletic Trainer (AT) Evaluation and Treatment Protocols: Keep A Copy Now or You May Pay Later

The Board encourages licensees to make a copy of delegation agreements (for PAs) and evaluation and treatment protocols (for ATs) before mailing these applications to the Board. PAs, ATs, and supervising physicians must maintain a copy of delegation agreements and evaluation and treatment protocols at their place of employment at all times.

Requesting a copy of any application from the Board is considered a Public Information Act (PIA) request. Under the PIA, the Board has 30 days to respond to requests, and there may be a charge for the requested materials.

The Board requests that **all applicants and licensees** keep a copy of any items mailed to the Board.

Board and Advisory Committee Vacancies



The Board accepts applications at various times throughout the year to fill vacancies on the Board and its advisory committees. Interested licensees and stakeholders are encouraged to check the [recruitment page](#) on the Board's Website often for updated notices about vacancies.