At the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners meeting each April, we say a fond farewell to Board members whose terms are ending and look forward to those whose are just beginning. April 2021 was especially moving as the Board and staff celebrated three dedicated physicians whose terms have ended, Michael T. Flanagan, M.D., Jefferson Underwood, III, M.D., and Amanda J. Williams, M.D. Each of these tireless individuals has persevered with dignity over the last year and a half despite extreme professional and personal challenges.

This year, in addition to the traditional engraved clock commemorating their service to the Board, Executive Director William M. Perkins presented Drs. Flanagan, Williams, and Underwood etched crystal plaques in appreciation of their distinguished leadership, commitment, and service to the Board members and staff.

Dr. Flanagan, a pain management specialist practicing in Dothan, joined the Board in 2012 and from 2019 to 2021 served as Vice Chairman of the Board. Dr. Williams, a psychiatrist practicing in Montgomery, served as a member of the Board from 2019 to 2021. Dr. Underwood, who has practiced internal medicine in Montgomery for decades, served on the Board from 2016 to 2021.

Each of these former Board members discharged their duties through tumultuous times with distinction and grace. Their leadership and compassion will leave a lasting legacy for all those who have had the honor to work and serve alongside them.
HYALURON PENS
A DANGER TO CHILDREN

Promoting and Protecting Patient Safety

DISTURBING SOCIAL MEDIA TREND
A recent trend of disturbing social media videos show children self-administering hyaluron pens that allegedly deliver hyaluronic acid filler into the epidermal and upper dermal layers of the skin without traditional needles or injections. Companies are marketing these devices as perfect for patients who dislike needles or injections, and as a painless treatment that can be less invasive and a fast way to plump and fill their lips, fine lines and/or wrinkles.

The pens are medical devices first developed for insulin delivery and use pressure technology to cause the hyaluronic acid to insert Nano Scale molecules of the hyaluronic acid filler through the skin. Consumers are being told these devices can create volume and shape and lift lips, nasolabial lines, marionette lines, 11 lines and/or forehead wrinkles. Additional marketing claims note that the hyaluronic acid only reaches the papillary layer of the dermis making this a safe treatment with no risk of occlusion as well as no sharp tips to puncture blood vessels.

As with any medical treatment, there can be adverse events. Keep medical devices in the hands of trained and educated medical professionals and see a board certified dermatologist for cosmetic procedures.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SAFE INJECTABLE TREATMENTS AT ASDS.NET/INJECTABLES

*Courtesy of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery
NEW BUPRENORPHINE PRACTICE GUIDELINES

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently relaxed its guidelines for prescribing buprenorphine treatment for opioid use disorder. Practitioners who dispense or prescribe buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD) to 30 or fewer patients are now exempt from certification requirements related to training and the provision of psychosocial services.

Submission and approval of a Notice of Intent is still necessary to use buprenorphine in the treatment of patients with OUD.

The new guidelines do not change the rules regarding administering (not prescribing) buprenorphine in emergency department settings, and, consistent with applicable DEA regulations, ED practitioners are still permitted to administer buprenorphine within their facility for up to three consecutive days without a waiver.

Resources:

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) FAQs About the New Buprenorphine Practice Guidelines
- HHS Releases New Buprenorphine Practice Guidelines, Expanding Access to treatment for Opioid Use Disorder
- HHS Notice-Practice Guidelines for the Administration of Buprenorphine for Treating Opioid Use Disorder
- SAMHSA Buprenorphine Quick Start Guide (.pdf)

USE OF BUPRENORPHINE IN AN EMERGENCY

Federal law requires that physicians who administer or dispense (not prescribe) a narcotic drug to a narcotic dependent person for the purpose of maintenance or detoxification treatment be registered with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as a narcotic treatment program and comply with DEA regulations regarding treatment qualifications, security, records, and unsupervised use of the drugs.

However, the law exempts physicians who are not specifically registered to conduct a narcotic treatment program to administer (not prescribe) narcotic drugs to a person to relieve acute withdrawal symptoms when necessary while arrangements are being made for referral for treatment. Not more than one day’s medication may be administered to the person or for the person’s use at home. Such emergency treatment may be carried out for not more than three days and may not be renewed or extended.

Additionally, physicians and authorized hospital staff may administer or dispense narcotic drugs in a hospital to maintain or detoxify a person as an incidental adjunct to medical or surgical treatment of conditions other than addiction, or to administer or dispense narcotic drugs to persons with intractable pain in which no relief or cure is possible or none has been found after reasonable efforts.

(Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1306)
QACSC/LPSP FAQS

The Board frequently receives questions about the Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate (QACSC), the state registration that authorizes Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, and Physician Assistants to prescribe medications listed in Schedules III – V of the Alabama Controlled Substances List, and the Limited Purpose Schedule II Permit (LPSP), the state registration authorizing the prescribing of Schedule II medications by these practitioners. We will discuss the most common questions here.

What is required to qualify for an initial QACSC/LPSP?
- Completion of twelve months in an approved collaborative practice/registration agreement in Alabama.
- Completion of twelve approved CME credits regarding prescribing controlled drugs, pharmacology, and controlled substance prescribing trends (course sponsored by the Board multiple times per year).
- Application must be made within twelve months of taking the courses.

These requirements apply to all CRNPs/CNMs/PAs, regardless of out of state experience or prior Drug Enforcement Administration registration.

A state-specific Drug Enforcement Administration registration is applied for after receiving the initial QACSC but before applying for an LPSP.

Does a QACSC/LPSP authorize the registrant to prescribe any controlled substances to any patient?
A QACSC/LPSP is directly tied to a collaborative practice/registration agreement and authorizes controlled substances prescribing only to patients of the collaborative practice/registration agreement.

QACSC holders may only prescribe controlled substances within the formularies and protocols established upon application. These formularies and protocols include, at a minimum, a quarterly check of the QACSC holder’s controlled substances prescribing practices.

QACSC holders may not prescribe controlled substances for the purpose of weight loss or treatment of obesity.

What happens if the collaboration/registration agreement terminates? Can my QACSC/LPSP be transferred to a new collaboration/registration?
If a collaborative practice or registration agreement terminates, the QACSC/LPSP will automatically terminate as well.

The QACSC/LPSP cannot be transferred. If the collaboration/registration agreement terminates, future QACSCs/LPSPs must be applied for as additional QACSCs under approved collaboration/registration agreements.

Does a QACSC/LPSP expire? How do I renew?
All QACSC/LPSPs expire annually on Dec. 31 and must be renewed annually between the months of October 1 and December 31.

Renewal is accomplished online through the Licensee Portal at the Board of Medical Examiners’ web site.

As a condition of renewal, QACSC holders must obtain, every two years, four CME credits through a Board approved course regarding the prescribing of controlled substances.
INCREASED FTES AND OTHER IMPORTANT RULE CHANGES

Board rules regarding collaborative and supervised practices were recently amended, most notably to increase the maximum number of advanced practice practitioners a physician may collaborate with/supervise (CRNPs, CNMs, and PAs in all states) from four to nine full-time equivalents (FTEs) per week. This change was effective on June 14, 2021.

Documented quality assurance review will be required for physicians collaborating with/supervising more than 4 FTEs per week, every month for six (6) months following the commencement of a collaborative practice or application for registration with a PA.

Additionally, physicians will be required to disclose annually the existence of all collaborative/supervisory agreements in all states upon submission of a new commencement for collaborative practice or application for registration with a PA. Collaborative and supervisory agreements in other states are included in the nine FTEs per week.

The new rules also contain continuing medical education (CME) requirements for collaborating physicians and CRNPs/CNMS for initial and renewal applications. Proposed rules contain the same provisions for supervising physicians and PAs. The CME requirements are not effective until Jan. 1, 2024; however, the CME may be obtained 48 months prior to or 12 months following the commencement of a new supervisory/collaborative practice.
NATIONAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTHS

JULY

• Healthy Vision Month with the National Eye Institute
• Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month with the Arthritis National Research Foundation
• Sarcoma Awareness Month with the Sarcoma Foundation of America
• UV Safety Awareness Month with multiple organizations
• World Hepatitis Day (July 28) with the World Hepatitis Alliance

AUGUST

• Children’s Eye Health and Safety Month with the National Eye Institute
• National Breastfeeding Month with the U.S. Breastfeeding Committee
• National Immunization Awareness Month with the CDC Trusted Source
• Psoriasis Action Month with the National Psoriasis Foundation
• World Lung Cancer Day (Aug. 1) with multiple organizations
• International Overdose Awareness Day (Aug. 31) with the Penington Institute

SEPTEMBER

• National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month with the American College of Sports Medicine
• National Recovery Month with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
• National Sickle Cell Month with the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America
• Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month with the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition
• Pain Awareness Month with the American Chronic Pain Association
• Prostate Cancer Awareness Month with the Men’s Health Network and the Prostate Cancer Foundation
The Alabama Health Care Hall of Fame recognizes and salutes all Alabama healthcare workers who demonstrate outstanding devotion, leadership, expertise, and courage in the healthcare service of Alabama’s citizens. In 2021, they were overwhelmed by worthy candidates.

Healthcare workers in hospitals, nursing homes, doctor’s offices, and emergency services not only saved lives daily, but they have risked their lives for us. They have carried the pain and suffering associated with COVID deaths for the rest of Alabama’s society. This burden has placed extraordinary mental and physical health strains on these skilled professionals. Alabamians cannot afford to lose any of these workers, and we cannot thank them enough for their service.

The Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame “recognizes all of our devoted healthcare workers who sacrificed and kept us safe, especially those individuals who, as President Lincoln described, ‘have given their last full measure of devotion’ to fulfill their duty to their patients and communities. We grieve for their loss and express our thanks to their families for their service to our state.”
RECOGNIZING 50+ YEARS

The Medical Licensure Commission of Alabama would like to recognize the dedication and commitment of the physicians that have held a medical license for 50+ years in the state of Alabama.

Thank you for your service and commitment!

Edward Stevenson, M.D. (4/19/1960)
Donald Huber, M.D. (8/10/1960)
Mylan Tucker, M.D. (8/1/1961)
Janice Hodges, M.D. (9/11/1961)
James Upchurch, M.D. (8/1/1962)
William Box, M.D. (8/1/1962)
Rufus Lee, Jr., M.D. (9/10/1962)
Aubrey Crowe, M.D. (7/15/1963)
William Dodson, M.D. (8/1/1962)
James Upchurch, M.D. (8/1/1962)
William Box, M.D. (8/1/1962)
Rufus Lee, Jr., M.D. (9/10/1962)
Marcus Whitman, Jr., M.D. (9/10/1962)
Passquale Del Vecchio, M.D. (2/11/1963)
Vincent Cappelluzzo, M.D. (9/3/1963)
John Boname, M.D. (9/3/1963)
Vincent Cappelluzzo, M.D. (9/3/1963)
Maurice Fitz-Gerald, M.D. (10/14/1963)
James Williams, M.D. (11/15/1963)
Ann Bennett, M.D. (9/3/1963)
James Towsley, III, M.D. (1/10/1964)
J. Retan, M.D. (3/2/1964)
Taylor Caffey, M.D. (3/2/1964)
Phillip Foshee, M.D. (7/15/1963)
Walter Yarbrough, M.D. (7/15/1963)
Hilmon Holley, M.D. (6/30/1961)
Frederic Feist, M.D. (6/30/1964)
Seaborn Chappell, M.D. (7/15/1964)
Cooper Hazelrig, M.D. (6/8/1964)
Dick Briggs, Jr., M.D. (8/3/1964)
Wayne Poteet, M.D. (6/15/1964)
Samuel Fischer, III, M.D. (9/8/1964)
Gordon Spafford, M.D. (7/15/1964)
William Birdsong, M.D. (4/30/1965)
Walter Yarbrough, M.D. (7/15/1963)
Charles Brown, M.D. (7/12/1965)
Charles Townley, III, M.D. (1/10/1964)
Otha Carter, Jr., M.D. (7/12/1965)
Charles Tomberlin, M.D. (3/2/1964)
Charles Warren, M.D. (8/5/1965)
Fredric Feist, M.D. (6/30/1964)
James Smith, III, M.D. (11/18/1965)
Gordon Spafford, M.D. (7/15/1964)
Richard Harris, M.D. (7/21/1966)
Huey McDaniel, M.D. (7/15/1964)
John Catalano, M.D. (7/21/1966)
Frank Haws, M.D. (8/3/1964)
John Johnstone, M.D. (7/21/1966)
Joseph Brown, Jr., M.D. (7/21/1966)
Charles Cobbs, M.D. (11/30/1964)
Robert Yoder, Jr., M.D. (7/21/1966)
Chandler Smith, M.D. (7/12/1965)
Robert Yoder, Jr., M.D. (7/21/1966)
Charles Brown, M.D. (7/12/1965)
William Jefferson, M.D. (6/10/1965)
Otha Carter, Jr., M.D. (7/12/1965)
Chandler Smith, M.D. (7/12/1965)
Charles Warren, M.D. (8/5/1965)
William Leitner, M.D. (7/19/1965)
James Smith, III, M.D. (11/18/1965)
Roderick Johnson, M.D. (10/15/1965)
Richard Harris, M.D. (7/21/1966)
James Blanton, M.D. (1/19/1966)
Robert Davis, M.D. (7/21/1966)
Gary Henderson, M.D. (8/3/1964)
George Smith, Sr., M.D. (7/21/1966)
John Johnstone, M.D. (7/21/1966)
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John Johnstone, M.D. (7/21/1966)
RECOGNIZING 50+ YEARS
CONTINUED

Edwin Rutsky, M.D. (9/2/1971)        Paul Fellers, Jr., M.D. (9/7/1971)
Paul Fellers, Jr., M.D. (9/7/1971)    Donald Hodurski, M.D. (10/4/1971)
James Moon, M.D. (10/18/1971)        Larry Davis, M.D. (7/1/1968)
Mission: The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and the Medical Licensure Commission are charged with protecting the health and safety of the citizens of the state of Alabama.

BME - March 2021
• On Mar. 22, the Board denied the application of Muhammad U. Kamal, MD, Bronx NY, for a certificate of qualification to practice medicine in Alabama. On Mar. 22, Dr. Kamal appealed the Board’s decision to the Medical Licensure Commission.

MLC - March 2021
• Effective Mar. 31, the Commission reinstated to full unrestricted status the medical license of James E. Mallette, III, DO, lic. no. DO.749, Florence AL.

BME - April 2021
• Effective Apr. 15, the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of W. Ricardo Montiel, MD, lic. no. MD.18168, Prattville AL, is voluntarily surrendered.

• Effective Apr. 23, the license to practice as a physician assistant of Teresa Browne-Carter, PA, lic. no. PA.147, Madison AL, is suspended, and an administrative fine is assessed.

MLC - April 2021
• On Apr. 23, the medical license of Lloyd A. Manchikes, MD, lic. no. MD.13075, Mobile AL, was summarily suspended until the allegations have been heard and a decision rendered.

• On Apr. 28, the Commission issued an amended order of requirements prior to the practice of medicine by Jeffrey Cokeyn dall, MD, lic. no. 42202, Center Point AL.

BME - May 2021
• On May 11, the Board entered a consent order amending the previous order restricting the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of Shakir R. Meghani, MD, lic. no. MD.22917, Dothan AL.

• On May 10, the Board entered a consent order placing on probation the Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of Sherry L. Clounch, CRNP, Florence AL, and requiring that she surrender her Limited Purpose Schedule II Permit privileges for one year.

MLC - May 2021
• On June 7, the Commission lifted the probation and restrictions previously attached to the medical license of Mark W. Ernest, MD, lic. no. MD.36186, Huntsville AL.

• Effective June 23, the medical license of Paul D. Roller, MD, lic. no. MD.5855, Birmingham AL, has been permanently revoked.

BME - June 2021
• On June 17, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of the certificate of qualification and medical license of George P. Walker, III, MD, lic. no. MD.3279, Rainbow City AL.

• On June 17, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of the certificate of qualification and medical license of George C. Faison, MD, lic. no. MD.17473, Decatur AL.

• Effective June 15, Laurence D. McMillan, MD, lic. no. MD.38242, Birmingham AL, entered a Second Amended Voluntary Restriction on his medical license.

MLC - June 2021
• On June 7, the Commission denied the motion to lift the restrictions on the medical license of Amjad I. Butt, MD, lic. no. MD.29003, Valley Grande AL.

• On June 7, the Commission denied the motion to lift the probation on the medical license of Edith G. McCreadie, MD, lic. no. MD.23369, Mobile AL.

• On June 7, the Commission revoked the medical license of Saad Sakkal, MD, lic. no. MD.31987, Milton FL.

• On June 23, the Commission permanently revoked the medical license of Paul D. Roller, MD, lic. no. MD.18110, Birmingham AL.
Upcoming BME Meeting Dates
July 21 • Aug 18 • Sept 15 • Oct 20
The public portion of each meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. CT (unless otherwise indicated) in the Dixon-Parker Building at 848 Washington Avenue in Montgomery, AL.
Meeting agendas and a full list of meeting dates and times can be found online at www.albme.gov.

Upcoming MLC Meeting Dates
July 29 • Aug 25 • Sept 22 • Oct 27
Meetings are held in the Dixon-Parker Building at 848 Washington Avenue in Montgomery, AL unless otherwise indicated.

Have questions or need assistance?
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Accounting
Deana Bozeman
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Heather Lindemann

About MedicalDigest...
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Questions? Please contact the Board of Medical Examiners at (334) 242-4116.