



MEDICALDIGEST

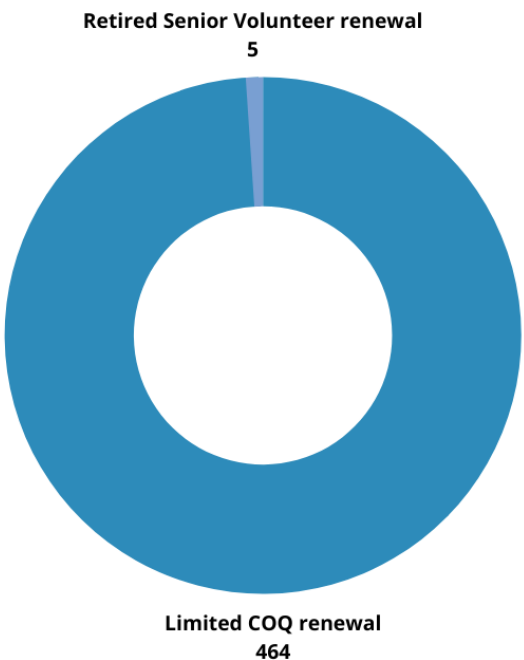
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2021 ANNUAL REPORT

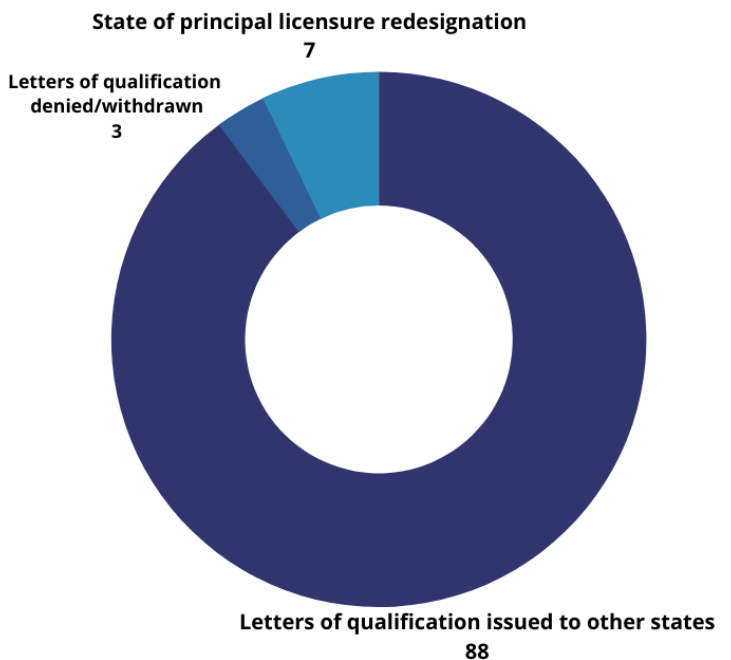
A. MEDICAL LICENSE APPLICANTS CERTIFIED TO THE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMMISSION

1.	Certificates of Qualification issued	1,758
	a. Full MD	1,179
	b. Full DO	222
	i) Full MD/DO applicants accepting Non-Disciplinary Citation with Administrative Charge	66
	c. Temporary Emergency license MD	70
	d. Temporary Emergency license DO	15
	e. Limited	230
	f. Retired Senior Volunteer	0
	g. Special Purpose	42

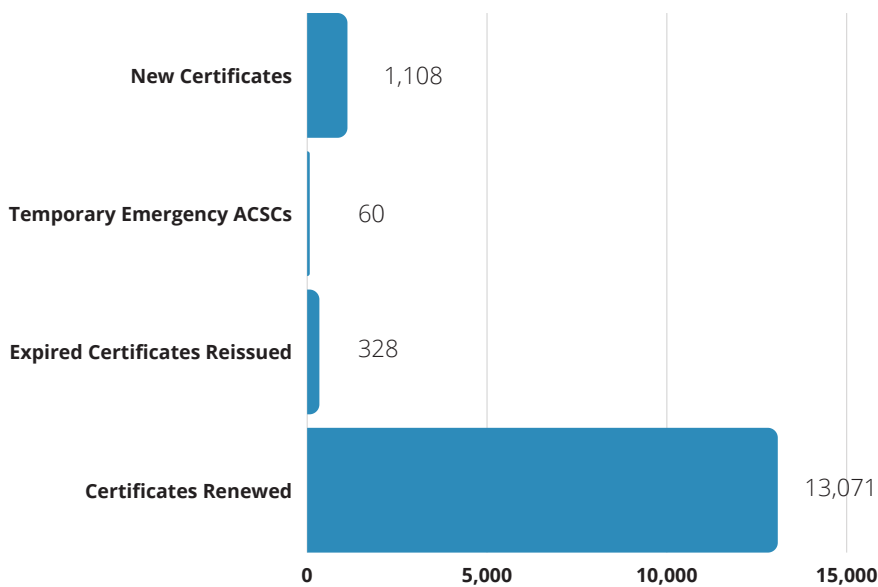
B. Certificate of Qualification Renewals



C. Interstate Medical Licensure Compact



D. Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate



E. Pain Management Services

New Registrations Issued - 78
Initial Locations - 64
Additional Locations - 14

Expired Registrations Reissued - 1

Registrations Renewed - 529
Initial Locations - 432
Additional Locations - 97

F. PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

1.	New physician assistant licenses issued	176
2.	Temporary emergency PA licenses issued	6
3.	Expired physician assistant licenses reissued	13
4.	Physician assistant licenses renewed	1,153
5.	Physician assistants registered to physicians	349
6.	Total physician assistant registrations	926
7.	Physician assistants granted temporary license	5
8.	Temporary physician assistant licenses converted to full license	5
9.	Anesthesiologist assistant licenses issued	2
10.	Anesthesiologist assistant licenses renewed	22
11.	Anesthesiologist assistant granted temporary license	0
12.	Temporary anesthesiologist assistant licenses converted to full license	0
13.	Anesthesiologist registered to physicians	4
14.	Total AA registrations	21
15.	New PA Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificates issued	54
16.	Expired PA Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificates reissued	0
17.	PA Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificates renewed	179
18.	New PA Limited Purpose Schedule II Permits issued	40
19.	Expired PA Limited Purpose Schedule II Permits reissued	1
20.	PA Limited Purpose Schedule II Permits renewed	131

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G. ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES (CRNP/CNM)

Collaboration registrations issued	2,868
Number of physicians in collaborations	3,720
New APN Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certifications issued	332
Expired APN Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificates reissued	41
APN Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificates renewed	1,053
New APN Limited Purpose Schedule II Permits issued	192
Expired APN Limited Purpose Schedule II Permits reissued	19
APN Limited Purpose Schedule II Permits renewed	674
Collaborative and supervisory practice audits/educational site visits	16
Collaborative and supervisory practice compliance seminars	1
Collaborative and supervisory practice mini-seminars	8

H. ENFORCEMENT ISSUES



ENFORCEMENT ISSUES PENDING REVIEW PRIOR TO 2021 - 2

- Issues resolved without formal investigation - 2



FORMAL INVESTIGATIONS PENDING FROM PRIOR YEARS - 269

- Investigations resolved - 197
- Investigations pending resolution - 72



ENFORCEMENT ISSUES 2021 - 449 PRESCRIBING RELATED - 74

- Issues resolved without formal investigation - 99
- Issues referred for formal investigation/Resolved - 103
- Issues referred for formal investigation/Pending - 229
- Issues referred for other resolution - 13
- Issues pending review - 5



ALL FORMAL INVESTIGATIONS & ISSUES PENDING RESOLUTION - 306

I. DISCIPLINARY / CONFIDENTIAL ACTIONS

1.	ACSC / QACSC surrender / revocation / restriction /reinstatement	10
2.	ACSC restriction terminated	1
3.	Certificate of Qualification denied	3
4.	Certificate of Qualification issued with agreement or restriction	3
5.	Certificate of Qualification surrendered	11
6.	Physician assistant surrender/ revocation / restriction / reinstatement	2
7.	Letters of Concern	33
	Prescribing related	7
8.	Interviews conducted	46
9.	Voluntary Agreements entered into	17
	Prescribing related	9
10.	Voluntary Agreements terminated	2
11.	Voluntary Restriction on Certificate of Qualification entered into	4
12.	Voluntary Restriction terminated	1
13.	Licensees' file flagged	11
14.	ABME Physician Monitoring Program-Licensees currently monitored	130
15.	ABME Physician Monitoring Program-Licensees monitored since 1990	1,767
16.	Non-disciplinary Board Orders	33
	a. Continuing medical education	29
	Prescribing related	10
	b. Evaluation	4
17.	Cases sent for expert review	4
18.	Administrative Complaints filed with the Medical Licensure Commission	14
19.	Administrative Complaints with Petition for Summary Suspension of Medical License filed with the Medical Licensure Commission	4
	a. Revocation stayed, placed on probation	1
	b. Surrender	1
	c. Dismissed, respondent deceased	1
	b. Pending hearing	1
20.	Notice of Intent to Contest Reinstatement Filed with the Medical Licensure Commission	7
21.	Administrative fines (ABME - 5 and MLC - 9)	14
22.	Administrative costs (ABME - 1 and MLC - 3)	4



BOARD WELCOMES NINA S. FORD JOHNSON, M.D., FAAP

The Board is pleased to introduce the newest Board member, Dr. Nina Johnson, a board-certified pediatrician practicing in Mobile, Alabama. Dr. Johnson is a graduate of Meharry Medical College School of Medicine, and she completed her postgraduate training at Baylor College of Medicine. She is the current President of the Medical Society of Mobile County. Dr. Johnson's training and experience make her an invaluable addition to the Board and we welcome her with the greatest pleasure.

ASSISTANCE FOR LICENSEES EXPERIENCING BURNOUT, OTHER CONCERNS

It would be quite unusual for anyone involved in healthcare in the U.S. not to be aware of the current crisis of burned-out healthcare workers. Labor shortages in the industry are dramatic and getting worse. Mental health problems, substance use disorders, and suicide rates have skyrocketed.

For Alabama licensed physicians and physician assistants, the Alabama Professionals Health Program is here to help those who voluntarily seek assistance with issues like burnout, depression, and substance use that could impair their ability to practice safely. The APHP assists with medical intervention, treatment, and rehabilitation as well as ongoing monitoring where appropriate.

APHP FAQs (from APHP's web page)

ALCOHOL ON THE BREATH

"A physician at the clinic where I work frequently smells of alcohol in the morning. She's a very good doctor but I know she has a problem. Is there any way I can help her?"

Answer:

When a physician has alcohol on their breath you are usually seeing the "tip of the iceberg." Most physicians with alcohol problems will have trouble in other parts of their lives before it shows up at work. If possible, it would be helpful to ask the doctor to submit to a breathalyzer or blood alcohol test one of those mornings. You will probably have to obtain the support of leadership at the clinic to do this. APHP can be of help. This can be a difficult process, but the outcome for physicians who receive treatment and monitoring is very good (>90%), and the prognosis without intervention is poor. It's worth the effort!

DEPRESSION IN A MEDICAL STAFF MEMBER

"I am the President of our local Medical Staff. A physician answered yes to a question about psychiatric care on his staff reappointment questionnaire. When I spoke with him, I discovered he is being treated for depression and is doing well. Do I need to report him to you or what should I do now?"

Answer:

If a physician receives psychiatric care and is doing well, you should obtain verification from his/her treating physician that he/she is doing well. You do not need to report this to anyone else. We certainly don't want to discourage anyone from receiving appropriate treatment. It is especially important that medical professionals not treat themselves. If, however, a professional is not getting appropriate care or is not responding, we might be able to assist. We would suggest an evaluation and treatment when indicated. We can monitor and document his/her compliance with treatment when necessary.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

We have a problem at our hospital with a very disruptive, angry physician. He is an excellent physician but his verbal abuse of staff and other professionals has got to stop. Can APHP help?

Answer:

Complaints of disruptive behavior among physicians appear to be increasing. This problem is very costly in time and money to the hospital and can lead to a decline in the quality of staff and medical care. It is important for the Medical Staff Bylaws to contain wording that clearly defines inappropriate behavior and its consequences. It is important to document in writing all incidents and complaints. If there are incidents involving patient care or if the Medical Staff is willing to take action, then the APHP can help. We can help by participating in a meeting with the physician. We can refer the physician for intensive evaluation to look for physical or psychiatric problems that might be present.

HYDROCODONE ABUSE

"I'm very concerned about a colleague I believe is prescribing hydrocodone for himself. I received a call from a pharmacist who was also concerned. I've noticed a change in his personality. He is missing more workdays than previously and I know he's having difficulty in his marriage. I've asked him about this and he denies everything. What can I do?"

Answer:

It sounds like your associate may have a problem with hydrocodone dependence. He needs help to avert disaster. This problem does not go away by itself. The Alabama Professionals Health Program receives many such calls and we can help. We will speak with your associate and let him know that significant confidential concerns have been expressed. (We will not need to give your name unless you are willing to participate.) We will tell him about our APHP program, which is totally voluntary. The first step in participating in the APHP is to undergo an evaluation. We will likely suggest that he receive a thorough evaluation (at one of the evaluation programs that specializes in helping physicians) to clear up our concerns. This will be the beginning of a solution. The success rate with this type of problem is extremely high and someday he'll thank you.

REFERRING

"Our credentials committee has concerns about a physician on our staff. We have discussed calling you to ask for your assistance. The question we have disputed is 'How bad does it have to get before we call you in to work with us.' What's the answer?"

Answer:

It is difficult sometimes to decide when to take action. Remember, when we get involved, all we are ever going to recommend is that the physician undergo an appropriate clinical evaluation. The type and intensity of the evaluation can be designed to fit the circumstances. Remember also that it is important to utilize evaluators that are not selected by the physician but by our program because we utilize experienced evaluators with a proven track record of fairness and objectivity. Don't hesitate to call and discuss concerns, without mentioning names if necessary, so that we might work together more effectively. The answer is "the sooner the better."

NOTICE TO SPECIAL PURPOSE LICENSEES (LICENSES TO PRACTICE MEDICINE ACROSS STATE LINES)

On Apr. 12, 2022, Governor Kay Ivey signed Act No. 2022-302 providing for the regulation of the practice of telemedicine in Alabama. The Act also repeals the "special purpose license" established by Ala. Code §§ 34-24-500 through 508.

The Special Purpose License to Practice Medicine Across State Lines (SP) will be abolished as of July 11, 2022. No new SP licenses may be issued nor existing SP licenses be renewed after this date. Any SP license active on July 11, 2022, will continue until its expiration date, at which time the license will not be renewable. SP licensees must obtain either a full license or a license via the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact license to continue to practice medicine in Alabama after the expiration of the SP license.

A physician providing telehealth medical services owes to the patient the same duty to exercise reasonable care, diligence, and skill as would be applicable if the service or procedure were provided in person.

The Board and Commission express their gratitude to Sen. Dan Roberts, R-Mountain Brook, Sen. Bobby Singleton, D-Greensboro, and Rep. Paul Lee, R-Dothan, for their efforts as primary sponsors of this legislation.

For additional information concerning the new laws, please see our web page.

THE BOARD IS INCREASING ITS EFFORTS TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON LICENSEES' REGISTRATIONS WITH THE U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA). CURRENT LICENSEES ARE NOT BEING ASKED TO TAKE ANY ACTION AT THIS TIME.

TO ORDER, DISPENSE, PRESCRIBE, OR ADMINISTER A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE IN ALABAMA, A PHYSICIAN MUST HOLD A CURRENT MEDICAL LICENSE, AN ALABAMA CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES CERTIFICATE (ACSC), AND A DEA REGISTRATION SPECIFIC TO THE ALABAMA PRACTICE. NEW LICENSEES WILL APPLY FOR A DEA REGISTRATION LAST BECAUSE COPIES OF THE NEW LICENSE AND ACSC ARE REQUIRED BY DEA. ONCE THE INITIAL DEA REGISTRATION HAS BEEN ISSUED, THE PHYSICIAN MUST PROVIDE THAT INFORMATION TO THE BOARD.

DEA REGISTRATIONS ARE RENEWED EVERY THREE YEARS. THE BOARD WILL ALSO ASK FOR DEA RENEWAL INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED. AGAIN, CURRENT LICENSEES ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY BEING REQUIRED TO SEND THEIR DEA INFORMATION. A PROCESS IS BEING DEVELOPED TO COLLECT THIS INFORMATION IN THE LEAST OBTRUSIVE MANNER. HOWEVER, PHYSICIANS WHO WISH TO PROACTIVELY PROVIDE A COPY OF THEIR DEA REGISTRATION TO THE BOARD MAY DO SO BY EMAILING A COPY OF THEIR CERTIFICATE(S) TO THE ACSC COORDINATOR.

REPORT OF PUBLIC ACTIONS OF THE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMMISSION AND BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

January 2022

- Effective Jan. 6, the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate and Pain Management Registration of Matthew N. Parker, MD, MD.26208, Pelham AL, is temporarily suspended.
- Effective Jan. 20, the medical license of Lee S. Rippy, MD, MD.41914, is voluntarily surrendered.
- Effective Jan. 27, the medical license of Charles R. Law, MD, MD.20968, Birmingham AL, is temporarily suspended until the Commission has heard the allegations and rendered a decision.
- Effective Jan. 27, the medical license of Janie T. Bush Teschner, MD, MD.14227, Gadsden AL, is temporarily suspended until the Commission has heard the allegations and rendered a decision.

February 2022

- Effective Feb. 25, the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of David K. Williamson, MD, MD.14007, Birmingham AL, is reinstated.
- Effective Feb. 28, the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of Robert D. Shedden, DO, DO.118, Dothan AL, is placed on probation.
- Effective Feb. 25, the restrictions previously placed on the medical license of Caleb M. Consenstein, MD, MD.41481, Birmingham AL, are removed.
- Effective Feb. 23, the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of Matthew N. Parker, MD, MD.26208, Pelham AL, is placed on probation

and his Pain Management Physician registration is revoked.

- Effective Feb. 23, the restrictions previously placed on the medical license of Russell W. Stevens, MD, MD.26655, Mt. Vernon AL, are removed.
- Effective Feb. 17, the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of Kevin R. Diel, MD, MD.30614, Opp AL, is voluntarily surrendered.
- Effective Feb. 17, the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of Charles R. Law, MD, MD.20968, Birmingham AL, is voluntarily surrendered.
- Effective Feb. 17, the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of William C. Freeman, MD, MD.15148, Montgomery AL, is voluntarily surrendered.

March 2022

- Effective Mar. 22, the medical license of Gregory R. Myrick, MD, MD.30396, Millry AL, is assessed an administrative fine.
- Effective Mar. 17, the medical license of Charles P. Bennett, MD, MD.22763, Montgomery AL, is voluntarily surrendered.
- Effective Mar. 14, the medical license of Charles Raymond Law, MD, MD.20968, Birmingham AL, is revoked.
- On Mar. 10, the petition for reinstatement of license of Christopher P. Gay, DO, DO.687, Anniston AL, was denied.

- Effective Mar. 1, the medical license of Vinson M. DiSanto, DO, DO.1189, Boca Raton FL, is reinstated with conditions.
- Effective Mar. 1, the medical license of Michael W. Proctor, MD, MD.11525, Huntsville AL, is temporarily suspended until a hearing has been held.
- Effective Mar. 1, the restrictions on the medical license of Russell W. Stevens, MD, MD.26655, Mt. Vernon AL, are lifted.





Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners
Alabama Medical Licensure Commission

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May 19 • Jun 16 • Jul 21

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.

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Have questions or need assistance?

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About MedicalDigest...

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