



# MEDICALDIGEST

Fall 2023 | [www.albme.gov](http://www.albme.gov)

**Addressing the  
Physician Shortage:  
The Alabama  
Physician Workforce  
Act of 2023**

*page 2*

**2024 License and  
Registration Renewals**

*page 3*

**NEW: Lasers and  
Light/Energy-Based  
Devices Registration  
Now Annual**

*page 5*

**CME Passport for  
Physicians**

*page 5*

**Concerns with  
Semaglutide and  
Other GLP-1 Receptor  
Agonists**

*page 6*

**APP Specialty Skills  
Protocols**

*page 7*

**Report of Public  
Actions of the  
Medical Licensure  
Commission and  
Board of Medical  
Examiners**

*page 7*



## 2023-2024 Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners

Mark H. LeQuire, M.D.  
Chairman  
Montgomery

Charles M. A. Rogers, IV, M.D.  
Vice Chairman  
Mobile

Aruna T. Arora, M.D.  
Huntsville

Gregory W. Ayers, M.D.  
Birmingham

Julia L. Boothe, M.D.  
Reform

Tonya E. Bradley, M.D.  
Auburn

Eli L. Brown, M.D.  
Birmingham

Hernando D. Carter, M.D.  
Birmingham

Nina S. Ford Johnson, M.D.  
Mobile

Beverly F. Jordan, M.D.  
Enterprise

George T. Koulianos, M.D.  
Mobile

Dick Owens, M.D.  
Haleyville

William Jay Suggs, M.D.  
Decatur

David R. Thrasher, M.D.  
Montgomery

Jane A. Weida, M.D.  
Tuscaloosa

Amanda J. Williams, M.D.  
Montgomery

## Medical Licensure Commission

Craig H. Christopher, M.D.  
Chairman  
Birmingham

Jorge A. Alsip, M.D.  
Vice Chairman  
Daphne

Kenneth W. Aldridge, M.D.  
Tuscaloosa

Howard Joseph Falgout, M.D.  
Tuscaloosa

Mr. L. Daniel Morris  
Montgomery

Paul M. Nagrodzki, M.D.  
Birmingham

Nina P. Nelson-Garrett, M.D.  
Montgomery

Pamela D. Varner, M.D.  
Birmingham



## ADDRESSING THE PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE: THE ALABAMA PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE ACT OF 2023

In the ongoing endeavor to address a crucial healthcare challenge, the Alabama Legislature has enacted the Alabama Physician Workforce Act of 2023. This legislation targets the significant scarcity of physicians across the state, aiming to establish a healthcare system that guarantees accessible and consistent medical services for every resident of Alabama.

### UNDERSTANDING THE IMPERATIVE

The Alabama Physician Workforce Act arises from the recognition that regions with insufficient physician numbers can present obstacles to vital healthcare services. This legislation seeks to bridge this gap by ensuring that every Alabamian, irrespective of their geographical location, can readily access proficient medical care.

### KEY TENETS OF THE ACT

The Alabama Physician Workforce Act incorporates several pivotal provisions aimed at fortifying the physician workforce and enhancing healthcare accessibility:

- **Bridge Year Graduate Physician Permit**

This segment of the law introduces a program for physicians who graduated from an approved medical school but did not secure admission into a postgraduate or residency training program in the year following their graduation. These graduates, termed “bridge year graduate physicians,” are allowed to practice medicine under the guidance of licensed, experienced physicians. At the culmination of the bridge year, a supervising physician submits a comprehensive report detailing the practice, training, and instruction provided to the bridge year graduate physician. The report includes a recommendation on whether the bridge year graduate physician would be recommended for a residency position upon reapplication. We anticipate this program commencing in early 2024.

- **Reduced Postgraduate Training Requirement**

The Act amends the requirement for additional postgraduate training for graduates of non-accredited medical schools. Previously mandating three years of training, the law now stipulates only two years of postgraduate or residency training for these graduates to qualify for an initial license. This adjustment enables qualified applicants to attain medical licenses a year earlier than under previous regulations.

- **Elimination of the “Ten Year Rule”**

The Act abolishes the prior prerequisite that licensure applicants must have successfully completed a licensing examination or achieved board certification or recertification within a ten-year timeframe prior to application. While the necessity of an approved licensing examination remains, such as the United States Medical Licensing Examination or the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination, the constraint of completion within the past ten years is removed.

- **A Vision for a Healthier Future**

By strengthening the physician workforce, the Alabama Physician Workforce Act contributes to a healthier and more secure future for the state. It serves as a pivotal initiative to rectify physician shortages and elevate healthcare access throughout Alabama, reflecting the state’s commitment to access to medical care.

The Alabama Physician Workforce Act of 2023 represents a significant stride toward enhancing healthcare accessibility and addressing the pressing issue of physician shortages. Its multifaceted provisions underscore a comprehensive approach to ensure robust medical care delivery and a more resilient healthcare system for all Alabamians.



- **All licenses expire annually on Dec. 31.**
- **There is a grace period for full MD/DO licenses only to renew from Jan. 1 to Jan. 31 with a late fee.**
- **Renewal applications are completed and submitted through the Licensee Portal at [www.albme.gov](http://www.albme.gov) beginning on Oct. 1.**
- **Reminder emails are sent to the email address of record beginning in October.**
- **Be sure the email address associated with your mailing address is correct at the Licensee Portal.**
- **All lawful aliens/foreign national licensees practicing in Alabama are required to submit annually a Declaration of Lawful Presence form with proof of legal presence as a non-permanent alien prior to renewing a license. Once legal presence documentation has been received and approved, the license will be available for renewal.**

**Licenses and Registrations Available for Renewal:**

- MD/DO Licenses
  - Full (traditional and IMLC)
  - Limited and RSVP
- MD/DO Registrations
  - ACSC
  - Office Based Surgery
  - Pain Management
  - Use of Lasers and Other Modalities
  - Collaborative Pharmacy Practice
- PA/AA Licenses
- QACSC/LPSP

## MD/DO LICENSES

### Full (traditional and IMLC) (Renewal Fee \$300)

Full traditional license renewal requirements:

- All licenses expire on December 31 each year.
- Renewal period is Oct 1 - Dec 31 (grace period with an additional charge Jan 1 - 31).
- Reminder emails are sent to the email address of record beginning in October.
- Renewals are accomplished online using the Licensee Portal at [www.albme.gov](http://www.albme.gov) beginning on Oct. 1.
- Be sure the information provided is accurate.

Full license via the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact renewal:

- Licenses obtained via the IMLC must be renewed by using the IMLC renewal website beginning on October 2nd. If the IMLC licensee has an ACSC, the license must first be renewed, then the ACSC may be renewed through the Alabama Licensee Portal.

YOU MUST RENEW LICENSES OBTAINED THROUGH THE COMPACT BY USING THE COMPACT WEBSITE

**New for 2024:  
Registration renewal for  
use of light/energy based  
devices.**

### Limited License (COQ Renewal Fee \$15/ License Renewal Fee \$300)

- Limited certificates of qualification (COQ) and licenses are issued for one year only.
- Limited COQs must be renewed prior to Oct. 12 each year.
- Once the COQ is renewed, you must also renew the limited license through the Licensee Portal.

### Retired Senior Volunteer Program License (No Renewal Fee)

- RSV licenses and certificates of qualification expire annually on Dec. 31.
- The certificate of qualification must be renewed prior to renewing the license.
- Fill out the RSVP Certificate of Qualification Renewal Application, have it signed by the clinic or facility administrator, and email or mail it to the Board on or before October 12.
- Once the COQ renewal application has been approved by the Board, the RSVP License is available to be renewed through the Licensee Portal which opens on Oct. 1.

## REGISTRATIONS

### ACSC (Renewal Fee \$150)

- ACSCs are renewed annually on or before Dec. 31 through the Licensee Portal.
- Be prepared to upload a copy of your current DEA certificate during the renewal process.
- To apply for re-issuance of an expired ACSC, please contact our office at [ACSC@albme.gov](mailto:ACSC@albme.gov)

### Dispensing (controlled substances) (No Renewal/Fee)

Currently, Dispensing Physician registrations do not expire. Dispensing Physicians are expected to terminate their registrations when they no longer dispense controlled substances from any location.

### Office Based Surgery (No Fee)

Office Based Surgery registrations are made annually during the license renewal process by Jan. 31. If you answer “yes” to the question of whether you perform office-based surgery, you will be directed to the registration form. There is no fee for this registration.

### Pain Management (Renewal Fee \$100)

Pain management registrations expire on Dec. 31 of each year and are renewed in the same manner and during the same

period as licenses and ACSCs (Oct. - Dec.).

### Use of Lasers and Other Modalities Affecting Living Tissue (No Fee)

Registrations for the use of lasers and light/energy-based devices (LLBDs) now renew annually during the license renewal period. If you answer “yes” to the question of whether you utilize LLBDs in your practice, you will be directed to register and/or renew your current registration. There is no fee for this registration.

### Collaborative Pharmacy Practice (Renewal Fee \$200 Medical Board / \$50 Pharmacy Board)

Collaborative Pharmacy Practice agreements renew every two years. Physicians who are currently in a Collaborative Pharmacy Practice agreement due for renewal will be contacted individually with instructions.

### PA/AA Licenses (Renewal Fee \$100)

- Licenses are renewed annually on or before Dec. 31.
- The annual CME requirement is 25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits. If a PA/AA fails to renew a license before Jan. 1 of each year, it may subsequently be renewed as follows:
  - Between Jan. 1 and Jan. 31, submit a completed application, pay the fee, and certify completion of the required CME credits earned in the prior year.
  - Feb. 1 and thereafter, submit a completed application, pay the fee, and submit proof of completion of the required CME credits earned within the preceding 12 months.

### NEW for Physicians in Collaboration/Supervision Agreements: Covering Physician Certification

Beginning this year, Collaborating



and Supervising Physicians are required to certify annually that any approved covering physician continues to agree to serve in that capacity.

During the license renewal process, physicians in collaborative and supervisory agreements with CRNPs, CNMs, and/or PAs will be prompted to make the required certification. You will be directed to the Licensee Portal under Covering Physician Information, where you can view the covering physicians for your collaborative/supervisory practice, remove any that are no longer active, and make the certification.

### QACSC/LPSP

- QACSC/LPSP is renewed annually on

or before Jan. 1 of each year.

- QACSC/LPSP renewals begin on Oct. 1 and are online only through the Licensee Portal at [www.albme.gov](http://www.albme.gov).

- As a requirement for QACSC/LPSP renewal, applicant must:

- Obtain four AMA PRA Category 1 credits every two years through a Board-approved course regarding the prescribing of controlled substances.
- Have a current registration to access the Prescription Drug Monitoring Databank.
- Have a current Drug Enforcement Administration registration (you can upload a

copy of your DEA certificate during the renewal process).

**NOTICE: The deadline to obtain the collaborative and supervisory practice CME for collaborating/ supervising physicians, PAs, and AAs, has been extended to Jan. 1, 2025. There will be a 60-month compliance look back period for those who have already obtained this CME. More information: <https://bit.ly/3roPHwm>**

## NEW: LASERS AND LIGHT/ENERGY-BASED DEVICES REGISTRATION NOW ANNUAL

The rules for the use of Light/Energy-Based Devices (LLBDs) were recently updated. In addition to changes in delegation and supervision, training requirements, and continuing education, annual registration as an LLBD provider is now required. This was previously a one-time registration.

LLBD procedures include:

- Ablative laser skin resurfacing
- Non-ablative laser photorejuvenation
- Intense pulsed light (IPL) and broad band light (BBL)
- Photoepilation/laser hair removal, vascular conditions and lesions, and pigmentary conditions or lesions
- Tattoo removal
- Non-laser skin rejuvenation (radiofrequency, ultrasound, infrared, and Class III lasers that work on heat-based targeting of skin and collagen)
- Endovascular radiofrequency and laser ablation
- Laser-assisted liposuction (LAL) and power-assisted liposuction
- Laser-assisted surgery

Physicians who are already registered for the use of LLBDs should complete the updated registration form and email it to [laserreg@albme.gov](mailto:laserreg@albme.gov). Registrants will be prompted during the license renewal process to renew their registration by Jan. 31.

Physicians who use these devices but have not registered with the Board should promptly review the rules and register if applicable. Once registered, you will also receive the prompt during your license renewal.

## CME PASSPORT FOR PHYSICIANS

The Board has partnered with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to help streamline our licensees' CME recordkeeping through ACCME's CME Passport, a free, all-in-one portal where you can find CME, track CME credits, and generate CME transcripts.

### CME Passport helps you focus on your patients, not paperwork!

With CME Passport, you do not need to keep track of credits yourself – your participating CME provider can report your CME and MOC credits to your account. You can generate a transcript to send to any credentialing authority, including your employer. Because the Board is partnering with ACCME, we already have access to your CME credits and you do not need to share a transcript with us. Here's how it works.

Creating a CME Passport account is easy. Simply go to [CMEPassport.org](http://CMEPassport.org) and click on Create an Account.

When you enter your information, the system matches you with your licensing state. After your account is created, you can complete the onboarding process to add your certifying board, other state licenses, and specialty or specialties.

Viewing your transcript is simple and can be sorted by date range, state board, activity format, and credit type. You can also send or download the transcript through the CME Passport system.

# CONCERNS WITH SEMAGLUTIDE AND OTHER GLP-1 RECEPTOR AGONISTS

There are growing concerns surrounding the prescribing and compounding of semaglutide and other glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists. Semaglutide, sold under the brand names Mounjaro, Ozempic, Rybelsus, and Wegovy, is an antidiabetic medication used for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and an anti-obesity medication used for long-term weight management. Only Wegovy is currently FDA-approved as an anti-obesity drug, but many physicians are prescribing the other medications off-label for weight loss. A recent analysis found that more than half of new Ozempic and Mounjaro users did not have type 2 diabetes. Faced with overwhelming demand for these expensive drugs, health insurers are cracking down on coverage.

Consumers should be reminded that these medicines are legitimately available by prescription only, and should only be prescribed in direct consultation with, and under the supervision of, a licensed healthcare professional.

Physicians should be aware of the issues that are arising from the demand for this drug, including shortages, predatory pharmacy practices, issues with physicians compounding semaglutide products in-office, and improper evaluation for and prescribing of semaglutide.

## **Shortages**

Demand for GLP-1 drugs has surged, and some are in short supply. Some companies are prioritizing access for Type 2 diabetes patients over off-label weight-loss uses. Many patients are turning to online and out-of-country pharmacies to obtain the medications.

## **Compounded Semaglutide**

FDA issued a warning in July 2023 after receiving several reports of adverse effects from people who used compounded semaglutide. In some cases, compounders used the salt forms of semaglutide, which have different active ingredients than the approved drug.

An Ozempic injection pen found in the U.S. in June contained another type of diabetes medication, insulin glargine injection, that works differently and led to an adverse reaction.

Medications purchased online or from unlicensed sources

may be contaminated, improperly stored and transported, or adulterated.

Some physician offices in Alabama are improperly compounding semaglutide. They may be purchasing semaglutide salts that do not meet federal requirements. The FDA has warned people to avoid these compounded medicines that are not FDA-approved but are allowed to be made during an official drug shortage. Some products sold as “semaglutide” may not contain the same active ingredient as FDA-approved semaglutide products which have not been shown to be safe and effective.

The Alabama Board of Pharmacy has notified all licensed pharmacists and pharmacies that even when

compounding of a semaglutide drug product is allowable under the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, the use of semaglutide salts, the use of any non-pharmaceutical grade active pharmaceutical ingredient (API), or one not produced by an FDA-registered establishment, is prohibited. The Board of Pharmacy is not aware of any Alabama-permitted compounding pharmacy obtaining pharmaceutical grade API to compound semaglutide.

## **Improper Evaluation and Prescribing**

Some unscrupulous healthcare practitioners are using inappropriate personnel to evaluate patients and charging an exorbitant fee for the evaluation. Proper histories, physicals, and confirmatory testing are not performed. Prescriptions

or dispensed compounded medications are provided without the patient having seen an appropriate healthcare practitioner. Medications continue to be provided without follow-up exams or testing.

Other dishonest schemes have been identified; for example, out-of-state pharmacies may be soliciting doctors to prescribe compounded semaglutide to receive a kickback on every prescription.

## **Online Pharmacies**

People seeking to lose weight have been flocking to online businesses that advertise easy prescriptions. Some of these internet programs conduct minimal medical evaluations, and many sell unapproved compounded versions of the drugs, or even counterfeit drugs. Often, there is no initial testing and no follow-up care.





## APP Specialty Skills Protocols

All collaborative and supervisory agreements between physicians and nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, or physician assistants contain core duties or standard protocols that provide a list of skills and services in which the nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, or physician assistant may practice.

The core duties and standard protocols provide the functions and procedures the APP are considered qualified to

perform by virtue of their formal education and clinical training.

Functions and procedures not contained in the core duties or standard protocol are referred to as specialty or additional skills. The Board may develop protocols for the delegation of these additional skills, often in consultation with the Joint Committee for Advanced Practice Nursing or the Physician Assistants'

Advisory Committee.

These protocols set specific requirements for eligibility, training, and performance of the skill.

To request the delegation of additional or specialty skills to APPs, the collaborating or supervising physician must formally request and receive the approval of the Board of Medical Examiners before the physician may begin delegating or training. The collaborating or supervising physician should thoroughly review the specialty protocols before training begins to ensure only the appropriate skills are being performed.

Any questions regarding specialty protocols may be directed to [APPDept@albme.gov](mailto:APPDept@albme.gov).

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

## September 2023

- Sep. 15 - Christopher T. Nichols, MD (MD.23044), Lake Charles LA - Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate reinstated with conditions.
- Sep. 21 - Severin W. Grenoble, MD (MD.30944), Pensacola FL - voluntary surrender of license and Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate.

## August 2023

- Aug. 1 - Jacob K. Mathai, MD (MD.47071), Montgomery - the license is issued with a restriction to the residency program.
- Aug. 17 - Walter P. Pinson, III, MD

(MD.446), Sylacauga - voluntary surrender of Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate.

- Aug. 25 - Barry C. Collins, MD (MD.22922), Pell City - license is reprimanded and assessed an administrative fine.
- Aug. 30 - Kynard L. Adams, MD (MD.10658), Montgomery - an administrative fine is assessed and continuing medical education required.

## July 2023

- Jul. 7 - Sharon G. Griffiths, MD (MD.21438), Florence - the license is reprimanded and fined, and additional CME is required.

- Jul. 7 - Mark A. Murphy, MD (MD.21871), Lewisburg TN - the license is revoked.

- Jul. 14 - Andre V. Haynes, MD (MD.29119), Stockbridge GA - the licensee is reprimanded, assessed a fine, and required to earn continuing medical education.

- Jul. 21 - Mishi Bhushan, MD (MD.45267), Birmingham AL - the voluntary restriction is terminated.

## June 2023

- Jun. 1 - Steven Gregory Miller, MD (MD.46851), Prospect KY - a voluntary restriction is placed on the license.



Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners  
Alabama Medical Licensure Commission

P.O. Box 946  
Montgomery, AL 36101-0946  
www.albme.gov

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Montgomery, AL  
Permit No. 417

### Upcoming BME Meeting Dates

Oct 19 • Nov 16 • Dec 14

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](http://www.albme.gov).

### Upcoming MLC Meeting Dates

Oct 31 • Nov 20 • Dec 20

Meetings are held in the Dixon-Parker Building at 848 Washington Avenue in Montgomery, AL unless otherwise indicated.

## Have questions or need assistance?

### Alabama Board of Medical Examiners (334) 242-4116

Executive Director  
Human Resources  
Accounting  
Board Operations  
Legal/Public Information  
Credentialing/ACSCs  
Investigations  
Physician Monitoring  
Advanced Practice Providers  
QACSCs

William M. Perkins  
Brandi Madderra  
Deana Bozeman  
Amy Dorminey  
Carla Kruger  
Tiffany Seamon  
Edwin Rogers  
Roland Johnson  
Kimmie Buley  
Suzanne Powell

### Medical Licensure Commission (334) 242-4153

Commission Operations  
Reinstatements/Renewals/Verifications

Rebecca Robbins  
Heather Lindemann

### FOLLOW US:



@AlaMedBd

### CONTACT US:

Alabama Board of  
Medical Examiners  
P.O. Box 946  
Montgomery, AL 36101

(334) 242-4116  
bme@albme.gov