



ANNUAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024



DIXON-PARKER BUILDING



William M. Perkins
Executive Director

In 2024, the Board continued its commitment to licensees by creating free, accredited, online CME courses to facilitate compliance with the education requirements for physicians in collaborative and supervisory practices. The Board also created a free, accredited, online course to meet a new requirement for all licensees to obtain professional boundaries CME. The live controlled substances prescribing courses are now free for all licensees. This has all been accomplished without increasing renewal license fees, which have not been raised since 2008.

Applications for Bridge Year Graduate Permits, designed to assist recent medical school graduates who did not match into a residency program to practice for one year under the supervision of an Alabama-licensed

physician and gain experience in preparation for re-applying for the match, came online in July 2024. We anticipate a great deal of interest with the 2025 Match.

The emerging therapy that most occupied the Board's attention in 2024 was semaglutide/GLP-1s for weight control. The popularity of the medications and shortages resulted in issues with counterfeit products being sold online and improperly compounded products being purchased by physicians for compounding in the office. Following its September 2023 advisory about growing concerns surrounding these medications, the Board issued a declaratory ruling in August 2024 for physicians compounding any drugs in their offices.

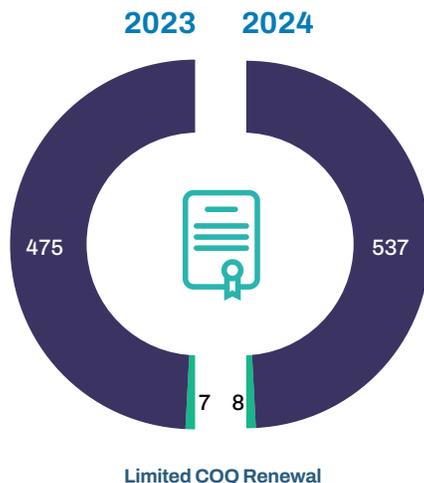
MD/DO CERTIFICATES OF QUALIFICATION

In 2024, there were increases in full certificates of qualification issued to both MDs and DOs. The other categories of certificates of qualification remained essentially stable.

Certificates of Qualification Issued



Certificate of Qualification Renewals



BRIDGE YEAR GRADUATE PHYSICIANS

The Physician Workforce Act of 2023 established a mechanism for limited, supervised practice by graduates of accredited medical schools who applied to, but were not accepted into, a residency training program for the first year following medical school graduation (“bridge year graduate physicians” or “BYG physicians”).

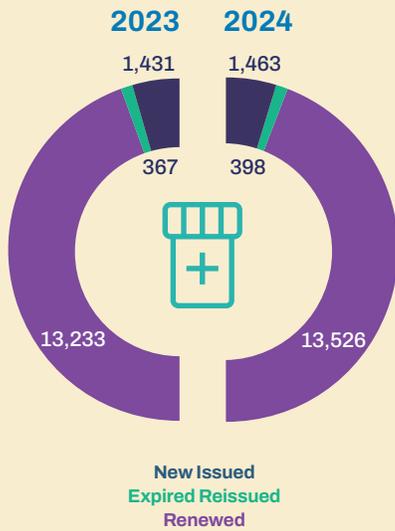
The Act authorized the Board to issue BYG physicians permits to practice medicine in Alabama under the supervision of an Alabama-licensed physician. At the end of the supervised practice period, the supervising physician will provide a statement of the medical competence of the BYG physician that can be submitted with an additional application to match into a residency.

In 2024, Board rules were promulgated pursuant to the Act that specified the qualifications for a permit, qualifications of the supervising physician, how the permits are issued, grounds for denial, requirements for supervised practice, and limitations upon utilization of BYG physicians. The Board looks forward to accepting applications following the Match in March 2025.

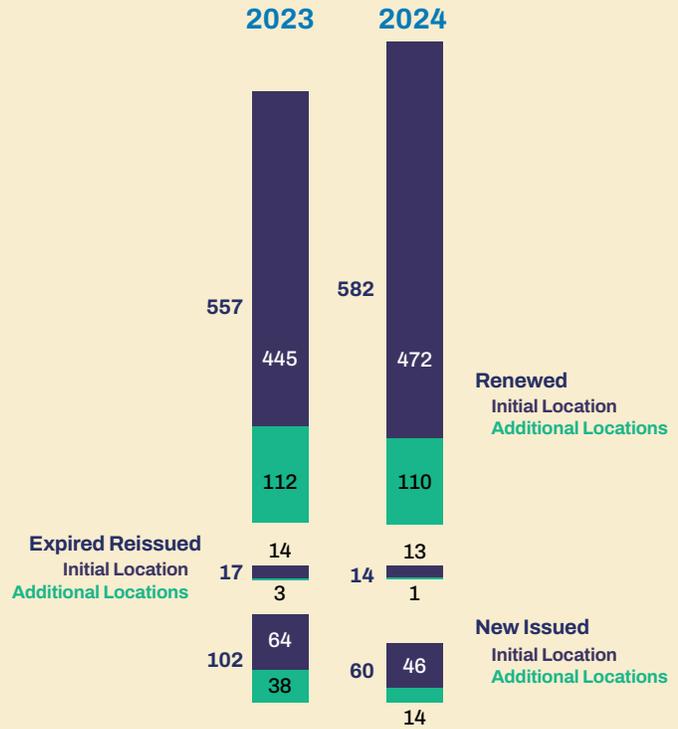
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES/PAIN MANAGEMENT REGISTRATIONS ISSUED IN 2024

There were modest increases in the number of Alabama Controlled Substances Certificates issued in 2024, commensurate with the increased number of licenses issued. Pain Management registrations showed a modest increase from 2023.

Alabama Controlled Substances Certificates



Pain Management Services Registrations



2023 2024



2023 2024



PA LICENSES/ REGISTRATIONS ISSUED IN 2024

The number of Physician Assistant Licenses and Registrations increased from 2023, while the number of Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificates for PAs fell slightly.

MEDICAL CANNABIS—PHYSICIAN MEDICAL CANNABIS CERTIFICATION PERMIT

Pursuant to the provisions of the Darren Wesley “Ato” Hall Compassion Act, the Board of Medical Examiners approved rules to regulate the physician recommendation of medical cannabis in November 2021. These regulations are codified in Ala. Admin. Code R. 540-X-25. In 2024, after hearing from interested parties, the Board reviewed and amended several provisions of these rules to better protect and ensure the safety of unborn children who might inadvertently be harmed by medical cannabis consumption.

The Medical Association of the State of Alabama launched the mandatory training course for physicians seeking to become Registered Certifying Physicians in May 2023. The Medical Association is preparing to launch a campaign to increase physician awareness of the course once the Cannabis Commission completes its licensure process.

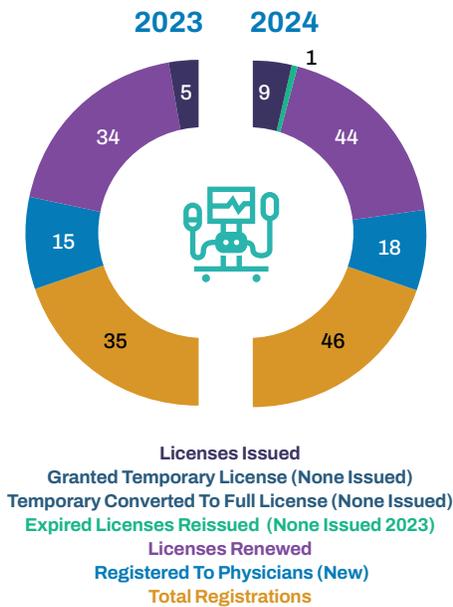
“In 2024, the Board reviewed and amended several provisions [of the Act] to better protect the safety of unborn children.”

Pursuant to Ala. Admin. Code R. 540-X-25-.04(5), the Board is prepared to begin accepting applications and issuing Alabama Medical Cannabis Certification Permits to qualified physicians once the Cannabis Commission issues its initial licenses to dispensaries and/or integrated facilities.



ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT LICENSES/ REGISTRATIONS ISSUED IN 2024

There were more Anesthesiologist Assistant Licenses issued than in 2023, and total AA registrations to physicians also increased in 2024.



BOARD-SPONSORED CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

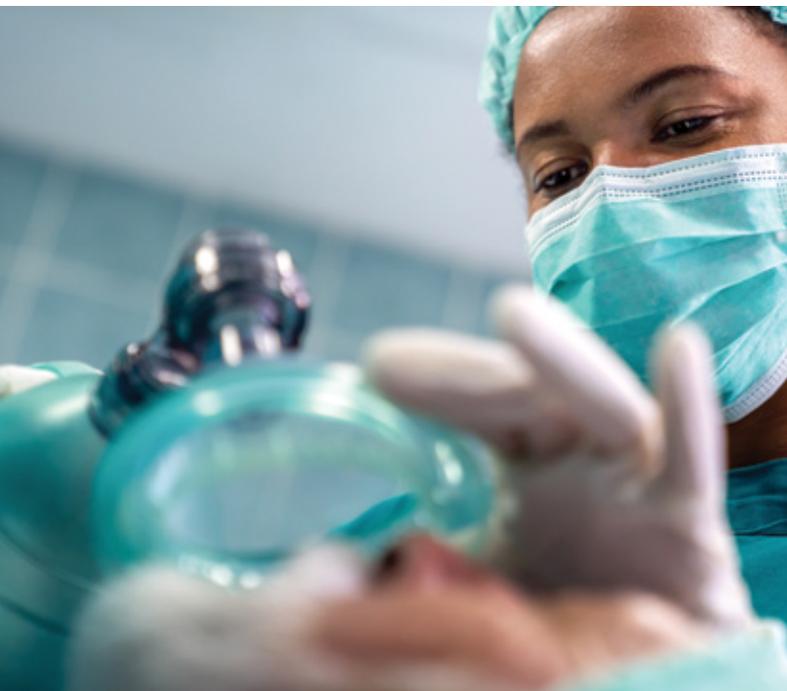
In 2024, the Board and Commission redoubled their efforts to ensure that all licensees are aware of and meet their continuing medical education requirements and maintain the highest levels of competency.

Free Online Courses to Meet CME Requirement For Collaborating/ Supervising Physicians and Physician Assistants

In 2021, the Board added a requirement for collaborating/supervising physicians and assistants to physicians to obtain Continuing Medical Education (CME) prescribed by the Board. Physicians who only act as covering physicians are not required to obtain this CME.

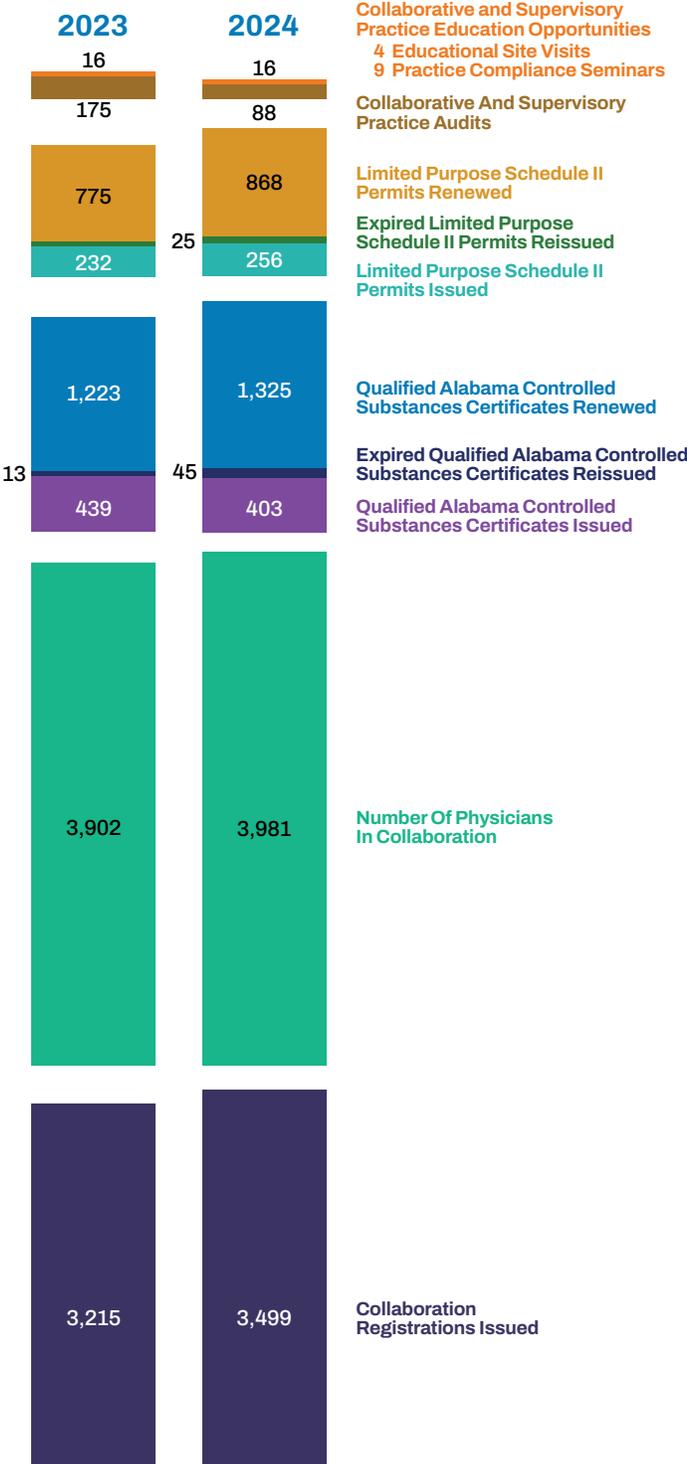
For those who were not in a collaborative or supervisory practice as of Jan. 1, 2025, the CME may be obtained within twelve months of obtaining a new collaborative or supervisory practice.

To assist licensees in meeting this requirement, the Board developed free online courses for licensed physicians, physician assistants, and anesthesiologist assistants. These courses can be accessed through the Board and Commission website.



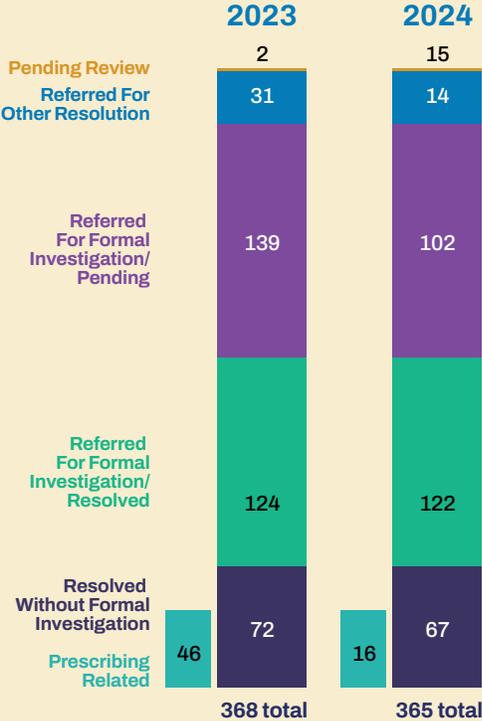
ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES (CRNP/CNM) AND COLLABORATIVE PHARMACY PRACTICES IN 2024

The number of collaborations between physicians and CRNP/ CNMs continues to rise. A new category of collaborative practice with pharmacists did not demonstrate any growth.



ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Enforcement issues are investigations of complaints and other alleged misconduct reported to the Board.



BOARD DISCIPLINARY/CONFIDENTIAL ACTIONS

The Board has the authority to discipline Alabama Controlled Substances registrations, to deny or enter voluntary restrictions on certificates of qualification, and to discipline Assistant to Physician licenses.

There was an increase from 2023 in the number of Letters of Concern issued in 2024. The number of physicians ordered to complete continuing medical education also rose in 2024, with 25 being related to prescribing issues.

Disciplinary

ACSC

Temporary Suspension	0
Surrender	4
Reinstated With Restrictions	1
Reinstated With Voluntary Agreement	1
Reinstatement Or Petition To Lift Restrictions Denied	1
Restrictions And/Or Limitations Modified Or Terminated	3
Consent Order/Settlement Agreement	10

QACSC

Denied	0
Temporary Suspension	1
Hearing Pending	1

Settlement Agreement	1
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Certificate Of Qualification Denied	1
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Certificate Of Qualification And/Or Medical License Surrendered	9
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Physician Assistant Licenses Disciplined/Restricted	0
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Anesthesiologist Assistant Licenses Disciplined/Restricted	0
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Confidential

Voluntary Agreements	39
Prescribing Related	4
Agreements Amended	2
Agreements Terminated	7

Confidential *Continued*

Voluntary Restriction On Certificate Of Qualification

Entered	0
Amended	0
Terminated	3

Licensees' Files Flagged	21
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ABME Physician Monitoring Program (As Adjusted From 2023)

– Licensees Currently Monitored	263
– Licensees Monitored Since 1990	1,902

Non-Disciplinary Board Orders	30
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Continuing Medical Education	21
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Prescribing Related	12
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Evaluation	9
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Interviews Conducted	44
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Letters Of Concern	40
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Prescribing Related	15
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Cases Sent For Expert Review	4
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Formal Filings With The Medical Licensure Commission

Administrative Complaints Filed	18
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Administrative Complaints With Petition For Summary Suspension Of Medical License	8
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Surrender	2
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Hearing Pending	6
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Notice Of Intent To Contest Reinstatement Filed	6
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Administrative Fines Assessed (ABME – 12 And MLC – 10)	22
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Administrative Costs Assessed (ABME – 0 And MLC – 5)	5
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ALABAMA OPIOID OVERDOSE AND ADDICTION COUNCIL

The Board continued its participation in the Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council's Prescribers & Dispensers standing committee in 2024 with a focus on equipping controlled substances providers with training. Expansions to the online medical professionals training platform, AlaHOPE.org, resulted in the addition of five new free courses. A total of 1,668 course completions were documented in 2024 with learners in 20 states and one Canadian province.

Opioid prescription rates continued to fall dramatically in Alabama, largely the result of education to medical providers in the provision of care to opioid-using persons, with emphasis on alternative treatments for pain and interdisciplinary care. The year 2024 also showed a consistent decline in the number of overdose deaths in Alabama.



2024 BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS



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Alabama Board of Medical Examiners



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