



MEDICALDIGEST

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THE AGENCIES ISSUE

2025-2026 Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners

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DRS. BROWN AND KOULIANOS END TERMS

At the Board's April 2025 meeting, outgoing members Eli L. Brown, MD, and George T. Koulianos, MD, were honored for their service on the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and recognized for their contributions to the House of Medicine and to their patients.



Dr. George Koulianos

helpless. His short time on the Board has been very meaningful and greatly appreciated.

Dr. Brown is practically a legend in our boardroom, serving for five years on the Medical Licensure Commission and 10 years on the Board of Medical Examiners. He is a master of his profession and all things OBGYN and was invaluable on the Board's Credentials Committee.

Ever the gentleman, Dr. Brown took a few moments to express his appreciation for his fellow Board members and the agency staff, touching on every single department. He has left a huge space in his absence and will be tremendously missed.

Dr. Koulianos was an icon in Montgomery during the COVID-19 pandemic, essentially creating a joint command of physicians and city officials to respond to the public health emergency. He has especially contributed to the specialties of endocrinology and reproductive medicine, where he has experienced the gift of seeing babies before their mothers can even hold them.

In his short remarks, Dr. Koulianos reflected upon the meaning of Easter and the protection of the needy and the



Dr. Eli Brown

BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

At the Board's April organizational meeting, new members William E. ("Bill") Admire, Jr., DO, and Marquisha M. Jarmon, MD, were elected to the Board of Medical Examiners.

As a practicing internal medicine physician in Mobile for over 30 years, Dr. Admire brings a wealth of experience to the Board.



Dr. William Admire



Dr. Marquisha Jarmon

In addition to his clinical experience, Dr. Admire has had extensive involvement in health system administration that will be instrumental in the Board's reviews and decision-making.

Dr. Jarmon currently practices in Hoover, and is double-board certified in internal medicine and pediatrics.

She brings to the Board over 20 years of experience providing care for patients from birth to senior.



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BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OUTREACH



In the Board's continuing efforts to liaise with stakeholders to provide more streamlined services to them and to our licensees, we held the inaugural 2025 Licensing Summit in Montgomery this past February.

The Credentialing Department, along with other staff, presented information about regulations and rules regarding physician licenses.

In attendance were stakeholders including medical staff personnel and postgraduate training program coordinators who assist healthcare practitioners with licenses and registrations.

The feedback for this summit was extremely positive, and the Board plans to offer this event annually.



COMMISSION MEMBER NINA P. NELSON-GARRETT, MD, HONORED WITH IDA B. WELLS HUMANITARIAN AWARD



The Montgomery Chapter of the NAACP presented awards to three women who embody the legacy of Ida B. Wells.

Wells' legacy of fighting injustice and civil rights lives on through three remarkable women who were honored for their work and service in advocacy and empowerment.

The inaugural event brought together the community, supporters, and followers to reflect on her legacy and how it is being carried on today.

One honoree was Medical Licensure Commission member Nina P. Nelson-Garrett, MD, a gastroenterologist practicing in Montgomery, Alabama, whose courage, strength, and service embodies the enduring legacy of Ida B. Wells.

FSMB: DR. ALSIP ELECTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THREE-YEAR TERM

At the April 2025 Annual Meeting of the Federation of State Medical Boards, Medical Licensure Commission member Jorge A. Alsip, MD, was elected to the FSMB Board of Directors for a three-year term.

This position follows over 20 combined years of leadership on both the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and the Medical Licensure Commission. Dr. Alsip practiced emergency medicine in Baldwin County, Alabama, followed by both national and local consulting and teaching positions.

At the same meeting, the Federation of State Medical Boards honored Medical Licensure Commission member Craig H. Christopher, MD, with the FSMB Leadership Award.

Dr. Christopher, who has also been a leader on both the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and the Medical Licensure Commission for more than 20 combined years, practiced for over 30 years as a highly respected OBGYN in Birmingham.

We are extremely proud of these leadership positions and awards earned by these Commissioners.

They embody the ethos of our dual agency which is to always strive to apply fairness, empathy, and justice to all decisions made in their roles as Board and Commission members as they carry out their statutory mandate of protecting the health and safety of Alabama patients.



Dr. Jorge Alsip is congratulated by Board member Dr. Jay Suggs

COMMISSIONERS RE-APPOINTED TO NEW TERMS

In May 2025, Medical Licensure Commission members Nina P. Nelson-Garrett, MD, and Pamela D. Varner, MD, were reappointed to five-year terms.

The eight members of the Commission consist of seven doctors of medicine or osteopathy

licensed to practice in Alabama and one public member. They are appointed to staggered five-year terms by the Lieutenant Governor (two appointments), the Speaker of the House of Representatives (two), and the Governor (three, including one public member).

There are no limits to the number of terms to which a Commissioner may be appointed.

Alabama Board of Medical Examiners



New Recommended Guidelines for Testosterone Therapy in Males and Females

Recommended guidelines for testosterone therapy in males and females were approved by the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners on February 20, 2025.



Symptomatic Men

Only symptomatic men with demonstrably abnormal serum testosterone levels **below 300ng/dl** confirmed on subsequent morning lab evaluations should be considered for testosterone therapy after exclusion of other related medical conditions.



Contraindications

All candidates for testosterone therapy should be screened for contraindications **prior to** initiating testosterone therapy.

Examples of **contraindications** in men: Desire to maintain sufficient quality and quantity of sperm production for future fertility, active prostate cancer, cardiac arrhythmia

Examples of **contraindications** in women: hepatic disease and hyperlipidemia



Treatment for Women

Transdermal treatment provides the most physiological form of replacement therapy for women, administered as a gel.

Testosterone implants, which may result in supraphysiological levels and do not allow for dose titration, are **not recommended**.

IM injections and oral preparations are **not recommended**, owing to the adverse effects related to short-term safety.

Lowest Effective Dose

- Adhere to the philosophy of "lowest effective dose" when prescribing testosterone replacement therapy.
- Current data supports the short-term efficacy and safety of low dose testosterone therapy to achieve high levels in the normal/premenopausal range in postmenopausal women with sexual dysfunction due to HSDD.

Telehealth

- After initial evaluation, male patients should undergo a 3-month visit with lab studies and must be seen in person annually by a physician. Telehealth is not an acceptable visit to qualify as a managing physician visit.

Not Recommended

- The general use of testosterone in women for infertility; sexual dysfunction other than HSDD; cognitive, cardiovascular, metabolic, or bone health; depression; or general well-being is not recommended.

Safety

- Any woman receiving testosterone therapy should be monitored every 6 months for signs and symptoms of androgen excess.
- After initiation in men, repeat serum testosterone, H/H, and PSA levels should be checked at 3 months by a physician.

SCAN ME



This information sheet is a summary of Board guidelines. Please refer to the complete guidelines at www.albme.gov, or scan the QR code.

Contact Us



334-242-4116



www.albme.gov

REMINDER: MANDATORY PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES EDUCATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY DEC. 31

History: In 2020, a joint consultant group of the Board and Commission studied the increasing number of sexual misconduct and professional boundaries complaints against Alabama medical practitioners and what measures should be taken to address this increase.

As part of the continuing effort to protect the health and safety of patients and educate licensees, mandatory professional boundaries

education is being implemented for all physicians, physician assistants, and anesthesiologist assistants licensed in Alabama. The only licensees exempted from this requirement are limited licensees who are enrolled in a residency training program or a clinical fellowship.

Current Licensees: Effective January 2025, all actively licensed physicians, physician assistants,

and anesthesiologist assistants are required to complete the two-hour on-demand course provided by PBI Education entitled “Navigating Professional Boundaries in Medicine.” The course is provided free of charge to all Alabama licensees and must be completed by December 31, 2025.

Effective January 2025, all actively licensed physicians, physician assistants, and anesthesiologist assistants are required to complete the two-hour on-demand course provided by PBI Education entitled “Navigating Professional Boundaries in Medicine.” The course is provided free of charge to all Alabama licensees and must be completed by December 31, 2025.

Frequently Asked Questions

I took this course for another state license; do I have to take this course?

Yes, the only Alabama licensees exempt from this one-time requirement are physicians with limited licenses who are enrolled in a postgraduate training program.

Our course was tailored for Alabama licensees, with links to Alabama laws and rules, which may differ from other states.

I received a postcard about this requirement, but I was unsure if it was really from the Board/Commission.

Postcards were sent from our offices in groups during the months of February to the present, notifying all licensees of the new requirement. It directed licensees to this webpage which contains a link to the course. This is an external link to PBI Education, who is hosting the CME module.

I am retired/currently not practicing in Alabama, am I still required to take the course?

Yes. All physicians licensed to practice medicine in Alabama and all assistants to physicians licensed to practice in Alabama are subject to this one-time requirement, with the sole exception of physicians with limited licenses who are enrolled in residency or fellowship programs.

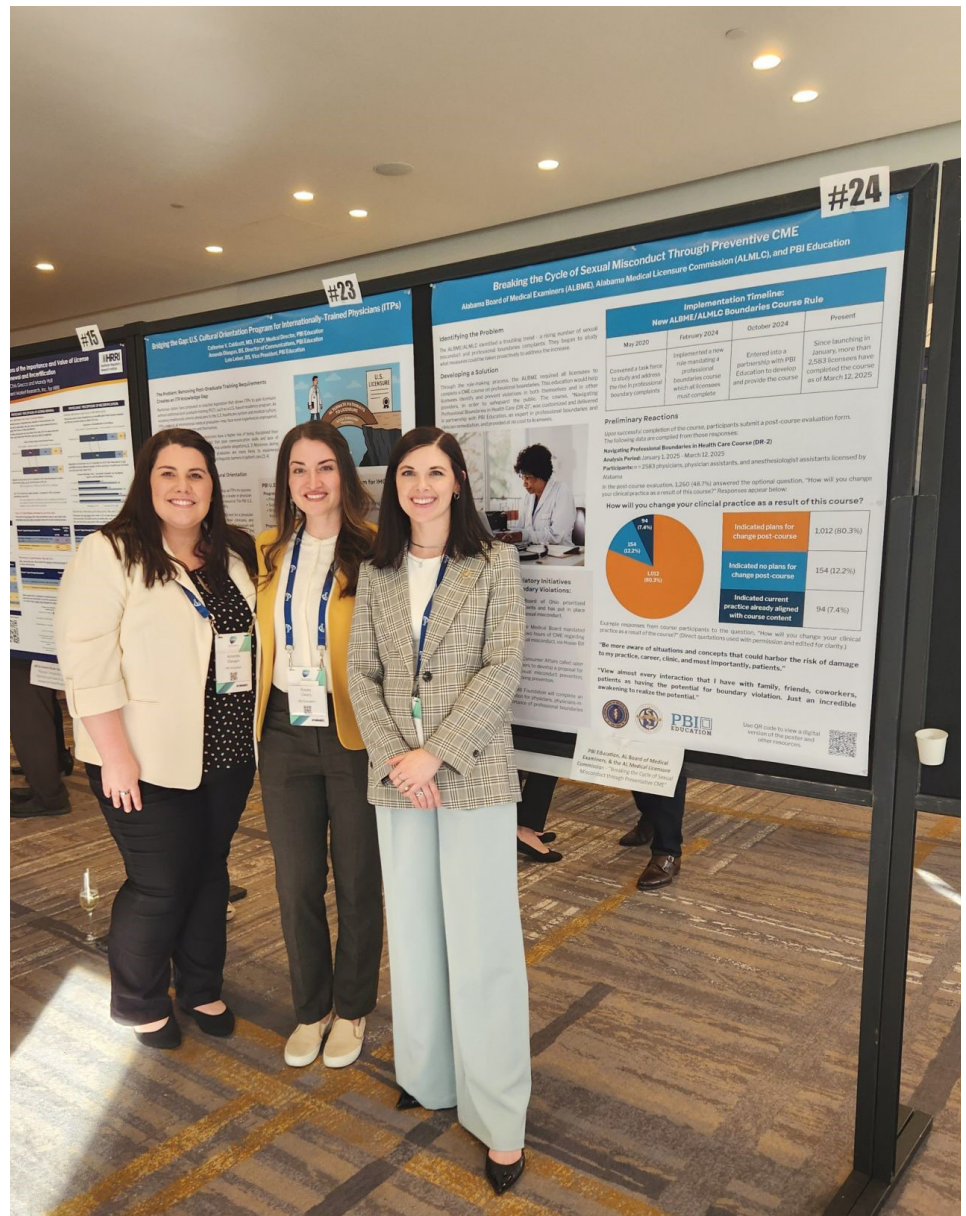
Scan Here  **For The ALBME & ALMLC Course**



BME/MLC AND PBI CO-PRESENT POSTER SERIES ON PREVENTING BOUNDARY VIOLATIONS

At the 2025 Federation of State Medical Boards meeting in April, Alabama Board of Medical Examiners Associate General Counsel, Effie Hawthorne, co-presented a poster series on our ongoing initiative with PBI Education to provide free preventative continuing medical education focusing on boundary violations and sexual misconduct in the medical profession.

We deeply appreciate the collaboration and support PBI Education has provided for us to be able to exclusively offer our licensees this free CME that will satisfy the one time-requirement to complete a course of education on boundaries. We and PBI Education recognize the need for healthcare professionals to become educated in this area to avoid pitfalls and protect the safety of patients.



See Next Page for Full Poster Design

Breaking the Cycle of Sexual Misconduct Through Preventive CME

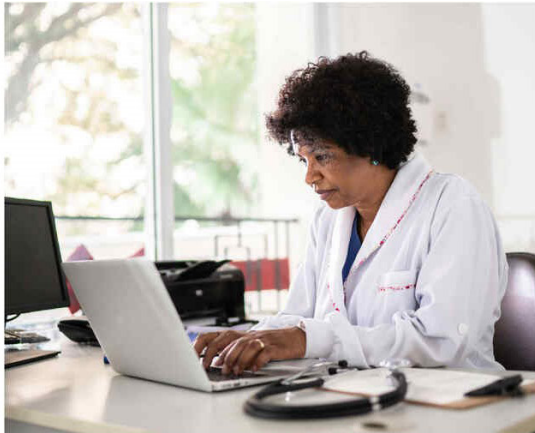
Alabama Board of Medical Examiners (ALBME), Alabama Medical Licensure Commission (ALMLC), and PBI Education

Identifying the Problem

The ALBME/ALMLC identified a troubling trend - a rising number of sexual misconduct and professional boundaries complaints. They began to study what measures could be taken proactively to address the increase.

Developing a Solution

Through the rule-making process, the ALBME required all licensees to complete a CME course on professional boundaries. This education would help licensees identify and prevent violations in both themselves and in other providers, in order to safeguard the public. The course, "Navigating Professional Boundaries in Health Care (DR-2)", was customized and delivered in partnership with PBI Education, an expert in professional boundaries and clinician remediation, and provided at no cost to licensees.



Examples of Other Regulatory Initiatives Working to Reduce Boundary Violations:

Ohio: In 2019, the State Medical Board of Ohio prioritized understanding sexual misconduct complaints and has put in place measures to protect Ohio residents from sexual misconduct.

Georgia: In 2021, the Georgia Composite Medical Board mandated licensees and board members complete two hours of CME regarding professional boundaries and physician sexual misconduct, via House Bill 458.

New Jersey: In 2021, the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs called upon the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners to develop a proposal for mandatory continuing education on sexual misconduct prevention, bystander intervention, and human trafficking prevention.

FSMB Foundation: In 2025, the FSMB Foundation will complete an educational video to provide information for physicians, physicians-in-training, and the public on the importance of professional boundaries and how they are maintained.

Implementation Timeline: New ALBME/ALMLC Boundaries Course Rule

May 2020	February 2024	October 2024	Present
Convened a task force to study and address the rise in professional boundary complaints	Implemented a new rule mandating a professional boundaries course which all licensees must complete	Entered into a partnership with PBI Education to develop and provide the course	Since launching in January, more than 2,583 licensees have completed the course as of March 12, 2025

Preliminary Reactions

Upon successful completion of the course, participants submit a post-course evaluation form. The following data are compiled from those responses:

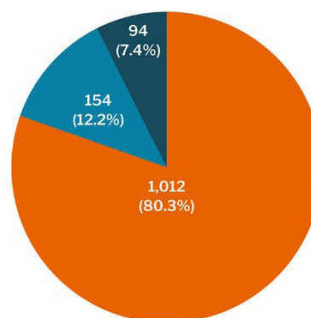
Navigating Professional Boundaries in Health Care Course (DR-2)

Analysis Period: January 1, 2025 - March 12, 2025

Participants: n = 2583 physicians, physician assistants, and anesthesiologist assistants licensed by Alabama

In the post-course evaluation, 1,260 (48.7%) answered the optional question, "How will you change your clinical practice as a result of this course?" Responses appear below:

How will you change your clinical practice as a result of this course?



Indicated plans for change post-course	1,012 (80.3%)
Indicated no plans for change post-course	154 (12.2%)
Indicated current practice already aligned with course content	94 (7.4%)

Example responses from course participants to the question, "How will you change your clinical practice as a result of the course?" (Direct quotations used with permission and edited for clarity.)

"Be more aware of situations and concepts that could harbor the risk of damage to my practice, career, clinic, and most importantly, patients."

"View almost every interaction that I have with family, friends, coworkers, patients as having the potential for boundary violation. Just an incredible awakening to realize the potential."



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



April 2025

- Apr. 9 - Robert P. Bolling, MD (MD.24251), Fayette - the practice plan is approved as presented.
- Apr. 17 - Carl R. Provenzano, MD (no license), Birmingham - the application for a certificate of qualification to practice medicine is denied.
- Apr. 21 - Alan J. Wayne, MD (MD.13785), Scottsboro - the license is temporarily suspended pending a hearing on the allegations.
- Apr. 29 - Vinson M. DiSanto, DO (DO.1189), San Diego CA - the request for relief from probationary conditions is denied.

May 2025

- May 6 - Steve E. Norman, MD (MD.32254), Jonesborough TN - the license is voluntarily surrendered.

June 2025

- Jun. 3 - Eric R. Beck, MD (MD.18624), Huntsville - the request to approve the practice plan is approved.
- Jun. 4 - Daniel E. Morgan, DO (DO.4077), Spring, TX - the request to modify restrictions is denied.
- Jun. 5 - Brian E. Richardson, MD (MD.31014), Montgomery - the license is suspended.
- Jun. 5 - Alan J. Wayne, MD (MD.13785), Scottsboro - the license is voluntarily surrendered.
- Jun. 10 - David J. Halvorson, MD (MD.20146), Alabaster - the license is revoked.
- Jun. 11 - Mohamed A. H. Khalaf, MD (MD.34115), Apollo Beach FL - the application for reinstatement of license is denied.



Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners
Alabama Medical Licensure Commission

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Upcoming BME Meeting Dates

July 17 • Aug 21 • Sep 18

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 23 • Aug 27 • Sep 25

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

About MedicalDigest

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