

Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners
and Medical Licensure Commission

Medical Digest

Fall 2026

PAGE 2 | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

PAGE 3 | PREPARING FOR RENEWAL SEASON

PAGE 4 | HOW TO PROTECT YOUR LICENSE

PAGE 5 | GOVERNOR IVEY ANNOUNCES RURAL HEALTH
PROGRAM

PAGE 5 | CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

PAGE 6 | PUBLIC ACTIONS

PAGE 7 | CME REQUIREMENTS

Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners

Charles M. A. Rogers, IV, MD
Chair
Bay Minette

Hernando D. Carter, MD
Vice Chair
Birmingham

William E. Admire, Jr., DO
Mobile

Aruna T. Arora, MD
Huntsville

Carrie L. Atcheson, MD
Birmingham

Gregory W. Ayers, MD
Birmingham

Tonya E. Bradley, MD
Auburn

Nina S. Ford-Johnson, MD
Mobile

Adam C. Harrison, DO
Cullman

Marquisha M. Jarmon, MD
Birmingham

Beverly F. Jordan, MD
Enterprise

Mark H. LeQuire, MD
Montgomery

William J. Schneider, MD
Huntsville

William J. Suggs, MD
Decatur

David R. Thrasher, MD
Montgomery

Jane A. Weida, MD
Tuscaloosa

Medical Licensure Commission

Jorge A. Alsip, MD
Chair
Daphne

Kenneth W. Aldridge, MD
Vice Chair
Tuscaloosa

Eli L. Brown, MD
Birmingham

Craig H. Christopher, MD
Irondale

Howard J. Falgout, MD
Tuscaloosa

James R. Seale, JD
Montgomery

Nina P. Nelson-Garrett, MD
Montgomery

Pamela D. Varner, MD
Birmingham

REFLECTIONS ON 2025: A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



William M. Perkins
Executive Director

From the Board's 2025 Illustrative Annual Report

One of the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners' most significant accomplishments in 2025 was the publication of updated Office-Based Surgery regulations. These updates reflect the first updates to these regulations in twenty years. The Board began the process to update the regulations in 2022.

Throughout this process, the Board invited, welcomed, and engaged in a robust dialogue with Alabama physicians. At its January 2026 meeting, the Board voted to finalize the proposed rules. The Board believes that the current draft, as certified, best strikes the balance between protecting the public and avoiding unnecessary regulatory burdens on physicians.

The Board, along with the Medical Licensure Commission, modernized medical licensure applications by refining how mental health questions are addressed. In recognition of this effort, the Board and Commission were named a 2025 Wellbeing First Champion by ALL IN: Wellbeing First for Healthcare, a national coalition dedicated to advancing clinician wellbeing.

At the Annual Meeting of the Federation of State Medical Boards in Seattle, Washington, two Commission members received national appointments and honors. The Board proudly congratulates Commissioners Dr. Jorge Alsip and Dr. Craig Christopher for exemplifying the agency's commitment to fairness, empathy, and justice in fulfilling its duty to protect the health and safety of Alabama patients.

In response to trends and concerns surrounding emerging ketamine and testosterone therapies, the Board convened two physician-led work groups to conduct a comprehensive review of these treatments. As a result, the Board issued guidance to support Alabama physicians in delivering safe, evidence-based, high-quality care.

The Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council's Prescribers and Dispensers Standing Committee, established in 2017, marked a significant milestone this year. For the first time since its inception, Alabama experienced a 30 percent reduction in substance related overdose deaths between April 2024 and April 2025.

The Board remains proud of its ongoing participation in the Council's work, which focuses on equipping controlled substance prescribers with appropriate education and training through ALAHOPE.

“As we reflect on 2025, I am proud of the progress we have made in fulfilling our mission to protect the public while supporting Alabama's medical professionals.

From implementing new online tools to expanding educational initiatives and streamlining regulatory processes, we continue to look for ways to better serve both the public and the healthcare professionals we regulate. These efforts are made possible through the dedication of our Board members, staff, and healthcare partners across the state.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the citizens of Alabama. We look forward to building on this progress as we continue our work to uphold the integrity of the medical profession and protect the health and safety of the public.”

William M. Perkins, Executive Director



**SCAN TO VIEW THE
2025 ILLUSTRATIVE
ANNUAL REPORT**

PREPARING FOR RENEWAL SEASON: A GUIDE FOR ALABAMA LICENSEES

Start Early and Know the Deadlines

As renewal season approaches, licensees should begin preparing early. Annual renewals are required

for most licenses and registrations, so understanding the timelines and requirements can help avoid unnecessary stress or a lapse in licensure.

One of the most important steps in preparing for renewal season is marking your calendar.

In Alabama, most licenses and registrations expire annually on December 31, with the renewal window opening October 1 each year.

Accessing the Licensee Gateway

The Board and Commission's online [Licensee Gateway](#) is the platform for completing renewals. As this is the second year renewals are available through Licensee Gateway, most licensees already have an account. If you do not have an account, you must create one, log in, and submit your renewal application through this system. Licenses issued through the [Interstate Medical Licensure Compact](#) (IMLC) must renew through the IMLC.

Verify Your Contact Information

It is important to make sure all demographic information is up to date. This includes physical and email addresses as the Board and Commission send renewal reminders and updates starting in October.

Complete Required Continuing Medical Education (CME)

Continuing Medical Education (CME) is required to renew most licenses and registrations. Physicians must complete 25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ (or equivalent) each calendar year for renewal of the medical license. Documentation of CME credits must be retained for at least three years.

Additional CME requirements may apply depending on your license or certifications. For example, physicians with an Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate (ACSC) must complete two (2) AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ every two years in controlled substance prescribing.

Physician assistants and nurse practitioners who have a Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate are required to obtain four (4) AMA PRA Category 1 credits™ every two years through a Board approved course. A list of approved courses can be found on the Board's website, albme.gov.

Review Alerts in Your Licensee Gateway Account

When logging into your Licensee Gateway account, alerts may appear at the top of your profile. Review and take care of any alerts before renewing your licenses or registrations.

Renew Additional Registrations and Certifications

If a licensee holds additional registrations or certifications such as an Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate, Pain Management Registration, Office-Based Surgery Registration, or Laser Registration, these may require separate renewal or certification. After renewing your primary license, return to the Licensee Gateway to complete any additional renewals or certifications.

Covering Physician Certifications

If a physician has any active collaborative practice agreements with nurse practitioners or registration agreements with physician assistants or anesthesiologist assistants, a certification of covering physicians is required. An alert should appear in your profile until this certification is complete.

BOARD APPROVES UPDATES TO ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER SPECIALTY PROTOCOL SKILLS

The Board recently approved updates to three specialty skill protocols that allow Advanced Practice Providers to perform additional skills when certain requirements are met. The changes were recommended by the Physician Assistants' Advisory Committee and the Joint Committee for Advanced Practice Nurses and reflect the strong partnership between the Board and these committees in addressing the evolving needs of healthcare professionals and patients across Alabama.

Updated Specialty Skill Protocols:

- Otolaryngology Specialty Protocol for Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNPs) and Physician Assistants (PAs)
- Cosmetic Botulinum Toxin Injection Protocol for CRNPs and PAs
- Orthopedic Specialty Protocol for CRNPs and PAs

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR LICENSE: COMMON PITFALLS TO AVOID

The requirements for obtaining a medical license are clear but protecting that license is an ongoing responsibility. Each month, the Board reviews investigative cases, and many involve issues that could have been prevented with a little extra attention. While no one sets out to make a mistake, taking time to stay informed, maintain good practices, and understanding your obligations can help to avoid common problems.

Renewal season is an essential part of maintaining professional licensure and supporting patient safety in Alabama.

The following reminders highlight several issues the Board encounters regularly, and practical steps physicians can take to protect their licenses and their patients.

- Renew licenses, registrations, and certificates before they expire.
- Keep CME records organized and readily available.
- Read employment contracts carefully and maintain independent medical judgment.
- Stay current on Board rules and regulatory changes.
- Respond to Board inquiries in a timely manner.
- Document clinical decisions thoroughly.
- Know the qualifications, scope, and responsibilities of any provider you supervise or with whom you collaborate.
- Communicate appropriately with patients, caregivers, staff, and colleagues.



GOVERNOR IVEY ANNOUNCES FIRST GRANTS IN ALABAMA RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

Governor Kay Ivey announced the first round of funding through the Alabama Rural Health Transformation Program (ARHTP), awarding 138 grants totaling more than \$144 million to healthcare providers and organizations across Alabama. The goal of this program is to improve healthcare access, quality, and outcomes in rural communities throughout the state.

The initial round of funding supports five of the 11 initiatives of the ARHTP: Rural Health, Rural Workforce, Mental Health, Rural Health Practice, and Collaborative Electronic Health Record (EHR), IT, and Cybersecurity.

Governor Ivey's full press release, including a complete list of healthcare providers and institutions receiving grants for projects under each of the five initiatives, is available here: [Governor Ivey Announces First Grants in Major New Rural Healthcare Program Totaling More than \\$144 Million.](#)

HIGHLIGHTS OF MARCH 2026 PRESCRIBING AND PHARMACOLOGY CONFERENCE

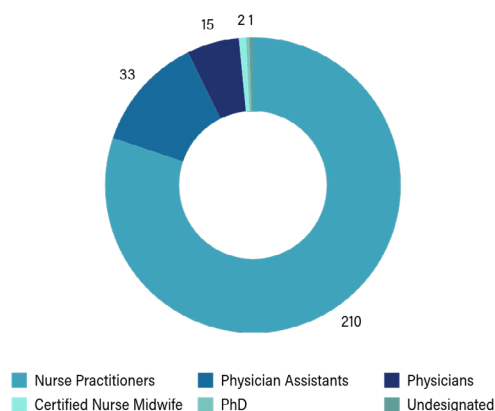
“This is my favorite training of all time. The real-life scenarios are remarkable, as well as the knowledgeable staff and presenters who present research and other factual, experienced statistics and examples.”

“I have been practicing and prescribing in another state for years, so I was frustrated to be required to take this course. However, I was pleasantly surprised by its usefulness and wealth of great information and resources. Thank you!”

The Board of Medical Examiners hosts three live conferences throughout the year on prescribing controlled substances at no cost to licensees and permit holders. This course is mandatory for any nurse practitioner or physician assistant who is seeking to obtain their QACSC for the first time. Topics

include prescribing laws and regulations, current trends, and best practices for prescribing safely. More information can be found here: [Prescribing and Pharmacology of Controlled Substances | Alabama Board of Medical Examiners & Medical Licensure Commission.](#)

MARCH 2026 ATTENDEES



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



June 2026

- June 2 - Hagop Y. Sarkissian, MD (MD. 48464), Lakewood Ranch, Florida - MLC Consent Decree approving settlement agreement.
- June 2 - Richard E. Jones, III, MD (MD. 19352), Northport - MLC Order reinstating license to full and unrestricted status.
- June 3 - Hesham A. Hassan, MD (MD. 44644), Birmingham - MLC Order staying license suspension and restricting medical license.
- June 4 - Edward G. Witt, DO (DO. 556), Gurley - MLC Order accepting voluntary surrender of medical license.
- June 2 - Richard L. Sample, DO (DO. 898), Elmore - MLC Consent Decree approving settlement agreement.
- June 26 - Donet C. Main, DO (DO. 3671), Kansas City, Missouri - MLC Consent Decree approving settlement agreement.
- June 26 - Cameron T. Corte (MD. 38259), Magnolia Springs - MLC Order approving practice plan.

July 2026

- July 1 - Daniel A. Polansky, MD (MD. 13954), Mobile - MLC Order accepting voluntary surrender of medical license.
- July 6 - Jonathan C. Hood, MD (MD. 12971), Oneonta - MLC Consent Decree assessing administrative fine following the acceptance of a Joint Settlement Agreement with the Board.
- July 6 - Rupa B. Shiva, MD (MD. 28819), Huntsville - MLC Consent Decree assessing administrative fine following the acceptance of a Joint Settlement Agreement with the Board.
- July 20 - Delicia Vanterpool, CRNP (QACSCNP. 581-9313, QACSCNP. 546-12270), Madison - Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate probation lifted.
- July 20 - Lawrence J. Sindel, MD (MD. 11173), Mobile - Reinstatement of Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate to full, unrestricted status.

August 2026

- August 31 - Janie T. Bush Teschner, MD (MD. 14227), Birmingham - MLC Order reinstating license to full and unrestricted status.

CME Requirements

MD/DO

Medical License: 25 hours annually

Collaborative/Supervisory Practice:

Effective January 1, 2025: Completion of Board approved course within 60 months prior to January 1; thereafter, every 48 months or within 12 months of new registration

Professionalism CME:

Effective January 1, 2025: One time requirement for all current licensees by December 31, 2025; thereafter, one time requirement for new licensees within 12 months of licensure (excluding residents and fellows with limited licenses)

ACSC:

2 hours biennially in controlled substances prescribing

PA/AA

License: 50 hours every two years

Collaborative/Supervisory Practice:

Effective January 1, 2025: Completion of Board approved course within 60 months prior to January 1; or within 12 months of new registration

Professionalism CME:

Effective January 1, 2025: One time requirement for all current licensees by December 31, 2025; thereafter, one time requirement for new licensees within 12 months of licensure

QACSC:

Initial: 12 hours in controlled substances and pharmacology (Board approved course) within 12 months preceding application

Renewal: 4 hours in controlled substances biennially thereafter (from Board approved list)

CRNP/CNM

QACSC:

Initial: 12 hours in controlled substances and pharmacology (Board approved course) within 12 months preceding application

Renewal: 4 hours in controlled substances biennially thereafter (from Board approved list)

This is a summary of current CME requirements. For complete and up to date requirements, please visit our website: albme.gov



See the Board's website for the complete list of Board approved courses for renewal of a QACSC.



Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners
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 15 | Nov 12 | Dec 10

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 albme.gov.

Upcoming MLC Meeting Dates

Oct 28 | Nov 18 | Dec 16

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

DIXON-PARKER
BUILDING

Have questions or need assistance?

Alabama Board of Medical Examiners

General questions | (334) 242- 4116 | BME@albme.gov

MD/DO Initial Licensure | Credentialing@albme.gov

Alabama Controlled Substances Certificates: | ACSC@albme.gov

Alabama Medical Cannabis Permits | AMCP@albme.gov

Advanced Practice Providers (Registration & Collaborative Agreements) | APPDept@albme.gov

Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificates, Limited Purpose Schedule II Permits | QACSC@albme.gov

Office Based Surgery | OBS@albme.gov

Lasers | Laserreg@albme.gov

Continuing Medical Education | CME@albme.gov

License Verifications | Verification@albme.gov

Medical Licensure Commission

General questions | (334) 242 - 4153 | MLC@almlc.gov

FOLLOW US



@AlaMedBd



Interested in a career with
the Board or Commission?
Visit our Careers page.

Medical Digest is the official publication of the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and Medical Licensure Commission.

Past issues are archived and available on the Board's website at www.albme.gov.