

Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners and
Medical Licensure Commission

Medical Digest

Winter & Spring 2026

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CHAMPION

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ALBME NAMED 2025 WELLBEING FIRST CHAMPION

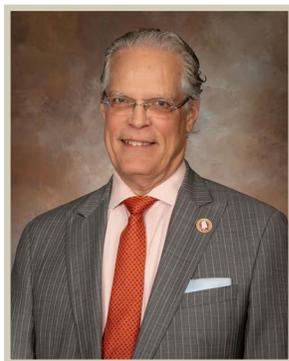
The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners (ALBME) and Medical Licensure Commission (MLC) were named a 2025 Wellbeing First Champion for removing intrusive mental health questions from medical license applications. ALL IN: Wellbeing First for Healthcare, a national coalition of healthcare organizations awarded the honor to the ALBME and MLC. The change encourages physicians to seek care without fear of professional consequences, strengthening the healthcare workforce and improving patient outcomes.



Anyone who needs help should never fear seeking it, including doctors.

--Dr. Charles M. Rogers, Chair of the Board

Previously, applications asked about past mental health or substance use treatment, even when unrelated to a doctor's current ability to practice safely. The revised forms now focus only on conditions that may currently impair safe practice.



Doctors are human. Like everyone, they deserve the right to pursue mental healthcare without fear of losing their job or license.

--Dr. Mark LeQuire, President of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, member of the Board

The changes came as a recommendation from the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation, a foundation named after a physician who died by suicide in 2020. According to the foundation, as of September 19, 2025, five dental licensure boards, 40 medical licensure boards, six nursing licensure boards, and nine pharmacy licensure boards verified their licensing applications do not include intrusive mental health questions.



The Commission wants to ensure physicians know they can seek help for any medical or mental health condition, knowing they are not required to report any of these conditions when they apply for or renew their Alabama medical license."

--Dr. Jorge A. Alsip, Chair of the Commission

The ALBME & MLC are proud to receive the honor of being a Wellbeing First Champion.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGE EXPANDS ACCESS BY EASING VOLUNTEER RULES FOR RETIRED PHYSICIANS

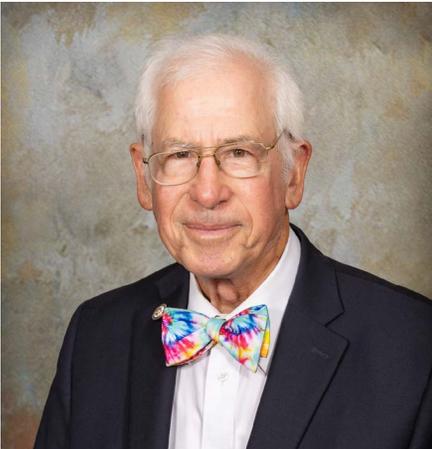
The Retired Senior Volunteer (RSV) Program was created in 2000 to expand opportunities and reduce liability for medical professionals who provide free medical services at established free medical clinics. The Board and Commission issue RSV licenses at no cost to qualified retired physicians who provide volunteer services at a Board approved free clinic.

One requirement for maintaining an RSV license was to perform a minimum of 100 hours of free medical services. Over time, it became apparent that this requirement was preventing many retired physicians from volunteering their medical services.

This year, with the endorsement of the Board and Commission, a bill sponsored by Representative Paul Lee of Dothan and passed by the Alabama Legislature removed the requirement for an RSV licensee to perform the annual minimum of 100 hours of volunteer service. This provision was a barrier for some doctors who wished to volunteer their services under the RSV program but were unable to commit to that number of hours. With this requirement removed, more retired doctors may now offer their services at free medical clinics, helping fill gaps in underserved communities across Alabama.

More information regarding the Retired Senior Volunteer License can be found on the Board and Commission's website: [Retired Senior Volunteer License | Alabama Board of Medical Examiners & Medical Licensure Commission](#).

COMMISSION MEMBER ENDS TERM, NEW MEMBER APPOINTED



L. Daniel Morris, Esq.

The Medical Licensure Commission was expanded in 1995 to include a public member. In 2005, Governor Bob Riley appointed Dan Morris to serve in that role. Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Morris has served as an attorney for a major Alabama health system, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Assistant Director of the Alabama Department of Transportation, and legal counsel for the State of Alabama Personnel Department.

Over more than two decades of dedicated service to the Medical Licensure Commission, Mr. Morris exemplified an unwavering commitment to protecting public health and safety through the regulation of medical practice.



James R. Seale, Esq.

James R. "Spud" Seale was recently appointed by Governor Ivey to the Medical Licensure Commission to serve as the Commission's public member, with his appointment beginning on October 1, 2025.

Mr. Seale brings more than 50 years of experience in the legal field, including former service as a hearing officer for the Commission. His broad experience in various areas of law—particularly his work as an arbitrator and mediator—will serve him well in this new role and greatly benefit the Commission.

2026 PRESCRIBING AND PHARMACOLOGY OF CONTROLLED DRUGS: CURRENT ISSUES AND STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESSFUL PATIENT CARE

The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners is pleased to announce the *2026 Prescribing and Pharmacology of Controlled Drugs: Current Issues and Strategies for Successful Patient Care* conferences to include new topics and speakers outlined below.

The Board is proud to offer these conferences **free of charge to all of its licensees**. We encourage those interested in attending to register as soon as registration is open as slots fill quickly.

For more information regarding registration, please visit our website or contact our Education Department: [Continuing Medical Education | Alabama Board of Medical Examiners & Medical Licensure Commission](#).



New Topics:

Ketamine – What You Need to Know

Gregory W. Ayers, MD | Birmingham Hospitalists, PC | ALBME
J. Luke Engeriser, MD | Deputy Chief Medical Officer |
AltaPointe Health Systems, Mobile

PDMP in Practice: A Clinical Tool for Safer Prescribing

Rachel Kiefer, Pharm D | Assistant State Pharmacist | Alabama
Department of Public Health

Controlled Substance Prescribing: An Investigator’s Perspective

Edwin Rogers | Chief Investigator | ALBME
Bob Steelman | Deputy Chief Investigator | ALBME

Upcoming Conferences:

July 31-August 2, 2026

The Lodge at Gulf State Park
Gulf Shores, Alabama

November 20-22, 2026

Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa
Birmingham, Alabama

“

Hands down this is one of the best CE events I have attended in some time. As an NP, I am so grateful that we are included in this education provided by the Board of Medical Examiners.

”

“

This was one of my favorite conferences that I have ever been to, and this is partly due to relevancy of the presentations and the presenters.

”

“

The entire weekend was phenomenal. Very educational and interesting!

”

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION REMINDERS FOR LICENSEES

Navigating Professional Boundaries in Medicine

In 2020, a joint consultant group of the Board and Commission studied the increasing number of sexual misconduct and professional boundary 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 was 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 were required to complete the two-hour on-demand course provided by PBI Education entitled “Navigating Professional Boundaries in Medicine” by December 31, 2025.

New Licensees as of January 2025: All newly 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” within twelve months of initial licensure.



The course is provided free of charge.

FAQs

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

- Postcards, emails, and alerts in the Licensee Gateway were sent from the Board during throughout the past year, notifying licensees of the this requirement. Licensees were directed to a link to register for the course. The link is an external link to PBI Education, who is hosting the CME module on behalf of the Board.

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, the sole exception being physicians with limited licenses who are enrolled in residency or fellowship programs.

Register for the course here, [PBI Education Alabama](#).

Collaborative and Supervisory Practice

In 2024, the Board launched a new CME Learning Management System, offering free, on-demand online courses. There are currently three available courses, with plans to offer additional courses in the future.

The available courses meet the Board's requirement that all licensees engaged in collaborative/supervisory practice obtain continuing medical education prescribed by the Board on the applicable rules and laws governing these agreements, not more than sixty (60) months prior to January 1, 2025, or within twelve (12) months of entering into a new agreement.

For physicians, these courses also meet the Board's requirement of obtaining the same continuing medical education every forty-eight (48) months.



To learn more about these courses and to enroll, please visit our website, [On-Demand Online Courses | Alabama Board of Medical Examiners & Medical Licensure Commission](#).

You will be required to set up an Adobe account to receive your completion certificate.



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OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA®

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Protecting The Profession*

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APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR BRIDGE YEAR GRADUATE PHYSICIAN PERMIT

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”). Graduates from international medical schools do not meet the qualification requirements of a bridge year graduate physician permit at this time. This permit does not confer any future right to a license to practice medicine in Alabama.

Qualifications for a Bridge Year Graduate Physician Permit

- Graduation from a medical school accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education or the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation.
- Achieved a passing score on one of these licensing examinations:
 - Steps 1 and 2 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE),
 - Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX), or
 - Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada Examination (LMCCE).
- Applied to, but was not accepted into, a postgraduate or residency training program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), American Osteopathic Association (AOA), Accreditation Committee of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (ACRCPSC), or the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) for the first year following medical school graduation.
- The Board, in its discretion, may waive the one-year requirement for applicants who are otherwise eligible and meet all other requirements and are no more than two years post medical school graduation.
The waiver request must be submitted with the application.



Qualifications of the Supervising Physician

- Possess a current, unrestricted license to practice medicine in Alabama; and
- Have satisfied one of the following:
 - Practiced medicine for at least three years, excluding any practice in a postgraduate training program, or
 - Practiced medicine for at least one year and is certified by one or more of the specialty boards recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), or
 - Practiced medicine for at least one year and the bridge year graduate physician’s practice site is limited solely to a general acute care, critical access, or specialized hospital licensed as such by the Alabama Department of Public Health.
- The Board, in its discretion, may waive these practice requirements.
- The Board may decline to consider an application where the physician is under investigation by the Board.

For more information, please see our [Bridge Year Graduate Physician Permit web page](#).

BOARD RECOGNIZES RETIREMENTS OF PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER AND DEPUTY CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

At its October 2025 meeting, the Board recognized Carla Kruger, Public Information Officer, for 27 years of dedicated service.

Ms. Kruger began her career with the Board as a Paralegal and concluded it as the Public Information Officer, leaving a lasting impact through her professionalism and commitment to the Board's mission of protecting the public. Known for her exceptional communication skills, Ms. Kruger skillfully managed the Board's social media presence, crafted informative newsletters, and provided outstanding support to the public and the Board's licensees.



While Carla will be greatly missed, the Board celebrates her many years of excellent service.

The Board also recognized long time investigator, Randy Dixon, for his 21 years of service.

Investigator Dixon concluded his career as the Deputy Chief Investigator.

For 21 years, he served the Board and Commission with integrity, professionalism, and dedication. Investigator Dixon's contributions have left a lasting impact, and he will be greatly missed.

The Board proudly celebrates his many years of public service in law enforcement and with the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners.

ALBME OFFERS FREE LIVE CME ON CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PRESCRIBING

In continuing our efforts to further licensee education, the Board of Medical Examiners is now offering a free, live, two-hour continuing medical education course that satisfies the requirement that all ACSC permit holders obtain 2 hours of continuing medical education specifically related to controlled substances every two years.

Interested healthcare organizations may submit a speaker request form to the Board's Education Department: [Informational Resources | Alabama Board of Medical Examiners & Medical Licensure Commission](#).



2026 LICENSING SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED COLLABORATION AND PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

As part of the Board's ongoing efforts to strengthen collaboration with stakeholders and provide more streamlined services to both them and its licensees, the Board's Credentialing Department hosted the second annual Licensing Summit this past February in Montgomery.



The 2026 Licensing Summit was held at Troy Montgomery, with 71 individuals registered to attend. There were many first-time participants, along with several returning attendees from last year's inaugural event.

Representatives from institutions and organizations across the state, including University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), University of South Alabama (USA), UAB-Huntsville, Cahaba, Crestwood, Baptist Health (Birmingham and Montgomery), Gadsden Regional Family Medicine Program, Brookwood, Southeast Health, East Alabama Medical Center, UAB-Selma, and Mobile Infirmary were in attendance. Their participation reflects the strong statewide commitment to maintaining efficient and compliant licensure processes.

The Credentialing Department, along with other Board staff, delivered presentations outlining regulations and rules governing physician licensure.

Attendees included medical staff professionals and postgraduate training program coordinators who play a vital role in assisting healthcare practitioners with licensing and registration.

The Licensing Summit is fulfilling the mission envisioned — fostering collaboration, increasing clarity regarding regulatory requirements, and, ultimately, supporting a more efficient licensure process for healthcare professionals across Alabama.



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UPDATED OFFICE-BASED SURGERY REGULATIONS

The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners has modernized its Office-Based Surgery (OBS) rules, representing the most significant update to these regulations in years.

The Board extends its sincere appreciation to all physicians who took the time to review and provide comments. Your expert feedback and professional insights are highly valued and were instrumental in the Board's decision-making.

Timeline:

- The new rules become effective under the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act on March 16, 2026.
- Compliance is required by **January 1, 2027**.

What's changing:

- Accreditation is now required. For the first time, physicians and facilities performing applicable office based surgical procedures must obtain accreditation from a Board-approved accrediting body.
- New Level I, Level II and Level III designations based on procedural risk, rather than anesthesia alone.
- If you perform only Level I procedures, you do not need to register or obtain accreditation.
- Level I procedures include minor procedures: skin excisions, biopsies, IUD insertion, limited endoscopies, arthrocentesis, cystoscopy, and other procedures with minimal risk and no alteration of consciousness.

What physicians should do now:

- Continue to follow existing OBS rules until January 1, 2027.
- Begin coming into compliance with all practicable standards in the new rules.
- Certain provisions – including some anesthesia-related requirements – may be implemented immediately.
- Physicians are encouraged to submit procedures for Board approval now where required.

Procedures requiring prior Board approval:

- Intra-peritoneal and intra-pleural procedures may not be performed in an office setting without prior, written Board approval (with limited exceptions outlined in the rules).
- Patients age 85 or older are generally not appropriate candidates for Level III procedures unless the procedure is emergent/urgent or receives prior Board approval.

Approved accrediting entities include:

- Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC)
- American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (AAAASF)
- Surgical Review Corporation (SRC)
- The Joint Commission
- The Board can approve other entities. If you are currently accredited by an organization that isn't on this list, let us know!

Accreditation timeline:

- OBS accreditation applications must be submitted by January 31, 2027.
- Physicians will have one year from application submission to complete the accreditation process.

Registration reminders:

- Physician offices may register more than one physician.
- One registered physician must be designated as responsible for accuracy and reporting.
- Annual OBS registration is due by January 31 each year and must be completed electronically.
- Registered physicians must promptly report changes in practice location or required information.

Learn more: Full details, rules and registration information is available [on our website](#).

Bottom line: Accreditation is a new requirement, and physicians are strongly encouraged to review the rules now, plan early for compliance, and submit approval requests well ahead of the January 1, 2027, deadline to avoid delays.

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



October 2025

- Oct. 15 - Edward A. Tucker, CRNP, Sumiton - the Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate and Limited Purpose Schedule II Permit is revoked.
- Oct. 23 - Gregory K. Parker, MD (MD.11523), Mobile - the medical license is revoked.

November 2025

- Nov. 3 - Robert P. Bolling, MD (MD.24251), Fayette - MLC Order amending previous requirements and practice plan.

- Nov. 21 - Brice C. Burke, MD (MD. 46230), Mobile - MLC Order granting full and unrestricted license, without contingencies or conditions.
- Nov. 21 - Gary R. Wisner, MD (MD. 19841), Lodi, California - MLC Order reinstating license to full and unrestricted status.

December 2025

- Dec. 12 - Robert W. Smith, MD (MD. 10508), Cullman - MLC Order accepting voluntary surrender of medical license.

- Dec. 15 - Matthew N. Parker, MD (MD. 26208), Carthage, Texas - Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate restrictions are lifted.
- Dec. 19 - Kristin Dobay, MD (MD. 48792), Selma - the medical license is reinstated to full and unrestricted status.
- Dec. 24 - Steven M. Hayden, MD (MD. 13468), Las Vegas, Nevada - MLC Order revoking medical license.



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Upcoming BME Meeting Dates

April 9 & 11 • May 21 • June 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

April 22 • May 27 • June 24

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

About MedicalDigest

MedicalDigest is the official publication of the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and Medical Licensure Commission. It is published four times per year.

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

Have questions or need assistance?

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