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Iowa

Iowa Board 2017 Annual Report Summarizes Activities

The Iowa Board of Medicine has released its 2017 Annual Report of its licensure and regulatory activities, highlighting a wide range of statistics.

During 2017 the Board administered active licenses for 12,417 physicians and 68 licensed acupuncturists. It administered 59 medical licenses to physicians who were qualified to use the new expedited licensure process established by the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

As a disciplinary agency, it received 661 complaints and mandatory reports and completed reviews or investigations of 663 case files during the year. The Board took 47 public disciplinary actions and voted to issue 76 confidential letters of concerns about licensees' conduct or practice. It also filed charges against 21 physicians and issued three public consent agreements as a condition for medical licensure.

During the course of 2017, the Board initiated action to amend five administrative rules and completed a five-year review of its 20 chapters of administrative rules.

Source: Iowa Board of Medicine news release, April 6, 2018

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Maine

New Board Regulations in Maine Impact Status of Non-Practicing Physicians, CME, Processing of Death Certificates

The Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine recently announced new regulations impacting physician licensing and information processing. Among changes enacted in recent months:

Changes Related to Non-Clinical Practice

In order to maintain an active license, an applicant for a Maine medical license must have practiced clinical medicine within the past two years immediately preceding the application.

If an applicant has not practiced clinical medicine during the two years immediately preceding the application, he or she is no longer eligible for an active license.

In such circumstances, the applicant has the following options: renew in "inactive" status; request conversion to an Emeritus License; or demonstrate current clinical competence.

Physicians who are not actively practicing medicine may obtain an Emeritus License at no fee. In order to be eligible for an Emeritus License, physicians must have a currently active or inactive Maine License. Licensees may submit an application for conversion to an Emeritus License at any time.

Changes to CME for Physicians

As of January 2, 2018, applicants for renewal of licensure must obtain 40 Category 1 hours of continuing medical education (CME) every two years. This removes the previous CME requirement of Category 2 hours.

New Law Affecting Death Certificate Certification

The Maine Legislature has passed a bill which will require that death certificates are completed and filed using Maine's Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS). After July 1, 2018, paper records will no longer be accepted.

Source: *Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine Newsletter*, Fall 2017

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North Carolina

North Carolina Medical Board 2017 Annual Report Highlights Activities

The North Carolina Medical Board recently released licensing, regulatory and demographic highlights in its 2017 Annual Report.

According to the report, the Board's largest licensee population is physicians with MD (allopathic) degrees—a total of 35,898 physicians. This is followed by 6,900 physician assistants, 2,972 resident training licensees (RTLs), 2,272 physicians with DO