

Message From Your State Licensing Board Members

Your Board currently consists of seven Members: four podiatrists, one medical doctor, one public member, and the Commissioner of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, all of which are very informed as to our profession in a most positive way. The four podiatrists on the Board are Dr. Bert Altmanshofer, Chairman, Dr. Robert Weber, Secretary, Dr. Jeffrey Gerland, and Dr. Michael Paris. Board Member Dr. Edward Snell is a Pennsylvania licensed medical doctor. Melissa Haluszczak is the Board's current Public Member. The Board meets every other month in Harrisburg. The Meetings are open to the public. The Board Meeting schedule, the Board's Rules and Regulations, Practice Act, licensure applications, and other useful information may be found on the Board's website at www.dos.pa.gov/pod.

Continuing Education Requirements

As you undoubtedly know, this is a license renewal year. Our licenses expire December 31, 2016. As a licensee, you must ensure that you have earned a minimum of fifty (50) CME credits between January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016. A maximum of ten (10) online or journal article credit hours may be used toward the fifty credits required. It is the licensee's responsibility to ensure that at least thirty (30) credits are in courses or programs that fall within the scope of podiatric medicine and are approved by the Board or the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME). The remaining twenty (20) credit hours may be in courses that are in related medical subjects and are approved by the American Medical Association or the American Osteopathic Association.

Licensees are subject to a random CME audit to ensure compliance with the continuing education requirements. If a licensee is not in compliance, disciplinary action may be taken against their license.

As part of your fifty (50) credits, you must complete two (2) hours of Board-approved Child Abuse Reporting and Recognition training. A list of Board-approved providers can be found online at <http://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Pages/Act-31-Mandated-Child-Abuse-Recognition-and-Reporting-Continuing-Education-Providers.aspx>. Since most of the courses are online, please note that if you take the course online, these credits will count towards your ten (10) maximum online credits that are permitted. Two (2) hours of Child Abuse Reporting and Recognition training will be required for each biennial renewal.

You are required to maintain all continuing education course certificates, including the Child Abuse Reporting and Recognition course, for two years after the end of the renewal period.

Pennsylvania Drug Monitoring Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Health recently announced implementation of the Pennsylvania Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PA PDMP), an initiative to deal with opioid abuse. All prescribers who prescribe a controlled substance must be registered with the PA PDMP system. All prescribers must access and search the PA PDMP system for each patient when the patient is prescribed a controlled substance for the first time, and/or when there is a clinical concern that the patient may be suffering from the disease of addiction or diverting a controlled substance. A prescriber may grant access to any delegate under their employment or supervision to query the system on their behalf. More information and a tutorial are available on the Department of Health's website at www.doh.pa.gov/PDMP.

Board staff are available to answer any licensure questions you may have. You may reach the Board by phone at 717-783-4858 or by email at st-podiatry@pa.gov.