

# Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine Newsletter

March/April 2009

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## Welcome to the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine Newsletter

This is the first online edition of the State Board of Medicine's newsletter. In the past, the newsletter was printed and mailed usually one time per year. As the commonwealth transitions all of its newsletters to an electronic version, the Board of Medicine is hoping to provide many educational opportunities to its licensees via the bi-monthly newsletter. The newsletter will be updated during the months of February, April, June, August, October and December.

For this initial newsletter, we are providing various links that may be helpful to you in your everyday practice. These links are not only designed for the physicians who are represented by the board, but also the ancillary health providers.

### Department of State & Medical Board Links:

- [Department of State Professional Compliance Office](#)
- [PHMP – Professional Health Monitoring Program](#)
- [Mcare – Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error Act](#)
- [Mcare Reporting Requirements](#)
- [Continuing Medical Education Requirements](#)

### Other Links of Interest:

- [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#)
- [Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare](#)
- [Federation of State Medical Boards](#)
- [National Practitioner Data Bank & Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank](#)
- [Pennsylvania Medical Society](#)
- [Hospital & Healthsystem Association of PA](#)
- [American Medical Association](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Food and Drug Administration](#)
- [Drug Enforcement Administration](#)
- [Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants](#)
- [Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care](#)
- [Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society](#)
- [Pennsylvania Association of Licensed Midwives](#)
- [Association for Professional Acupuncture in Pennsylvania](#)
- [Pennsylvania State Perfusion Society](#)

### Next Board Meeting

The April meeting of the State Board of Medicine is slated for Tuesday, April 28, in Harrisburg. [Directions](#) to the meeting are available on the board's Web site.

### Newsletter continued on next page

### Other News:

- [Disciplinary Actions](#)
- [PA Becomes Smoke-Free](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Report Unethical Activity](#)

[Update Your License](#)

[Meet the Board](#)

[PHMP](#)

## Special Notice to Physicians and Other Practitioners Concerning National Provider Identifiers

NPI (National Provider Identifier) numbers are unique to each individual and are not assigned to anyone else. Therefore, if you are not practicing, please deactivate your number. If you decide to return to practice, you can re-activate your NPI number.

If you voluntarily surrender your license, retire or you are no longer be providing health care in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or any other state, please remember to deactivate your NPI in the National Plan & Provider Enumeration System. Deactivating your NPI will help ensure that it is not used fraudulently by anyone else.

It will also be especially important to notify any entities which you send claims to that you will no longer be providing health care and/or submitting any claims.

If you need more information on how to deactivate or have any related questions, please contact the NPI Enumerator at 1-800-465-3203. For more information, please visit the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#) (CMS) Web site.

## Continuing Education for Physicians: Did You Know?

Do you know the difference between Category 1 and Category 2 Continuing Education (CE)? Do you know how to record your Category 2 credits? What happens if you are audited? What kind of proof do you need to prove you have completed the requirements?

Beginning with the licensure renewal period commencing Jan. 1, 2007, proof of completion of 100 credit hours of continuing medical education in the preceding biennial period has been required for licensure renewal for medical doctors.

Of the 100 hours required, at least 20 credit hours are

required to be completed in the American Medical Association (AMA) Physician's Recognition Award (PRA) category 1 approved activities; and, at least 12 credit hours are required to be completed in AMA PRA Category 1 or AMA PRA Category 2 approved activities in the area of patient safety and risk management.

Approved activities in the area of patient safety and risk management may include topics such as improving medical records and recordkeeping, reducing medical errors, professional conduct and ethics, improving communications, preventative medicine and healthcare quality improvement. The remaining credit hours shall be completed in AMA PRA Category 1 or AMA PRA Category 2 approved activities. Credit will not be granted for courses in office management or practice building.

Physicians shall retain official documentation of attendance for two years after renewal and shall certify completed activities on a form provided by the board for that purpose. Official documentation proving completion of continuing medical education activities shall be produced, upon board demand, under random audits of reported credit hours. Electronic submission of documentation is permissible to prove compliance with this subsection. Noncompliance may result in disciplinary proceedings under section 41(6) of the Medical Practice Act of 1985 (63 P. S. 422.41(6)).

For additional information regarding continuing education for physicians as well as other professions licensed by the board that require CE, please refer to the board's [Continuing Education](#) information on our Web site.

## Governor's Newsletter

[Sign up now](#) to receive the weekly e-newsletter from Governor Rendell on important issues facing Pennsylvania.