

Minutes of the Meeting of the
NYS Medicine Board
June 9, 2023
1411 Broadway NY, NY

Board Members Present: Dr. Autz, Dr. Berger, Dr. Boursiquot, Dr. Epstein, Dr. Grayson, Dr. Kasinathan, Dr. Mark, Dr. Papa, Dr. Plummer, Dr. Rehman, Dr. Romanelli, Dr. Raju, Dr. Sapio, Dr. Shah, Dr. Sharma, Dr. Shelat, Dr. Walther, and Dr. Wlody; PAs Brent LaRiccia and Greg Shutts; public members Marian Goldstein and JoAnn Marino.

Board Members Absent: Dr. Guthrie, Dr. Sahgal, and Dr. Salemi.

Guests Present: Dr. David Besser, Executive Secretary to the BPMC, Dr. Roger Oskvig, former chair for the NYS medicine board, Cassandra Pineda of the Greater New York Hospital Association, Dr. Umair Khan, and Al Watermaker.

Staff Members Present: Stephen Boese, Executive Secretary to the Board; Carla Wells, Education Program Assistant 2; and Lee Fitzgerald, Education Program Assistant 1.

Meeting is called to order by Dr. Epstein at 9:30 am.

Motion to Accept Minutes: Motion is made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes from the December 2022 meeting.

Chair's Report:

Dr. Epstein reports that the IMS Committee met in April. The Committee discussed how to make the review standards more explicit concerning the correlation between acceptance rates and matriculation rates. They also discussed site visits and annual report changes. Since there is a national shortage of residency slots, there is discussion of asking for clarification on other metrics like residency matches, residency completion, and licensure in NY. The fact that more US schools have opened but more residency spots have not opened has exacerbated the problem.

Executive Secretary's Report:

Mr. Boese provides an update from the Office of the Professions.

The Board of Regents have issued a policy concerning remote participation in meetings. Members can do so under extraordinary circumstances like illness or family illness. Otherwise, they need to meet at official SED sites.

Legislative Updates:

The proposed changes to PA practice and most pharmacy bills proposed in the state budget did not pass this session.

A bill allowing pharmacists to dispense contraceptives pursuant to a non-patient specific order has been passed. The board looked at potential appropriate training for pharmacists who dispense these medications. The consensus of the board is that the APHA Training Course “Increasing Access to Hormonal Contraceptive Products” seems to be an appropriate course, albeit with an assurance that pharmacists will also be appropriately educated concerning contraindications.

Under proposed legislation, physicians who were working in NYS under EO 4 and apply for a license will have the ability to obtain a temporary authorization to practice while working under supervision until their NYS license is issued.

A new bill amending the new law allowing pharmacists to administer injections for mental health and substance abuse treatments recently passed the legislature. Now such injections would be a general injection rather than only the deltoid muscle and specifies that the injection must be administered on a patient-specific prescription or order. Specific training requirements have been removed, leaving an education standard which must be acceptable to the Commissioner.

International Medical Graduate Workgroup Report:

Mr. Boese reports that the workgroup has considered 40 applications since the last meeting. The group reviews an average of 85 per year and approves all but 3-4 per year. There will be a training in executive session later this meeting on how IMG applications are reviewed.

Committee Reports:

Report from the Athletic Training Committee:

The Committee had an Ad Hoc workgroup meeting last month to discuss legislation introduced late in the session for licensure of Athletic Trainers. The main issue raised is that the bill apparently contradicts The Concussion Management and Awareness Act, which allows AT's to monitor students with concussions and manage return to play in accordance with a physician's protocol. It passed both the Assembly and the Senate with that provision included. The bill would not go into effect for another two years, so there is time to potentially make amendments.

Michael Powers from the AT committee gave a presentation on blood flow restriction therapy. The Department is looking for input from the Medicine Board on this issue to determine if this is safe for non-licensed individuals to perform. After discussion, it is the opinion of the board that there is significant potential risk that requires an evaluation before treatment. This should be ordered and overseen by a medical professional.

No other committees have met since the last Medicine board meeting.

NYSED Approval of PC and PLLC Names: Defining Substantial Equivalence in Relation to ABMS, AOA, or Royal College Recognized Specialties:

Mr. Boese reviews current policy for this process. All owners of a medical practice must be board certified in an ABMS or AOA recognized specialty to be able to use that specialty in the business name. A physician certification organization, the American Board of Pain Medicine (which is not recognized by one of the aforementioned entities) has requested an equivalence review. They were last reviewed in 2014 and determined not to be substantially equivalent. No other organization has been recognized as equivalent at this point, and nothing substantial has changed from this board since its last review.

Dr. Epstein, citing a possible perception of a conflict of interest, delegated the leading of this part of the meeting to Dr. Papa. After discussion, the board maintains its recommendation that the American Board for Pain Management not be considered substantially equivalent to an ABMS or AOA recognized certification board.

Review Policies and Procedures for PGT of IMGs and International Endorsements:

Mr. Boese reviews current laws and policies for this process. To be eligible for a medical license in NYS, IMGs must complete at least 3 years of ACGME-accredited postgraduate training. The regulation allows for the Board to consider non-accredited training on a 2-1 ratio to meet this requirement—so 6 years of non-accredited training can be accepted in lieu of 3 years of ACGME. The IMG workgroup reviews these applications to determine the equivalence of said non-accredited training, and make such recommendation to the Committee on Professions.

Mr. Boese has requested that the workgroup undergo training in executive session at today's meeting. This will be a strictly informative session for the workgroup members, and no policy recommendations will be made.

Executive Session is called to order at 11:30 am.

Training for Review of IMG Licensure Applications:

Dr. Oskvig (former chair of the NYS board for medicine) gives a presentation on the regulatory requirements for licensure of IMGs and policies and procedures for reviewing IMG applications.

Next Meeting Dates:

The next meetings are set for 9/8/23, 12/8/23, 3/1/24, and 6/7/24 at 9:30 am.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Draft respectfully submitted,

Carla Wells
Education Program Assistant 2