

40 Years of Advancing Emergency Care

Advocacy | Education | Leadership



Ohio
CHAPTER



OHIO
PSYCHIATRIC
PHYSICIANS
ASSOCIATION



October 5, 2012

State Medical Board of Ohio
30 East Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Medical Board Members:

We, the undersigned organizations representing over fifteen thousand Ohio physicians, are writing to state our opposition to any efforts by the State Medical Board of Ohio to implement different maintenance of licensure (MOL) requirements other than those currently in place for physicians in Ohio.

Ohio physicians are required to participate in 100 hours of continuing medical education (CME) every two years. Additionally, physicians are already subject to extensive quality measures and data reporting programs aimed at enhancing the level of care provided to patients. Almost all Ohio physicians participate in health plan credentialing, hospital staff credentialing, and government quality measures programs. Physicians are regularly asked to comply with policies and regulations aimed at measuring the quality of care that they are providing.

It is common practice for health plans to require physicians to report quality data to enhance the quality of care that physicians provide to the plan's enrollees. Health plans routinely collect "process measures", which track whether the services called for in the performance measure were provided, and "outcome measures", which track the patient's results.

In addition to data reporting requirements and quality programs, almost all providers of CME activities, such as the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), are requiring CME programs to document that physicians are meeting self-assessment requirements. In these programs, the content of CME and the focus of the self-assessment tools must be relevant to medical advances within the area of medicine that the physician is practicing.

As one can easily deduce from the information above, physicians in Ohio are already working hard to prove, and improve, their competency. Requiring physicians to submit to additional medical board regulations regarding competency would be redundant and unnecessary. The basic goals of MOL, issued by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), state that physicians should demonstrate participation in three components of effective lifelong learning in medicine: Reflective Self-Assessment, Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, and Performance in Practice. It would be difficult to locate an Ohio physician who wasn't already meeting the FSMB's goals through CME activities and the physician's daily interaction with patients, health plans, hospitals and government entities.

We are asking each of you, as a medical board member, to recognize that Ohio physicians are already proving competency through board-required CME hours, government quality measures reporting, credentialing activities, and health plan quality measures activities. As you know, Ohio's medical board is consistently rated as a leader among other state medical boards. The medical board's data shows that less than 1% of Ohio physicians are sanctioned by the medical board and the vast majority of those actions are due to physician impairment issues, not physician incompetency. Implementing additional MOL requirements would be a waste of the medical board's time and resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

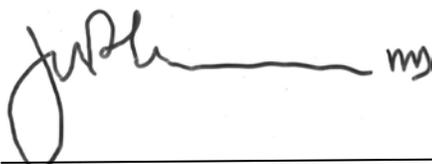
Sincerely,



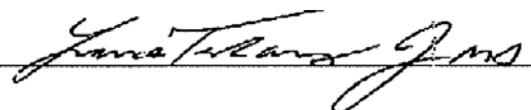
Deepak Kumar, M.D., President
Ohio State Medical Association



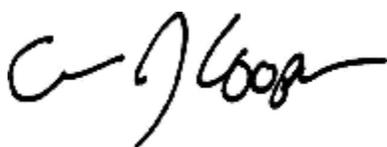
James L. Sechler, M.D., President
Academy of Medicine of Cleveland
and Northern Ohio



Jeff Perkins, M.D., President
Ohio Ophthalmological Society



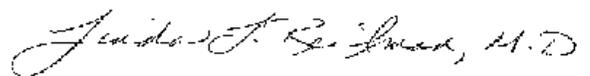
Lance Talmage, Jr., M.D., President
The Ohio Society of Anesthesiologists



Christopher J. Cooper, M.D., President
Ohio Chapter of the American College of
Cardiology



Amol Soin, MD, MBA, ABIPP, FIPP, DABPM, President
Ohio Society of Interventional Pain Physicians



Linda Reilman, M.D., President
Ohio State Radiological Society



Mark A. Snyder, M.D., President
Ohio Orthopaedic Society



Karen Jacobs, D.O., President
Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association



Michael D. Smith, M.D., President
Ohio Chapter of the American College of
Emergency Physicians



Dave Dillahunt, Executive Director
Ohio Hematology Oncology Society