

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE, CONTINUED

There are multiple reasons the Colorado Podiatry Board made this decision: 1) A majority of Colorado hospitals require more hours than the Board in order to be on staff. Why should the Board reproduce this activity? 2) The variety in the types of CE hours being submitted (clinical, malpractice, practice building, etc) have not always fulfilled the original intent of these requirements. If Board staff were to keep track of categories, it could become an accounting nightmare, increasing costs. 3) Other professions do not have any CE requirement (i.e. physicians and nurses). 4) The Board is not aware of any written research/data that has shown an adverse affect on public protection when continuing education requirements have not been specifically mandated by the state. 5) The Board is not aware of any research/data that correlates continuing education requirements to an increase in professional competency across a profession.

Please understand, however, that the Board remains supportive of continuing education. The Board members believe strongly that podiatrists have a clear responsibility for continuing to learn and develop their professional skills. The Board believes podiatrists will continue to do so without the level of oversight previously provided by the Board. This is an issue the Board will continue to monitor as these changes are implemented. If it appears more regulatory oversight is necessary, the Board is willing to reconsider its position. Below, is the policy statement adopted by the Board.

It is the policy of the Colorado Podiatry Board that licensees must attest at the time of renewal that they have obtained a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education sufficient to maintain currency in the field of podiatry.

Please feel free to call me or any other Board Member regarding any concerns, comments or questions.

THE PODIATRY BOARD HAS MOVED

The Colorado Podiatry Board has moved its office. In conjunction with the reorganization of the Division of Registrations, the Podiatry Board is now located in the same suite as the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners. Susan Miller replaces Kevin Heupel as the Program Director for the Podiatry Board. The Board address is 1560 Broadway, Suite 1300, Denver, Colorado 80202. The phone number is 303-894-7690 and the fax number is 303-894-7692.

Meetings for the 2003 year are scheduled for March 7, June 6, September 5 and December 5. Please visit our website at www.dora.state.co.us/podiatrists for location and time.

THE PODIATRY BOARD STAFF AND MEMBERS

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FootNotes

The Newsletter Published by the Colorado Podiatry Board/Department of Regulatory Agencies/State of Colorado

Volume 1, Number 1, March 2003

Richard F. O'Donnell, Executive Director

Bill Owens, Governor

President's Message

By Ronda Ammon, DPM, – President, Colorado Podiatry Board

License renewal is fast approaching. The fee has increased to \$350 due to the increased legal expenses incurred by the Board. The Board continues to look for ways to balance the Board's mission of public protection and the cost of that protection.

Multiple policy changes have taken place with the change of program directors for the Board. These changes will bring consistency with the Medical Board thereby decreasing staff research time and increasing efficiency. You can view the changes on www.dora.state.co.us/podiatrists or contact the Board office at 303-894-7690 to obtain a copy of the Board's rules and policies.

The continuing education (CE) requirement was changed at a public rule making hearing held on March 7, 2003. The CE rule was repealed by the Board and replaced with a policy statement. The effect of this change is that you will be required to attest in writing on the renewal form that you have completed a minimum of 10 hours (reduced from 14 hours) of CE during the past renewal year (June 1, 2002-May 31, 2003). However, the Board will no longer approve CE courses nor will the Board require you to document what courses or educational activities comprise your 10 hours of CE. The Board feels that it is the responsibility of each DPM to maintain podiatric competency and keep up with current clinical trends.

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You Should Know...

The Colorado Podiatry Board has revised several rules, and has adopted a policy governing Continuing Education. You can view all rules and policies on the Board's website at www.dora.state.co.us/podiatrists, or contact our office for a copy.

All podiatry licenses expire May 31, 2003. Your renewal information is included with this newsletter, and must be returned no later than May 31 to avoid any late fees.

Board Actions for the 2002 year are listed on page 2.

The Colorado Podiatry Board has moved. See article on page 4.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR PODIATRY LICENSE

All Colorado podiatry licenses will expire May 31, 2003. Board Policy 20-3 allows for a 60-day grace period in which to renew your license. You may renew your license until May 31, 2003, without penalty. You may renew your license until July 31, 2003 by paying an additional late fee. No podiatry licenses will be lapsed for non-renewal until August 1, 2003.

Please be advised that before your renewal will be considered complete and a new license sent to you the Board staff must receive correct payment and a signed renewal attestation form.

If you lose your renewal form, you may request a duplicate via e-mail to danise.hayes@dora.state.co.us or by phone at (303) 894-7690. Do not attempt to copy a renewal form, as they have been bar coded for the individual licensee.

BOARD ACTIONS

The cases described below represent Board actions concluded by the Colorado Podiatry Board from January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002. Board actions listed below may not be the only action. Contact the Podiatry Board office for actions entered outside of these dates. Documentation of Board actions may be obtained by visiting this website <http://www.dora.state.co.us/doraimages/> or by sending a written request to Janie Urling, at the Podiatry Board Address.

Board Action Definitions

Letter of Admonition: (LOA) A public reprimand issued to the podiatrist in the form of an actual letter or as part of a Stipulation. The letter or Stipulation is a public record and may be obtained from the Board Office.

Stipulation and Final Agency Order: (ORDER) An order of the Board and an agreement between the Board and the podiatrist prior to a formal hearing. A stipulation resolves the case. In a stipulation, both parties agree to facts, sanctions and the terms and conditions for continued practice, if applicable.

Final Board Order: Final order issued by the Board after a formal hearing before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) where evidence and testimony were presented. The ALJ prepares a written report of the findings, which the Board reviews and then makes the final ruling regarding the appropriate sanction.

Prima Facia: literally means "at first view" or "on its face". As used in this context, it means that the Board believes it has evidence to prove a violation of the podiatry practice act has occurred. However, this evidence may have been rebutted or outweighed had the case gone to hearing.

Summary Suspension pursuant to 24-4-104(4), CRS: is an immediate, temporary withdrawal of the practitioner's license to practice podiatry pending prompt commencement of formal disciplinary proceedings. This type of suspension can only be ordered when the Board finds the public health, safety or welfare requires emergency action or that the podiatrist has willfully violated the law.

Summary Suspension pursuant to 12-32-108.3(11)(a), CRS: is a suspension of a podiatrist's license for failure to comply with a Board order for a medical examination.

Richard Charles, D.P.M., Denver, CO License #345 DOB 05/31/53

Action Date: 02/01/02

Issue: Documentation/Charting

Outcome: Letter of Admonition and Stipulation and Final Agency Order for continuing education on documentation and 18 mos. of practice monitoring.

Craig E. Loewe, D.P.M., Colorado Springs, CO License #349 DOB 06/19/52

Action Date: 08/02/02

Issue: Physical Impairment

Outcome: Stipulation and Final Agency Order for lifetime probation and permanent practice restriction requiring that he not engage in the clinical practice of podiatry.

Gary L. Snyder, D.P.M., Lakewood, CO License #319 DOB 08/20/45

Action Date: 08/02/02

Issue: Practicing beyond the scope of podiatry; substandard presurgical history and physical examination documentation; incorrect, false or misleading information on patient records; and insurance fraud.

Outcome: Final Agency Order for revocation.

FOOTNOTES

Changes Are In the Works

About a year ago, the Division of Registrations, which provides administrative and program support to your Colorado State Board of Pharmacy, began a major business transformation and automation replacement effort. This effort has been named "Project T: Transformation."

The Division began in January 2001 with a Business Process Reengineering (BPR) project. This project evaluated all of our business processes (such as how we handle your payments or issue your professional licenses) in order to make these more efficient and to provide you with enhanced customer service. The result of this evaluation will change the way the Division does business. For example, some functions such as licensing, cash management and central intake that are presently duplicated by staff of the different Boards within our Division will be grouped together. The idea is to reduce the duplication of effort and allow us to specialize in and continuously improve services.

Also, for several years, the Division has had to "make do" with an increasingly outdated computerized licensing system that simply cannot offer the level of customer service demanded today (such as the ability to accept online credit card payments and to provide other online functions including license application, renewal and verification transactions, and online address changes). Therefore, the Division's management staff decided to move forward with the replacement of our current system.

As we work through the implementation of this project, we will be coordinating changes involving our staff, workspace, computer system, and new business processes. The majority of the changes will continue over the next several months and will largely be completed by the fall of 2003. In the meantime, we will begin pilot testing four boards on our new licensing system in December with an eye toward ironing out any wrinkles before the final conversion occurs for all Boards in July 2003.

We hope that for you, our customer, these changes are "transparent." Our intent is that customers of the Division will only see improvements in timeliness, automation (Internet/computer based functions), access to information and ease of interaction. At the same time, the Division and the Boards are very concerned about retaining those things that are working well now, such as good customer service and individual attention to needs.

But, try as we might, our customers will probably notice some changes during this transition period. We, therefore, ask for your patience and constructive feedback to help us make the transition smoother in this transformation effort!

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS OF RECORD

Pursuant to Colorado law, the preferred mailing address of any licensee or applicant is considered public information, and therefore, available to the public. The preferred designated mailing address is used to mail all licenses, renewal notices and other official correspondence from the Board. This address is what is released when an inquiry is made. However, the potential does exist that we may be required to release all addresses currently on record.

If you are concerned about your privacy, you may wish to use only a business address in place of your home mailing address and/or direct Board Staff to remove your home address information from our records.

If you are making an address change, you must do so in writing. This request should contain your name, license number and your new address. You should indicate if this is a home or business and whether this is your designated preferred mailing address. You may either mail this change to the board, fax to the board at (303) 894-7692 or e-mail to wilma.hadley@dora.state.co.us

FOOTNOTES