

What's New with the Florida Board of Medicine: Introducing Changes to the Board's Website

In 2011, the Florida Board of Medicine underwent many changes. One of those changes was a complete overhaul of our website based on comments received from our licensees as well as the general public. This article will provide you with an overview of the website so you can find information when you need it.

The web address for the Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) is www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa. This site is the overview site applicable to all health care providers and from this site you can access many things:

- Renew your license
- Update your Practitioner Profile
- Update your address
- Designated yourself as a controlled substance prescriber
- Create a relationship between yourself and a pain-management clinic
- Request a duplicate license
- Request a license verification
- Access information on counter-proof prescription pad and approved vendor list
- New changes in law
- And much more . . .

Coming soon - The Board of Medicine's licensure applications will soon be online. This will allow applicants to complete the application and submit the fee with the application online.

The Board of Medicine web site can be accessed from the MQA site or by typing in the web address which is www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/medical. To access it from the MQA web site, simply click on *Health Care Professions* and select *Medicine*.

Everything on this site is related to physicians. Below is a list of the categories available on this site and the types of documents that can be found under each category:

Apply for License

As mentioned earlier, this is where an applicant would go to access online applications. This section also contains information on licensure requirements, fees and other forms.

Board Meeting Information

This section includes meeting dates and locations, the actual agenda materials, minutes and audio of the meetings. You can also find information on the Board Members in this section.

Contact Information

This section provides the Board of Medicine address, telephone number, facsimile and email address.

Continuing Education

This section provides the continuing medical education requirements necessary for renewal of your license.

Petitions for Declaratory Statements

This section is a link to a searchable database of Final Orders on Petitions for Declaratory Statement. A Petition for Declaratory Statement is a legal mechanism for physicians to request clarification from the Board on a particular law as that law relates to that particular physician's circumstances.

Practitioners Recovery Network (PRN)

This section provides contact and other information for PRN, Florida's approved impairment program.

Profession Updates

This section contains alerts from the Department of Health, Board of Medicine and DEA. Also available in this section are the current and older versions of the *Messages from the Chair* and the Board's Annual Reports.

Registration/Inspection

This section has links to the Office Surgery Registration and Inspection Program and the Pain-Management Registration and Inspection Program. All information related to these two programs can be found here.

Renewal

This section provides renewal dates. You can also link to MQA Services where you renew your license. There is also information about renewing through the mail instead of online. Remember that renewing online is faster and you can print confirmation of your renewal.

Laws and Rules

This section of the web site lists all pertinent laws and rules as well as links to access them. There are a few specific laws highlighted in this section as well.

Forms/Information

This section houses all of our forms except applications for licensure. This includes the financial responsibility form; relinquishment forms; address change forms; dispensing practitioner registration forms; and many more. All forms can be completed online, printed and mailed to the Board Office.

A great option, for physicians to receive information as it occurs, is to join our Interested Parties List (Mailman). Emails will be sent directly to you with information we are posting on our web site. By using this tool, your email address is not readily available for public viewing on your Practitioner Profile. You can join the Mailman by clicking on its link on the Medicine web page or by going to http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/medical/me_mailman.html.

As always, if you cannot find the information you are looking for on our web site, we will be glad to assist you. You can send us an email at MQA_Medicine@doh.state.fl.us and we will respond within 24 hours.

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Ms. Sanford is currently a Program Operations Administrator in the Board of Medicine and has worked in the Board for over 20 years.