

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF OSTEOPATHY

NEWSLETTER

April 30, 2001

HB 207 passed on November 14, 2000 during a special session of the Legislature and it gave the Board the authority to file **Title 24, Series 6, Disciplinary & Complaint Procedure and Title 24, Series 3, Contested Case Hearing Procedure** as procedural rules. The effective date was March 1, 2001. **Title 24, Series 1** was also modified to omit Disciplinary and Complaint Procedures. For your reference, these may be reviewed on the Internet at:

www.state.wv.us/csr

The West Virginia State Code §30-14 and §30-14A can be referenced at:

www.legis.state.wv.us

HB 2815 also passed on April 13, 2001 which states that "each person licensed to practice medicine and surgery as an osteopathic physician and surgeon or certified as an osteopathic physician assistant by the WV Board of Osteopathy shall complete two hours of continuing education coursework in the subject of end-of-life care including pain management during each continuing education reporting period. The two hours shall be part of the total hours of continuing education required by each board by rule and not two additional hours."

2002 Renewal year

If you enjoy dabbling on the computer and have some spare time, you may talk to the Board office at:

bdosteo@mail.wvnet.edu

Our Website has been completed and we would like to hear from you and see what you think about it:

www.state.wv.us/bdosteo

A Joint Policy Statement on Pain Management at the End of Life has been developed by the WV Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses, WV Board of Medicine, **WV Board of Osteopathy**, and WV Board of Pharmacy. "The West Virginia Boards of Medicine and Osteopathy judge the validity of prescribing based on the physician's treatment of the patient and on available documentation, rather than on the quantity and frequency of prescribing. To facilitate communication between health care professionals, physicians should write on the prescription for a controlled substance for a terminally ill patient the diagnosis "terminal illness." The goal is to control the patient's pain for its duration while effectively addressing other aspects of the patient's functioning, including physical, psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions. The WV Management of Intractable Pain Act sets forth the conditions under which physicians may prescribe opioids without fear of discipline. This act states "that in a case of intractable pain involving a dying patient, the physician discharges his or her professional obligation to relieve the dying patient's intractable pain and promote the dignity and autonomy of the dying patient, even though the dosage exceeds the average dosage of a pain-relieving controlled substance"(WV Code §30-3A-1 et seq). The West Virginia Board of Osteopathy acknowledges and accepts that osteopathic physicians have the professional and ethical obligation to control the pain of dying patients.

West Virginia Code §21A-2-6(18) provides for action against licensees whose businesses are in default on workers' compensation and unemployment compensation premiums. According to a spokesman at the Workers' Compensation Division, if a Board is aware of a licensee in default of either of these premiums, the Board should deny the license and notify the licensee of his/her noncompliance with this law. The Board may issue the license upon receipt of information from the Workers' Compensation or the Bureau of Employment Programs that the licensee is no longer in default.

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