

*West Virginia Board of Osteopathy*

# NEWSLETTER

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May 8, 2009

## IMPORTANT

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION—PLEASE READ AND KEEP—DO NOT RETURN TO OUR OFFICE**

### **West Virginia Board of Osteopathy is Moving**

After 23 years of service to the WV Board of Osteopathy, Mrs. Cheryl Schreiber, Executive Secretary will be retiring this fall. Mrs. Schreiber has devoted much of her time, knowledge and expertise to keeping the public aware of the osteopathic profession and we thank her for that. Cheryl was recently presented with the George S. Palmer, MD Award for Excellence by the Administrators in Medicine organization. We wish her the best as she continues in her work as a CPA. A search is currently being conducted to find a replacement for this position, with over 60 candidates applying.

The Board office will also be moving to Charleston, WV. At this time, a location has not been found; but, more information will be sent to you as it becomes available.

### **Legislative Changes to be Made**

Senate Bill 526 was passed by the WV Legislature. This bill revises requirements for post-doctoral training as a requirement for licensure and provides for educational permits for post-doctoral clinical training. The changes have been made to our law and an emergency legislative rule with further details and explanations will be introduced in the near future.

Under the new law an applicant for licensure must complete a minimum of one year of postdoctoral, clinical training in a program approved by the AOA, **OR**, a minimum of one year of postdoctoral, clinical training in a program approved by the ACGME and forty hours of CME in OMM and OMT in courses approved, and classified as Category 1A, by the AOA.

The original educational permit issued may be valid for a period of fifteen months and subsequent educational permits issued to the same person may be valid for not more than twelve months. Watch for information on the new rules.

### **National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES)**

The Administrative Simplification provisions of HIPAA mandated the adoption of standard unique identifiers for health care providers and health plans - a NPI number. All health care providers are eligible for NPIs and may apply for them. Because medical students, interns, residents and fellows are health care providers, they are eligible for NPIs. If interns or residents prescribe medications for patients whose prescriptions are filled by pharmacies, refer patients to other health care providers, or order tests for patients from other health care providers, they will need to be identified as prescribers or providers, and it may be necessary for them to have NPIs so the pharmacies and providers may be reimbursed by health plans. A health care provider should deactivate its NPI in certain situations, such as retirement or death of an individual, disbandment of an organization, or fraudulent use of the NPI. To deactivate an NPI, you must complete a CMS-10114 and mail it to the NPI Enumerator. For more information, please go to [www.nppes.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.nppes.cms.hhs.gov).

### **Prescription Drug Abuse is on the Rise in WV**

- In 2006, drug overdoses were the leading cause of death for adults under the age of 45. These rates were the highest in the country.
- In 2005, approximately 250,000 West Virginians were using some sort of prescription drugs for non-medical reasons. These facts are from the WV Prescription (Rx) Drug Abuse Quitline (1-866-WV QUITT) This organization received a grant to provide service, outreach and research on prescription drug abuse in WV. Check out their website at [www.wvrxabuse.org](http://www.wvrxabuse.org).

WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE  
10th Consecutive Year of being ranked as a Top Medical School in the Nation by US News & World Report

### **AOA Code of Ethics**

The American Osteopathic Association has established a Code of Ethics to guide its member physicians in their professional lives. This code addresses the osteopathic physicians' ethical and professional responsibilities to patients, society, the AOA, to others involved in healthcare and to self. At the Board meeting held on February 5, 2009, it was passed to remind physicians that they should review this Code of Ethics, as the Board has adopted it as guidance for professional conduct.

You may view the Code of Ethics at [www.do-online.org](http://www.do-online.org); in the gray area, click on AOA; and then click on Code of Ethics.

### **Board License Disciplinary Actions**

**William A. Martin, D.O.:** License suspended for 90 days—STAYED; license reinstated with conditions; license Issued with no restrictions.

**Michael R. Gregory, D.O.:** License renewal denied; timeframe of not practicing is considered a SUSPENSION of license; license reinstated.

**David L. Tolliver, D.O.:** License suspended for one month while incarcerated, followed by one year of probation.

**James D. Lawrence, D.O.:** Granted renewal of license.

**Nelson E. Velazquez, D.O.:** License suspended for one year while incarcerated, followed by one year of probation.

**Steven A. Smith, D.O.:** License on probation for 5 years.

### **Bits and Pieces of Relative Information**

- Requesting a license verification for any reason requires a \$25.00 fee per request.
- If you are having a third party do any type of credentialing or correspondence for you, please make sure that they are aware that there are two distinct licensing boards in West Virginia and give them our correct address.
- The AOA does not automatically send each board a copy of your Individual Activity Report. It is your responsibility to keep track of your CME hours for the license renewal.
- Please answer all questions regarding membership, work/home address and phone number on renewal forms.
- The Board of Osteopathy now accepts major credit cards.

### **New Medicare Enrollment Rules**

Starting April 1, the time frame under which physicians can bill retroactively for services after enrollment or reenrollment in Medicare has been shortened from 27 months to only 30 days.

Also under the new regulations doctors who fail to update their addresses with Medicare within 30 days of moving may face a penalty of being unable to bill the Medicare program for up to two years.

Licensees are solely responsible for keeping the Board aware of your current address and acquiring and submitting renewal application forms. The Board mails forms to your last known address.

**It is imperative that you keep your address current.**

### **Retention of Medical Records**

According to WV Board of Osteopathy Rules §24-6-5.19, "The physician shall maintain a medical record for each patient which is adequate to enable the physician to provide proper diagnosis and treatment. The physician must maintain a patient's medical record for a minimum period of three (3) years from the date of the last patient encounter and in a manner which permits the former patient or a successor licensee access to them."

When a physician is relocating, retiring, or in the event of death, your patients should be notified as to how and when they may come and get their medical records. This can be done by placing an ad in the local newspaper, placing a notice at the office or sending a letter.

### **In Memoriam**

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the families of: Paul Emmans; Donald Downing; Joseph Glickel; Thomas Spencer; Linda Karbonit and Richard Oswald.

### **Physician Assistants**

For PAs with Prescriptive Writing Privileges, 4 medicines were added to the drug formulary in November 2008. Under Dermatological Disorders, "Topical Immunomodulatory, Hair Growth Retardant, Immune Response Modifier, and Depigmenting Agents" have been added. You must send a request to the Board office if you would like to have these approved, and then you will need to redo your script pad.

### **2009 HOLIDAYS—BOARD OFFICE CLOSED**

May 25, 2009 - Memorial Day  
June 19, 2009 - West Virginia Day  
July 3, 2009 - Independence Day  
September 7, 2009 - Labor Day  
October 12, 2009 - Columbus Day  
November 11, 2009 - Veterans' Day  
November 26 & 27, 2009 - Thanksgiving  
December 24, 2009 - 1/2 day Christmas Eve  
December 25, 2009 - Christmas  
December 31, 2009 - 1/2 day New Year's Eve  
January 1, 2010—Happy New Year



### **WV BOARD OF OSTEOPATHY**

**Ernest Miller, D.O.— President**  
**Douglas Wolfe, D.O.— Vice-President**  
**Thomas Gilligan, D.O.— Secretary**  
**Elizabeth Blatt, Ph.D. — Lay Member**  
**Robert Whitler— Lay Member**

#### **Staff:**

**Cheryl Schreiber— Executive Secretary**  
**Christine Wroniak—Records Secretary**  
**Doren Burrell, Esq.—Attorney**