

Board Committee Descriptions

The Board conducts much of its business through many committees. Some committees meet on a regular basis and others on an ad hoc basis when issues require attention. Committees that are currently active are summarized below. A listing of all current committees and their members is also included on this CD.

Full Board

The Board meets bimonthly, generally on the first weekend of the month, with an additional business meeting in July. The full Board meetings include disciplinary cases, licensure approvals, correspondence items, committee reports, policy discussion items and other necessary Board action. The July meeting does not include disciplinary cases and serves primarily as an annual planning business meeting for the Board, including legislative issues. The Board also conducts bimonthly conference calls on the first Wednesday of the months that fall in between full Board meetings. This conference call is generally limited to the business of licensure certifications.

Credentials Committee

This committee meets bimonthly in the months between full Board meetings, for the purpose of reviewing license applications. The committee interviews license applicants whose prior history, including malpractice cases, raises questions of concern regarding the ability to practice with skill and safety, or questions about an applicant's performance in medical school or prior practice in other jurisdictions. The committee presents a report to the full Board at the next Board meeting, recommending approval (certification) or denial of applications. The committee also reviews and approves supervising physicians for those applicants who are candidates for restricted licenses.

Probable Cause Panels

The Board has two (2) Probable Cause Panels, one that handles physicians practicing in North Florida and one that handles physicians practicing in South Florida. These two panels meet monthly. Board members rotate membership on these committees. These panels review investigations of complaints filed against licensees and determine whether the investigation materials reflect probable cause that the licensee violated regulatory requirements, including requirements relating to standards of care and misconduct. When probable cause is found, disciplinary action is initiated by the panels for final action by the full Board, after the licensee is afforded due process rights.

Probation Committee

This committee meets quarterly to monitor compliance of licensees who have been disciplined and placed under conditions or probation. The committee reviews required reports of compliance and requires personal appearances from probationers as part of the ongoing monitoring, until such time as the conditions of probation are fulfilled. The committee presents recommendations to the full Board regarding further action when a licensee is determined to be out of compliance or to restore full licensure when all conditions have been satisfactorily completed.

Rules/Legislative Committee

This committee meets regularly in conjunction with the full Board Meetings. The committee develops recommendations for amendment of Board rules or creation of new rules, to clarify practice standards or to impose requirements to strengthen patient protection and quality of care. This committee also makes recommendations for Florida's annual legislative session. These recommendations include statutory changes as well as budget proposals for the funding of the Board.

Expert Witness Committee

This committee meets quarterly via conference call for the purpose of approving expert witnesses to be used by investigators and probable cause panels in reviewing complaint investigations for a determination that standards of care were violated.

Dietetics-Nutrition/Electrolysis Committee

This committee meets in conjunction with full Board meetings for the purpose of reviewing reports from the Dietetics-Nutrition Practice Council and the Electrolysis Council. The committee presents a report and makes recommendations to the full Board for any necessary Board action relating to the regulation of these professions including approval of council membership, approval of rules and disciplinary action against licensees.

Surgical Care & Quality Assurance Committee

This committee meets on the Thursday prior to each full Board Meeting, with the exception of the Retreat and reviews the Board's rule relating to standards of care for office surgery. The committee determines necessary and appropriate revisions to the rule to strengthen patient safety and minimize the risk factors that contribute to adverse patient incidents. This committee also addresses issues related to quality of care and standards of practice. The committee formulates policy recommendations for the full Board's consideration, studies quality of care issues as they arise, and organizes and conducts symposia on special topics (e.g., treatment of obesity, disruptive physician).

Anesthesiologist Assistant Joint Committee

This committee meets regularly for the purpose of approving applicants for licensure as well as making recommendations for rule creation and/or changes relating to the regulation of this profession.

Medical Fraud Committee

This committee meets when necessary to review medical fraud issues and to develop recommendations for Board action.

Negative Drug Formulary

This committee meets when necessary to review petitions for additions or deletions of drugs from the negative formulary (those drugs that may not be generically substituted by the pharmacist without the physician's approval). The Board of Pharmacy and the Board of Medicine must both agree on any changes to this formulary.

ARNP Protocols Joint Committee

Section 464.003(3)(c), FS, establishes a joint committee of the Board of Nursing and the Board of Medicine to approve acts that may be performed by advanced registered nurse practitioners. The committee submits recommendations to both Boards, and both Boards are required to adopt recommended standards of practice as rules of both Boards.

Pharmacist Prescribing Committee

Section 465.186, FS establishes a joint committee of the Board of Medicine, Board of Osteopathic Medicine and the Board of Pharmacy to establish a formulary of drugs, which may be prescribed by a pharmacist. Each Board is required to adopt by rule drugs and dispensing procedures established by the committee.

Finance Committee

This committee meets regularly for the purpose of reviewing the Board's budgetary standing and to create/track statistics that assist the Board in making policy decisions.

Specialty Certification Credentials Committee

This committee meets as needed to review the credentials of organizations desiring Board approval.

Communication, Education and Information Committee

This committee is tasked with developing proactive communication strategies in an effort to educate and inform applicants, licensees and the public about the roles and activities of the Board of Medicine and the laws and rules and ethics regulating the practice of medicine.