



TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
ANN M. MARTINO, PH.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 31, 1996

The Honorable Michael Gronstal, Chair
Committee on State Government
Iowa Senate
Capitol Building

Dear Senator Gronstal:

Pursuant to the provisions of section 272C.4(2) of the 1996 Code of Iowa, the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners (Board) hereby submits its annual report for calendar year 1995.

I. 473 Investigative Files Opened During CY 1995

The investigations initiated by the Board were based upon complaints and reports received from a variety of sources including patients, health care practitioners, health facilities, insurance providers, law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, as well as the general public. Additionally, some of the investigations were opened on the Board's motion. The Board closed a total of 377 investigative files during calendar year 1995. About 778 of the investigative files that remained open at the end of CY 1995 were carried over into the 1996 calendar.

II. Nine Peer Review Committees Registered in CY 1995

The Board utilizes registered peer review committees to evaluate investigative reports, medical records and other pertinent material. Reports and recommendations made by the peer review committees are considered by the Board when determining if a disciplinary action should be initiated against a licensee.

The Board's peer review committees are:

SPECIALTY	NOS. OF MEMBERS
Surgery	7
Anesthesiology	5
OB/GYN	2
Internal Medicine	2
Emergency Medicine	2
Family Practice	14
Psychiatry	2
Oncology	1
Pediatrics	2

No formal disciplinary actions were initiated by the Board during calendar year 1995 based solely upon the recommendation of peer review committees.

III. 39 Formal Disciplinary Actions Initiated in CY 1995

The formal disciplinary actions commenced before the Board or courts during calendar year 1995 covered a wide range of potential violations of state law and Board administrative rules. The majority of these actions concerned quality of care, physician impairments, and unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or osteopathy.

IV. 133 Sanctions Issued in CY 1995

The formal and informal sanctions issued by the Board in calendar year 1995 include:

TYPE OF SANCTION	NUMBER TAKEN
License revocations	6
License suspensions	7
License surrenders	2
License probations	20
Civil penalties	4
Letters of warning, concern/education *	94

* Denotes Informal sanction

V. Board Actions On Appeal or Under Judicial Review in CY 1995

At the end of calendar year 1995, three petitions for judicial review of Board disciplinary actions awaited action -- two in Iowa District Courts and one in Federal District Court. In addition, the Board's long-standing policy to make charging documents public was under review in the Polk County District Court. Early in CY 1996 the Court issued a decision affirming the Board's policy. Two Board actions -- one involving licensure denial and one pertaining to a disciplinary action -- were heard on appeal before the Iowa Supreme Court in CY 1995. The Iowa Supreme Court upheld the licensure denial; the disciplinary action was remanded to the Board for dismissal. At the close of CY 1995, two Board disciplinary actions remained on appeal before the high court.

VII. 996 Licenses Issued in CY 1995

The Board approved the issuance of licenses to 996 applicants. Included were:

- 737 permanent licenses
- 7 temporary licenses
- 5 special licenses
- 238 resident physician licenses

The Board received 851 applications for permanent, temporary and special licenses in calendar year 1995. This figure is about 4 percent above the 817 applications received by the Board in calendar year 1994. The Board took action on 758, or about 89%, of the 851 applications received in CY 1995; the remaining applications were carried-over for review or investigation in calendar year 1996.

In addition, the Board also took the following formal actions relating to licensure during calendar year 1995:

- o One application for licensure was denied.
- o Following appeal hearings, the Board approved licensure for three physicians whose applications had initially been denied.

VIII. 4637 Licenses Renewed in CY 1995

During calendar year 1995, 4637 permanent licenses were renewed by the Board. This number represents about half of the total roster of licensees. The expired permanent licenses of 30 physicians were reinstated upon the approval of the Board. Additionally, audits of the continuing education certifications submitted by 140 physicians seeking license renewal were conducted. The Board's office also prepared responses to over 38,000 requests for verification of Iowa licensure.

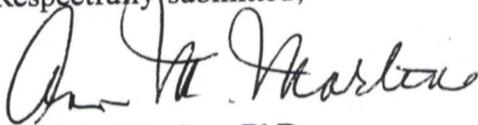
IX. Administrative Rules Adopted in CY 1995

The Board promulgated and adopted amendments to its licensure and disciplinary rules. The amendments, copies of which are attached, made several technical corrections in the administrative code.

X. 127 Physicians Examined by the Board in CY 1995

During calendar year 1995, the Board administered the nationally accepted United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) and Special Licensing Examination (SPEX) to 127 physicians.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann M. Martino, PhD
Executive Director
Iowa Board of Medical Examiners

c: All Committee members
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