



Message from the Chair

Florida Board of Medicine

October 2011

Dear Colleagues and Fellow Citizens,

On behalf of the members of the Board, it is my pleasure to bring you an update from the Board of Medicine. There are some new and exciting things happening that may affect your practice and we want to keep you informed.

2011 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Many of the new laws enacted during the 2011 Legislative Session, are now in force. It is imperative that you review each of these laws in their entirety to understand and comply with the new provisions. To review the new laws, go to www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa and click on *New Legislation*. You also should have received several postcards recently updating on the more immediate requirements of the law and providing information on how to comply.

For example, if you prescribe controlled substances for the treatment of chronic nonmalignant pain you are required to designate yourself as a controlled substance prescribing practitioner on your practitioner profile by January 1, 2012. You can find instructions for how to make that designation at: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/ControlledSubstance_RxReg.html.

You should have recently received a postcard updating about the prescription drug monitoring program also known as E-FORCSE. Dispensers of controlled substances schedules II, III and IV are required to register and report dispensing information. Prescribers may register for access to view their patient's controlled substance prescribing history. Patient Advisory Reports can be accessed as of October 17, 2011. More information about E-FORCSE can be obtained at <http://www.e-forcse.com>.

GET IN TOUCH

While our website is an excellent resource of information, there is another more immediate way we can communicate directly to you and that is through our Mailman System (Interested Parties List). It's a simple way to stay informed on changes in the laws and rules and the activities of

the Board. Upon subscribing to the Board of Medicine Mailman system, you will receive up to the minute information. To subscribe, log on to www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/medical. Once there, follow these quick and easy steps:

- Click on *Interested Parties (Mailman)* in the blue box in the upper left-hand corner
- Enter your email address
- Click on *Subscribe*

If you are unable to locate the information you are seeking from our web page, send an e-mail directly to the Board. Send your question and comments to: MQA_Medicine@doh.state.fl.us. (There is an 'underscore' symbol between MQA and Medicine.) A Board of Medicine staff member will promptly respond to your questions and concerns.

COMMON VIOLATIONS LEADING TO DISCIPLINE

I am often asked about the types of cases that typically come before the Board of Medicine for disciplinary action. Below are the top five types of violations for which physicians faced disciplined at the most recent Board of Medicine meeting:

Inappropriate/excessive prescribing:	13 cases
Practice below standard of care:	12 cases
Other state disciplinary action/failure to:	12 cases
Conviction of a crime related to practice:	7 cases
Wrong site/wrong patient surgery or procedure:	5 cases

Board meeting information, agendas, minutes and audio recordings can be accessed on our website at: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/medical/me_meeting.html.

Thank you for dedicating your lives to caring for others. It is your work and commitment that provides for the health and wellbeing of all Floridians. The citizens of this state depend on you, and we thank you for your hard work.

With sincere thanks,
George Thomas, MD
Chair, Florida Board of Medicine