



Advisory Board on Genetic Counseling

Virginia Board of Medicine

May 20, 2019

1:00 p.m.

Advisory Board on Genetic Counseling

Board of Medicine

Monday, May 20, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m.

9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, VA

Training Room 2

	Page
Call to Order – John Quillin, PhD, Chair	
Emergency Egress Procedures – William Harp, MD	i
Roll Call – Denise Mason	
Approval of Minutes of October 1, 2018	1
Adoption of the Agenda	
Public Comment on Agenda Items (15 minutes)	
New Business	
1. Report of the 2019 General Assembly	4
2. Issues with the licensing process/applicants – Denise Mason	13
3. Regulations governing the practice of Genetic Counselors	15
Announcements	
Adjournment	
Next Scheduled Meeting: September 30, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m.	

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DRAFT UNAPPROVED**ADVISORY BOARD ON GENETIC COUNSELING
MINUTES****October 1, 2018**

The Advisory Board on Genetic Counseling met on Monday, October 1, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Quillin, PhD, MPH, MS, Chair
Matthew Thomas, ScM, CGC
Heather Creswick, MS, CGC
Marilyn Foust, MD
Lori Swain, Citizen Member, Vice-Chair

MEMBER ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director,
Elaine Yeatts, DHP Senior Policy Analyst
Colanthia Morton Opher, Deputy for Administration
Denise Mason, Licensing Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT: Gail-Ann Samuel, Student

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Quillin called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

EMERGENCY EGRESS PROCEDURES

Dr. Harp announced the Emergency Egress Instructions.

ROLL CALL

Denise Mason called the roll, and a quorum was declared.

DRAFT UNAPPROVED**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2018**

Ms. Swain moved to approve the minutes of June 4, 2018. The motion was seconded and carried.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Dr. Quillin moved to approve the amended agenda. The motion was seconded and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS**1. Periodic Review of Regulations**

Ms. Yeatts led the Advisory in a review of the current regulations. She also informed the Advisory of the amendment to the Code of Virginia §54.1-2957.19 that removes “An applicant shall not be eligible for temporary license renewal upon expiration of Active Candidate Status as defined by American Board of Genetic Counseling.”

2. Board member badges

Dr. Harp told the Advisory Board that the Board of Medicine would no longer be issuing member badges. Board members will now be given a temporary badge that is to be returned at the end of each meeting.

3. Meeting Calendar

Mr. Opher brought to the attention of the Advisory that the next meeting was scheduled for January 21, 2019, which is a holiday. She apologized and asked the Advisory members if

DRAFT UNAPPROVED

they would be able to attend on of January 28, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. All members agreed to the change.

4. Election of Officers

Mr. Thomas nominated Dr. Quillin to serve as Chair of the Advisory Board. The nomination was seconded and carried. Mr. Thomas also nominated Ms. Swain to service as Vice-Chair of the Advisory Board. The moation was seconded and carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Denise Mason announced that there are 188 Genetic Counselors holding licenses with the Virginia Board of Medicine; 100 of 188 the licensed Genetic Counselors are out of state. There have been 5 temporary licenses issued.

NEXT MEETING DATE

January 28, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Advisory Board meeting was adjourned at 11:51 p.m.

John Quillin, PhD, MPH, MS Chair
Director

William L. Harp, M.D., Executive

Denise Mason, Licensing Specialist

**Board of Medicine
Report of the 2019 General Assembly**

HB 1952 Patient care teams; podiatrists and physician assistants.

Chief patron: Campbell, J.L.

Summary as passed House:

Patient care team podiatrist definition; physician assistant supervision requirements. Establishes the role of "patient care team podiatrist" as a provider of management and leadership to physician assistants in the care of patients as part of a patient care team. The bill modifies the supervision requirements for physician assistants by establishing a patient care team model. The bill directs the Board of Medicine to adopt emergency regulations to implement the provisions of the bill and is identical to SB 1209.

02/22/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0137)

HB 1970 Telemedicine services; payment and coverage of services.

Chief patron: Kilgore

Summary as passed:

Telemedicine services; coverage. Requires insurers, corporations, or health maintenance organizations to cover medically necessary remote patient monitoring services as part of their coverage of telemedicine services to the full extent that these services are available. The bill defines remote patient monitoring services as the delivery of home health services using telecommunications technology to enhance the delivery of home health care, including monitoring of clinical patient data such as weight, blood pressure, pulse, pulse oximetry, blood glucose, and other condition-specific data; medication adherence monitoring; and interactive video conferencing with or without digital image upload. The bill requires the Board of Medical Assistance Services to include in the state plan for medical assistance services a provision for the payment of medical assistance for medically necessary health care services provided through telemedicine services. This bill is identical to SB 1221.

03/05/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0211)

HB 1971 Health professions and facilities; adverse action in another jurisdiction.

Chief patron: Stolle

Summary as introduced:

Health professions and facilities; adverse action in another jurisdiction. Provides that the mandatory suspension of a license, certificate, or registration of a health professional by the Director of the Department of Health Professions is not required when the license, certificate, or registration of a health professional is revoked, suspended, or surrendered in another jurisdiction based on disciplinary action or mandatory suspension in the Commonwealth. The bill extends the time by which the Board of Pharmacy (Board) is required to hold a hearing after receiving an application for reinstatement from a nonresident pharmacy whose registration has been suspended by the Board based on revocation or suspension in another jurisdiction from not later than its next regular meeting after the expiration of 30 days from receipt of the reinstatement application to not later than its next regular meeting after the expiration of 60 days from receipt of the reinstatement application.

02/22/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0138)

HB 2169 Physician assistants; licensure by endorsement.

Chief patron: Thomas

Summary as passed:

Physician assistants; licensure by endorsement. Authorizes the Board of Medicine to issue a license by endorsement to an applicant for licensure as a physician assistant who (i) is the spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States or the Commonwealth, (ii) holds current certification from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, and (iii) holds a license as a physician assistant that is in good standing, or that is eligible for reinstatement if lapsed, under the laws of another state.

03/12/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0338)

HB 2184 Volunteer license, special; issuance for limited practice.

Chief patron: Kilgore

Summary as passed:

Volunteer dentists and dental hygienists. Removes certain requirements for dentists and dental hygienists volunteering to provide free health care for up to three consecutive days to an underserved area of the Commonwealth under the auspices of a publicly supported nonprofit organization that sponsors the provision of health care to populations of underserved people.

03/08/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0290)

HB 2228 Nursing and Psychology, Boards of; health regulatory boards, staggered terms.

Chief patron: Bagby

Summary as introduced:

Composition of the Boards of Nursing and Psychology; health regulatory boards; staggered terms. Alters the composition of the Board of Nursing and replaces the requirement that the Board of Nursing meet each January with the requirement that it meet at least annually. The bill also removes specific officer titles from the requirement that the Board of Nursing elect officers from its membership. The bill replaces the requirement that a member of the Board of Psychology be licensed as an applied psychologist with the requirement that that position be filled by a member who is licensed in any category of psychology. The bill also provides a mechanism for evenly staggering the terms of members of the following health regulatory boards, without affecting the terms of current members: Board of Nursing, Board of Psychology, Board of Dentistry, Board of Long-Term Care Administrators, Board of Medicine, Board of Veterinary Medicine, Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, Board of Pharmacy, and Board of Counseling.

02/27/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0169)

HB 2457 Medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, or chiropractic, practitioners of; inactive license, charity care.

Chief patron: Landes

Summary as passed:

Practitioners of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, or chiropractic; retiree license. Provides that the Board of Medicine may issue a retiree license to any doctor of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, or chiropractic who holds an active, unrestricted license to practice in the Commonwealth upon receipt of a request and submission of the required fee. The bill provides that a person to whom a retiree license has been issued shall not be required to meet continuing competency requirements for the first biennial renewal of such license. The bill also provides that a person to whom a retiree license has been issued shall only engage in the practice of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, or chiropractic for the purpose of providing charity care or health care services to patients in their residence for whom travel is a barrier to receiving health care.

03/14/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0379)

HB 2557 Drug Control Act; classifies gabapentin as a Schedule V controlled substance.

Chief patron: Pillion

Summary as passed:

Drug Control Act; Schedule V; gabapentin. Classifies gabapentin as a Schedule V controlled substance. Current law lists gabapentin as a drug of concern. The bill also removes the list of drugs of concern from the Code of Virginia and provides that any wholesale drug distributor licensed and regulated by the Board of Pharmacy and registered with and regulated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration shall have until July 1, 2020, or within six months of final approval of compliance from the Board of Pharmacy and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, whichever is earlier, to comply with storage requirements for Schedule V controlled substances containing gabapentin.

03/05/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0214)

HB 2559 Electronic transmission of certain prescriptions; exceptions.

Chief patron: Pillion

Summary as passed House:

Electronic transmission of certain prescriptions; exceptions. Provides certain exceptions, effective July 1, 2020, to the requirement that any prescription for a controlled substance that contains an opioid be issued as an electronic prescription. The bill requires the licensing health regulatory board of a prescriber to grant such prescriber a waiver of the electronic prescription requirement for a period not to exceed one year due to demonstrated economic hardship, technological limitations that are not reasonably within the control of the prescriber, or other exceptional circumstances demonstrated by the prescriber. The bill provides that a dispenser is not required to verify whether one of the exceptions applies when he receives a non-electronic prescription for a controlled substance containing an opioid. The bill requires the Boards of Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, and Optometry to promulgate regulations to implement the prescriber waivers. Finally, the bill requires the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to convene a work group to identify successes and challenges of the electronic prescription requirement and offer possible recommendations for increasing the electronic prescribing of controlled substances that contain an opioid and to report to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by November 1, 2022.

03/21/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0664)

HB 2731 Lyme disease; disclosure of information to patients.

Chief patron: Edmunds

Summary as passed House:

Lyme disease; disclosure of information to patients. Requires every laboratory reporting the results of a test for Lyme disease ordered by a health care provider in an office-based setting to include, together with the results of such test provided to the health care provider, a notice stating that the results of Lyme disease tests may vary and may produce results that are inaccurate and that a patient may not be able to rely on a positive or negative result from such test. Such notice shall also include a statement that health care providers are encouraged to discuss Lyme disease test results with the patient for whom the test was ordered. The bill also provides that a laboratory that complies with the provisions of the bill shall be immune from civil liability absent gross negligence or willful misconduct.

03/18/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0435)

SB 1004 Elective procedure, test, or service; estimate of payment amount.

Chief patron: Chase

Summary as passed:

Advance estimate of patient payment amount for elective medical procedure, test, or service; notice of right to request. Provides that every hospital currently required to provide an estimate of the payment amount for an elective procedure, test, or service for which a patient may be responsible shall also be required to provide each patient with written information regarding his right to request such estimate, to post written information regarding a patient's right to request such estimate conspicuously in public areas of the hospital, and to make such information available on the hospital's website.

03/21/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0671)

SB 1106 Physical therapists & physical therapist assistants; licensure, Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.

Chief patron: Peake

Summary as introduced:

Licensure of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants; Physical Therapy Licensure Compact. Authorizes Virginia to become a signatory to the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact. The Compact permits eligible licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants to practice in Compact member states, provided they are licensed in at least one member state. In addition, the bill requires each applicant for licensure in the Commonwealth as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant to submit fingerprints and provide personal descriptive information in order for the Board to receive a state and federal criminal history record report for each applicant. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2020, and directs the Board of Physical Therapy to adopt emergency regulations to implement the provisions of the bill.

03/08/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0300)

SB 1167 Medicaid recipients; treatment involving opioids or opioid replacements, payment.

Chief patron: Chafin

Summary as passed:

Medicaid recipients; treatment involving opioids or opioid replacements; payment. Prohibits health care providers licensed by the Board of Medicine from requesting or requiring a patient who is a recipient of medical assistance services pursuant to the state plan for medical assistance to pay out-of-pocket costs associated with the provision of service involving (i) the prescription of an opioid for the management of pain or (ii) the prescription of buprenorphine-containing products, methadone, or other opioid replacements approved for the treatment of opioid addiction by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for medication-assisted treatment of opioid addiction. The bill requires providers who do not accept payment from the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) who provide such services to patients participating in the Commonwealth's program of medical assistance services to provide written notice to such patient that (a) the Commonwealth's program of medical assistance services covers such health care services and DMAS will pay for such health care services if such health care services meet DMAS's medical necessity criteria and (b) the provider does not participate in the Commonwealth's program of medical assistance and will not accept payment from DMAS for such health care services. Such notice and the patient's acknowledgement of such notice shall be documented in the patient's medical record. This bill is identical to HB 2558.

03/18/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0444)

SB 1439 Death certificates; medical certification, electronic filing.

Chief patron: McClellan

Summary as passed:

Death certificates; medical certification; electronic filing. Requires the completed medical certification portion of a death certificate to be filed electronically with the State Registrar of Vital Records through the Electronic Death Registration System and provides that, except for under certain circumstances, failure to file a medical certification of death electronically through the Electronic Death Registration System shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action by the Board of Medicine. The bill includes a delayed effective date of January 1, 2020, and a phased-in requirement for registration with the Electronic Death Registration System and electronic filing of medical certifications of death for various categories of health care providers. The bill directs the Department of Health to work with stakeholders to educate and encourage physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners to timely register with and utilize the Electronic Death Registration System.

03/05/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0224)

SB 1547 Music therapists; Board of Health Professions to evaluate regulation.

Chief patron: Vogel

Summary as passed:

Music therapy. Directs the Board of Health Professions to evaluate whether music therapists and the practice of music therapy should be regulated and the degree of regulation to be imposed. The bill requires the Board to report the results of its evaluation to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions by November 1, 2019.

03/21/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0680)

SB 1557 Pharmacy, Board of; cannabidiol oil and tetrahydrocannabinol oil, regulation of pharmaceutical.

Chief patron: Dunnivant

Summary as passed:

Board of Pharmacy; cannabidiol oil and tetrahydrocannabinol oil; regulation of pharmaceutical processors. Authorizes licensed physician assistants and licensed nurse practitioners to issue a written

certification for use of cannabidiol oil and THC-A oil. The bill requires the Board to promulgate regulations establishing dosage limitations, which shall require that each dispensed dose of cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil not exceed 10 milligrams of tetrahydrocannabinol. The bill requires the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry to convene a work group to review and recommend an appropriate structure for an oversight organization in Virginia and report its findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the Senate Committees on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and Education and Health and the House Committees on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and Health, Welfare and Institutions by November 1, 2019.

03/21/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0681)

SB 1760 Diagnostic X-ray machines; operation of machine.

Chief patron: DeSteph

Summary as introduced:

Diagnostic X-ray machines; operation. Provides that no person who has been trained and certified in the operation of a diagnostic X-ray machine by the manufacturer of such machine is required to obtain any other training, certification, or licensure or be under the supervision of a person who has obtained training, certification, or licensure to operate such a diagnostic X-ray machine, provided that (i) such diagnostic X-ray machine (a) is registered and certified by the Department of Health, (b) is being operated to conduct a body composition scan, and (c) is not operated to determine bone density or in the diagnosis or treatment of a patient and (ii) the subject of the body composition scan is notified of the risks associated with exposure to radiation emitted by the diagnostic X-ray machine.

01/31/19 Senate: Passed by indefinitely in Education and Health with letter (15-Y 0-N)

SB 1778 Counseling minors; certain health regulatory boards to promulgate regulations.

Chief patron: Newman

Summary as introduced:

Health regulatory boards; conversion therapy. Directs the Board of Counseling, the Board of Medicine, the Board of Nursing, the Board of Psychology, and the Board of Social Work to each promulgate regulations prohibiting the use of electroshock therapy, aversion therapy, or other physical treatments in the practice of conversion therapy with any person under 18 years of age.

02/06/19 Senate: Left in Education and Health

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Board of Medicine
Regulatory/Policy Actions – 2019 General Assembly

EMERGENCY REGULATIONS:

Legislative source	Mandate	Promulgating agency	Board adoption date	Effective date Within 280 days of enactment
HB1952	Patient care team – PAs	Medicine	6/13/19 or 8/2/19 (signed 2/22)	11/25/19
HB2559	Waiver for electronic prescribing	Medicine	6/13/19 or 8/2/19 (signed 3/21)	12/24/19

APA REGULATORY ACTIONS

Legislative source	Mandate	Promulgating agency	Adoption date	Effective date
HB2457	Retiree license	Medicine	NOIRA – 6/13/19	?

NON-REGULATORY ACTIONS

Legislative source	Affected agency	Action needed	Due date
HB1970	Department	Review of telehealth; practice by adjacent physicians	11/1/19
HB2169	Medicine	Review/revision of application content & process to identify & expedite military spouse apps	7/1/19
SB1557	Medicine/Pharmacy/Department	Inclusion of NPs and PAs for registration to issue certifications Participation in workgroup to study oversight organization	7/1/19
SB1760 (not passed)	Department (Medicine)	Study of Xrays in spas – VDH	11/1/19
HJ682 (not passed)	Department	Study of foreign-trained physicians to provide services in rural areas	11/1/19

Future Policy Actions:

HB793 (2018) - (2) the Department of Health Professions, by **November 1, 2020**, to report to the General Assembly a process by which nurse practitioners who practice without a practice agreement may be included in the online Practitioner Profile maintained by the Department of Health Professions; and (3) the Boards of Medicine and Nursing to report information related to the practice of nurse practitioners without a practice agreement that includes certain data, complaints and disciplinary actions, and recommended modifications to the provisions of this bill to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the Chairman of the Joint Commission on Health Care by **November 1, 2021**.

HB2559 (2019) - requires the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to convene a work group to identify successes and challenges of the electronic prescription requirement and offer possible recommendations for increasing the electronic prescribing of controlled substances that contain an opioid and to report to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by **November 1, 2022**.



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- NEWS & INSIGHTS
 (PAGE/NEWS-&-INSIGHTS)
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 (HTTP://ABOUTGENETICCOUNSEL)
- POLICY & PUBLICATIONS
 (PAGE/POLICY-&-PUBLICATIONS)
- MEMBER CENTER (LJL/IN)

States Issuing Licenses for Genetic Counselors

Last update: January 08, 2019

- States w/ Licenses
- States in Progress
- States in Dispute



Source: www.nsgc.org

States Issuing Licenses:

- California** General Information (<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DGDS/Pages/peqa/gdp.aspx>)
- Connecticut** General Information (<https://www.elicense.ct.gov/Default.aspx>)
- Delaware** General Information (<https://dpr.delaware.gov/boards/medicalpractice/geneticcounselor/>)
- Idaho** General Information (<https://bol.idaho.gov/IBOL/BoardPage.aspx?Bureau=GEN>)
- Illinois** General Information (<http://www.idfpr.com/profs/GenCounselor.asp>)
- Indiana** General Information (<http://www.in.gov/pla/3002.htm>)
- Kentucky** General Information (<https://kbmi.ky.gov/ah/Pages/Genetic-Counselor.aspx>)
- Massachusetts** General Information (<https://www.mass.gov/topics/health-care-licenses>)
- Minnesota** General Information (https://mn.gov/boards/assets/GeneticCounselorAppPacket%202017Nov-CBC_tcm21-301884.pdf)
- Nebraska** General Information (<http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/pages/crigencounshomeappsregs.aspx>)
- New Hampshire** General Information (<https://www.nhes.nh.gov/sim/products/licertoccdocuments/geneticcoun.pdf>)

New Jersey	General Information (http://www.hganf.org/)
New Mexico	General Information (http://www.nmmb.state.nm.us/licensing_Info/genetic_counselor_licenses.html)
North Dakota	General Information (https://www.ndbom.org/practitioners/GC/New%20Applicants/Application%20Instructions.a)
Ohio	General Information (http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/cmh/genserv/genserv1.aspx)
Oklahoma	General Information (https://www.ok.gov/health/Protective_Health/Consumer_Health_Service/Licensed_Genetic_Counselors_Progra)
Pennsylvania	General Information (https://www.pals.pa.gov/#/page/default)
South Dakota	General Information (http://www.sdbmoe.gov/?q=content/genetic-counselors-gc)
Tennessee	General Information (https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/me-board/me-board/applications.html)
Utah	General Information (https://dopl.utah.gov/licensing/genetic_counseling.html)
Virginia	General Information (http://vaagc.com/Licensure.html)
Washington	General Information (http://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/GeneticCounselor.asp)

States with Bills Passed/In Rulemaking:

Hawaii	Licensure Law (https://legiscan.com/HI/text/SB1208/1421657) Licensure Law
Iowa	(https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGE/87/SF2228.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) Licensure Law
Louisiana	(https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1103103) Licensure Law
Michigan	Licensure Law (https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2017-2018/billrolled/Senate/pdf/2017-SNB-0331.pdf)

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Commonwealth of Virginia



REGULATIONS

GOVERNING THE PRACTICE OF GENETIC COUNSELORS

VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE

Title of Regulations: 18 VAC 85-170-10 et seq.

**Statutory Authority: § 54.1-2400 and Chapter 29
of Title 54.1 of the *Code of Virginia***

Effective Date: March 22, 2019

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Part I. General Provisions.

18VAC85-170-10. Definitions.

A. The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to them in § 54.1-2900 of the Code of Virginia:

"Board"

"Genetic counselor"

"Practice of genetic counseling"

B. The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"ABGC" means the American Board of Genetic Counseling.

"ABMG" means the American Board of Medical Genetics.

"Active practice" means a minimum of 160 hours of professional practice as a genetic counselor within the 24-month period immediately preceding application for reinstatement or reactivation of licensure. The active practice of genetic counseling may include supervisory, administrative, educational, or consultative activities or responsibilities for the delivery of such services.

"Conscience clause" means the provision of § 54.1-2957.21 of the Code of Virginia.

"NSGC" means the National Society of Genetic Counselors.

18VAC85-170-20. Public participation guidelines.

A separate board regulation, 18VAC85-11, entitled Public Participation Guidelines, provides for involvement of the public in the development of all regulations of the Virginia Board of Medicine.

18VAC85-170-30. Current name and address.

Each licensee shall furnish the board his current name and address of record. All notices required by law or by this chapter to be given by the board to any such licensee shall be validly given when sent to the latest address of record provided or served to the licensee. Any change of name or change in the address of record or public address, if different from the address of record, shall be furnished to the board within 30 days of such change.

18VAC85-170-40. Fees.

The following fees are required:

1. The application fee for licensure, payable at the time the application is filed, shall be \$130.

2. The application fee for a temporary license, payable at the time the application is filed, shall be \$50.
3. The biennial fee for renewal of active licensure shall be \$135 and for renewal of inactive licensure shall be \$70, payable in each odd-numbered year in the license holder's birth month. For 2019, the renewal fee for an active license shall be \$108, and the renewal fee for an inactive license shall be \$54.
4. The additional fee for late renewal of licensure within one renewal cycle shall be \$50.
5. The fee for reinstatement of a license that has lapsed for a period of two years or more shall be \$180 and shall be submitted with an application for licensure reinstatement.
6. The fee for reinstatement of a license pursuant to § 54.1-2408.2 of the Code of Virginia shall be \$2,000.
7. The fee for a duplicate license shall be \$5, and the fee for a duplicate wall certificate shall be \$15.
8. The fee for a returned check shall be \$35.
9. The fee for a letter of good standing or letter of verification to another jurisdiction shall be \$10.

Part II. Requirements for Licensure as a Genetic Counselor.

18VAC85-170-50. Application requirements.

An applicant for licensure shall submit the following on forms provided by the board:

1. A completed application and a fee as prescribed in 18VAC85-170-40.
2. Verification of a professional credential in genetic counseling as required in 18VAC85-170-60.
3. Verification of practice as required on the application form.
4. If licensed or certified in any other jurisdiction, documentation of any disciplinary action taken or pending in that jurisdiction.

18VAC85-170-60. Licensure requirements.

A. An applicant for a license to practice as a genetic counselor shall provide documentation of (i) a master's degree from a genetic counseling training program that is accredited by the Accreditation Council of Genetic Counseling and (ii) a current, valid certificate issued by the ABGC or ABMG to practice genetic counseling.

B. Pursuant to § 54.1-2957.19 D of the Code of Virginia, applicants for licensure who do not meet the requirements of subsection A of this section may be issued a license provided they (i) apply for licensure before December 31, 2018; (ii) comply with the board's regulations relating to the NSGC

Code of Ethics; (iii) have at least 20 years of documented work experience practicing genetic counseling; (iv) submit two letters of recommendation, one from a genetic counselor and another from a physician; and (v) have completed, within the last five years, 25 hours of continuing education approved by the NSGC or the ABGC. For the purpose of this subsection, the board deems the provisions of Part IV (18VAC85-170-110 et seq.) of this chapter to be consistent with the NSGC Code of Ethics.

C. An applicant for a temporary license shall provide documentation of having been granted the active candidate status by the ABGC. Such license shall expire 12 months from issuance or upon failure of the ABGC certification examination, whichever comes first.

Part III. Renewal and Reinstatement.

18VAC85-170-70. Renewal of license.

A. Every licensed genetic counselor who intends to maintain an active license shall biennially renew his license each odd-numbered year during his birth month and shall:

1. Submit the prescribed renewal fee; and
2. Attest to having met the continuing education requirements of 18VAC85-170-100.

B. The license of a genetic counselor that has not been renewed by the first day of the month following the month in which renewal is required is lapsed. Practice with a lapsed license may be grounds for disciplinary action. A license that is lapsed for two years or less may be renewed by payment of the renewal fee, a late fee as prescribed in 18VAC85-170-40, and attestation of compliance with continuing education requirements.

18VAC85-170-80. Inactive license.

A licensed genetic counselor who holds a current, unrestricted license in Virginia shall, upon a request at the time of renewal and submission of the required fee, be issued an inactive license. The holder of an inactive license shall not be entitled to perform any act requiring a license to practice genetic counseling in Virginia.

18VAC85-170-90. Reactivation or reinstatement.

A. To reactivate an inactive license or to reinstate a license that has been lapsed for more than two years, a genetic counselor shall submit evidence of competency to return to active practice to include one of the following:

1. Information on continued active practice in another jurisdiction during the period in which the license has been inactive or lapsed;
2. Attestation of meeting requirements for continuing education as specified in 18VAC85-170-100 for each biennium in which the license has been inactive or lapsed, not to exceed four years;
or

3. Current certification by ABGC or ABMG.

B. To reactivate an inactive license, a genetic counselor shall pay a fee equal to the difference between the current renewal fee for inactive licensure and the renewal fee for active licensure.

C. To reinstate a license that has been lapsed for more than two years a genetic counselor shall file an application for reinstatement and pay the fee for reinstatement of his licensure as prescribed in 18VAC85-170-40. The board may specify additional requirements for reinstatement of a license so lapsed to include education, experience, or reexamination.

D. A genetic counselor whose licensure has been revoked by the board and who wishes to be reinstated shall make a new application to the board, fulfill additional requirements as specified in the order from the board, and make payment of the fee for reinstatement of his licensure as prescribed in 18VAC85-170-40 pursuant to § 54.1-2408.2 of the Code of Virginia.

E. The board reserves the right to deny a request for reactivation or reinstatement to any licensee who has been determined to have committed an act in violation of § 54.1-2915 of the Code of Virginia or any provisions of this chapter.

18VAC85-170-100. Continuing education requirements.

A. In order to renew an active license biennially, a licensee shall complete the Continued Competency Activity and Assessment Form that is provided by the board indicating completion of at least 50 contact hours of continuing learning activities as follows:

1. A minimum of 30 of the 50 hours shall be in Category 1 activities approved by the ABGC, the ABMG, or the NSGC and may include in-service training, self-study courses, continuing education courses, or professional workshops.

2. No more than 20 of the 50 hours may be Category 2 activities or professional activity credits, which may include consultation with another counselor or a physician, independent reading or research, authorship, clinical supervision, volunteer leadership in the profession, preparation for a presentation, or other such experiences that promote continued learning.

B. A licensee shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements for the first biennial renewal following the date of initial licensure in Virginia.

C. The licensee shall retain in his records the completed form with all supporting documentation for a period of four years following the renewal of an active license.

D. The board shall periodically conduct a random audit of its active licensees to determine compliance. The licensees selected for the audit shall provide all supporting documentation within 30 days of receiving notification of the audit.

E. Failure to comply with these requirements may subject the licensee to disciplinary action by the board.

F. The board may grant an extension of the deadline for continuing competency requirements, for up to one year, for good cause shown upon a written request from the licensee prior to the renewal date.

G. The board may grant an exemption for all or part of the requirements for circumstances beyond the control of the licensee, such as temporary disability, mandatory military service, or officially declared disasters.

Part IV. Scope of Practice.

18VAC85-170-110. General responsibility.

A genetic counselor shall engage in the practice of genetic counseling, as defined in § 54.1-2900 of the Code of Virginia. The practice of genetic counseling may include supervisory, administrative, educational, or consultative activities or responsibilities for the delivery of such services.

18VAC85-170-120. Supervisory responsibilities.

A. A genetic counselor shall be responsible for supervision of unlicensed personnel who work under his direction and ultimately responsible and accountable for patient care and outcomes under his clinical supervision.

B. Delegation to unlicensed personnel shall:

1. Not include delegation of the discretionary aspects of the initial assessment, evaluation, or development of recommendations for a patient, or any task requiring a clinical decision or the knowledge, skills, and judgment of a licensed genetic counselor;
2. Only be made if, in the judgment of the genetic counselor, the task or procedures do not require the exercise of professional judgment and can be properly and safely performed by appropriately trained unlicensed personnel, and the delegation does not jeopardize the health or safety of the patient; and
3. Be communicated on a patient-specific basis with clear, specific instructions for performance of activities, potential complications, and expected results.

18VAC85-170-125. Responsibilities of a temporary licensee.

A. A person holding a temporary license as a genetic counselor shall practice under the clinical supervision of a genetic counselor or a physician licensed in the Commonwealth.

B. Clinical supervision shall require that:

1. The supervisor and temporary licensee routinely meet to review and evaluate patient care and treatment; and

2. The supervisor reviews notes on patient care entered by the temporary licensee prior to reporting study results and making recommendations to a patient. Such review shall be documented by some method in a patient record.

Part V. Standards of Professional Conduct.

18VAC85-170-130. Confidentiality.

A practitioner shall not willfully or negligently breach the confidentiality between a practitioner and a patient. A breach of confidentiality that is required or permitted by applicable law or beyond the control of the practitioner shall not be considered negligent or willful.

18VAC85-170-140. Patient records.

A. Practitioners shall comply with the provisions of § 32.1-127.1:03 of the Code of Virginia related to the confidentiality and disclosure of patient records.

B. Practitioners shall provide patient records to another practitioner or to the patient or his personal representative in a timely manner in accordance with provisions of § 32.1-127.1:03 of the Code of Virginia.

C. Practitioners shall properly manage and keep timely, accurate, legible, and complete patient records.

D. Practitioners who are employed by a health care institution or other entity in which the individual practitioner does not own or maintain his own records shall maintain patient records in accordance with the policies and procedures of the employing entity.

E. Practitioners who are self-employed or employed by an entity in which the individual practitioner owns and is responsible for patient records shall:

1. Maintain a patient record for a minimum of six years following the last patient encounter with the following exceptions:

a. Records of a minor child shall be maintained until the child reaches the age of 18 years or becomes emancipated, with a minimum time for record retention of six years from the last patient encounter regardless of the age of the child;

b. Records that have previously been transferred to another practitioner or health care provider or provided to the patient or his personal representative; or

c. Records that are required by contractual obligation or federal law may need to be maintained for a longer period of time.

2. Post information or in some manner inform all patients concerning the timeframe for record retention and destruction. Patient records shall only be destroyed in a manner that protects patient confidentiality, such as by incineration or shredding.

3. When closing, selling, or relocating his practice, meet the requirements of § 54.1-2405 of the Code of Virginia for giving notice that copies of records can be sent to any like-regulated provider of the patient's choice or provided to the patient.

18VAC85-170-150. Practitioner-patient communication; conscience clause; termination of relationship.

A. Communication with patients.

1. Except as provided in § 32.1-127.1:03 F of the Code of Virginia, a practitioner shall accurately present information to a patient or his legally authorized representative in understandable terms and encourage participation in decisions regarding the patient's care.

2. A practitioner shall not deliberately withhold pertinent findings or information or make a false or misleading statement regarding the practitioner's skill or the efficacy or value of a medication, treatment, or procedure provided or directed by the practitioner in the treatment of any disease or condition.

3. When a genetic procedure is recommended, informed consent shall be obtained from the patient in accordance with the policies of the health care entity. Practitioners shall inform patients of the risks, benefits, and alternatives of the recommended procedure that a reasonably prudent practitioner practicing genetic counseling in Virginia would tell a patient.

a. In the instance of a minor or a patient who is incapable of making an informed decision on his own behalf or is incapable of communicating such a decision due to a physical or mental disorder, the legally authorized person available to give consent shall be informed and the consent documented.

b. An exception to the requirement for consent prior to performance of a genetic procedure may be made in an emergency situation when a delay in obtaining consent would likely result in imminent harm to the patient.

c. For the purposes of this provision, "genetic procedure" means any diagnostic or therapeutic procedure performed on a patient that is not part of routine, general care and for which the usual practice within the health care entity is to document specific informed consent from the patient or surrogate decisionmaker prior to proceeding.

4. Practitioners shall adhere to requirements of § 32.1-162.18 of the Code of Virginia for obtaining informed consent from patients prior to involving them as subjects in human research with the exception of retrospective chart reviews.

B. Exercise of the conscience clause.

1. Notwithstanding provisions of subsection A of this section, a practitioner may exercise the conscience clause pursuant to requirements of § 54.1-2957.21 of the Code of Virginia. If a genetic counselor has deeply held moral or religious beliefs that may prevent him from participating in genetic counseling, he shall immediately inform a prospective patient with

specificity about any associated limitations on counseling resulting therefrom, prior to the initiation of the patient-practitioner relationship and shall:

- a. Offer to refer the patient to another licensed health care practitioner with a relevant scope of practice and direct the patient to the online directory of licensed genetic counselors maintained by the board;
- b. Immediately notify any referring practitioner, if known, of this refusal to participate in genetic counseling for the patient; and
- c. Alert the patient and the referring practitioner if the referral is time sensitive.

2. If, during the course of patient care, the genetic counselor encounters a situation in which his deeply held moral or religious beliefs would prevent him from participating in counseling, he shall immediately inform the patient with specificity about any associated limitations on counseling and shall:

- a. Document the communication of such information in the patient record;
- b. Offer to refer the patient to another licensed health care practitioner with a relevant scope of practice and direct the patient to the online directory of licensed genetic counselors;
- c. Immediately notify any referring practitioner, if known, of such refusal and referral of the patient; and
- d. Alert the patient and the referring practitioner if the referral is time sensitive.

C. Termination of the practitioner-patient relationship.

1. The practitioner or the patient may terminate the relationship. In either case, the practitioner shall make the patient record available, except in situations where denial of access is allowed by law.
2. A practitioner shall not terminate the relationship or make his services unavailable without documented notice to the patient that allows for a reasonable time to obtain the services of another practitioner.

18VAC85-170-160. Practitioner responsibility.

A. A practitioner shall not:

1. Perform procedures or techniques that are outside the scope of his practice or for which he is not trained and individually competent;
2. Knowingly allow subordinates to jeopardize patient safety or provide patient care outside of the subordinate's scope of practice or area of responsibility. Practitioners shall delegate patient care only to subordinates who are properly trained and supervised;

3. Engage in an egregious pattern of disruptive behavior or interaction in a health care setting that interferes with patient care or could reasonably be expected to adversely impact the quality of care rendered to a patient; or

4. Exploit the practitioner-patient relationship for personal gain.

B. Advocating for patient safety or improvement in patient care within a health care entity shall not constitute disruptive behavior provided the practitioner does not engage in behavior prohibited in subdivision A 3 of this section.

18VAC85-170-170. Solicitation or remuneration in exchange for referral.

A practitioner shall not knowingly and willfully solicit or receive any remuneration, directly or indirectly, in return for referring an individual to a facility as defined in § 37.2-100 of the Code of Virginia or hospital as defined in § 32.1-123 of the Code of Virginia.

"Remuneration" means compensation, received in cash or in kind, but shall not include any payments, business arrangements, or payment practices allowed by 42 USC § 1320a-7b(b), as amended, or any regulations promulgated thereto.

18VAC85-170-180. Sexual contact.

A. For purposes of § 54.1-2915 A 12 and A 19 of the Code of Virginia and this section, sexual contact includes sexual behavior or verbal or physical behavior that:

1. May reasonably be interpreted as intended for the sexual arousal or gratification of the practitioner, the patient, or both; or
2. May reasonably be interpreted as romantic involvement with a patient regardless of whether such involvement occurs in the professional setting or outside of it.

B. Sexual contact with a patient.

1. The determination of when a person is a patient for purposes of § 54.1-2915 A 19 of the Code of Virginia is made on a case-by-case basis with consideration given to the nature, extent, and context of the professional relationship between the practitioner and the person. The fact that a person is not actively receiving treatment or professional services from a practitioner is not determinative of this issue. A person is presumed to remain a patient until the practitioner-patient relationship is terminated.

2. The consent to, initiation of, or participation in sexual behavior or involvement with a practitioner by a patient neither changes the nature of the conduct nor negates the statutory prohibition.

C. Sexual contact between a practitioner and a former patient after termination of the practitioner-patient relationship may still constitute unprofessional conduct if the sexual contact is a result of the exploitation of trust, knowledge, or influence of emotions derived from the professional relationship.

D. Sexual contact between a practitioner and a key third party shall constitute unprofessional conduct if the sexual contact is a result of the exploitation of trust, knowledge, or influence derived from the professional relationship or if the contact has had or is likely to have an adverse effect on patient care. For purposes of this section, key third party of a patient means spouse or partner, parent or child, guardian, or legal representative of the patient.

E. Sexual contact between a supervisor and a trainee shall constitute unprofessional conduct if the sexual contact is a result of the exploitation of trust, knowledge, or influence derived from the professional relationship or if the contact has had or is likely to have an adverse effect on patient care.

18VAC85-170-190. Refusal to provide information.

A practitioner shall not willfully refuse to provide information or records as requested or required by the board or its representative pursuant to an investigation or to the enforcement of a statute or regulation.