



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Executive Office



April 7, 2010

Holly Appelbaum, Executive Director
Orange County Psychiatric Society
300 S. Flower Street
Orange, CA 92868

Dear Ms. Appelbaum:

The Medical Board of California is seeking the assistance of your organization in helping us get the word out to physicians and medical practice settings of a new disclosure regulation that will become effective on June 27, 2010. Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 1355.4 will require physicians to inform their patients that they are licensed by the Medical Board of California, and include the board's contact information. Physicians' failure to comply with this new regulation could result in a citation-and-fine by our board. We ask that you send the following information to your membership.

**California physicians soon will be required to notify their patients
that they are licensed by the Medical Board of California**

Effective June 27, 2010, physicians in California must inform their patients that they are licensed by the Medical Board of California, and include the board's contact information. The notice must contain the following information.

NOTICE TO CONSUMERS

Medical doctors are licensed and regulated by the Medical Board of California
(800) 633-2322
www.mbc.ca.gov

This regulation, (citation), was instigated by the Medical Board, as mandated by Business and Professions Code section 138. The purpose of this new requirement is to inform consumers where to go for information or with a complaint about California medical doctors.

Physicians may provide this notice by one of three methods:

- Prominently posting a sign in an area of their offices conspicuous to patients, in at least 48-point type in Arial font.
- Including the notice in a written statement, signed and dated by the patient or patient's representative, and kept in that patient's file, stating the patient understands the physician is licensed and regulated by the board.

- Including the notice in a statement on letterhead, discharge instructions, or other document given to a patient or the patient's representative, where the notice is placed immediately above the signature line for the patient in at least 14-point type.

The three options are designed to serve a multitude of practice settings, including emergency departments, skilled nursing facilities, and surgical settings. In every setting where they practice, *physicians* are responsible for compliance with this regulation, not the facility. In a group setting, only one sign must be posted, should the physicians choose that option, but it must be one that each patient can see. The board expects a good-faith, common-sense interpretation and compliance with this regulation.

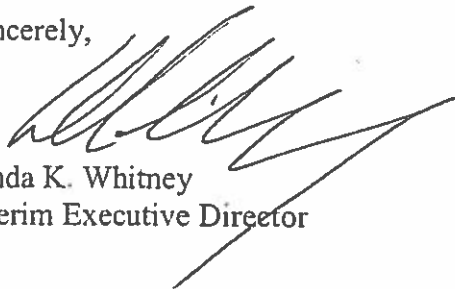
More information about this regulation also is available on the board's Web site at www.mbc.ca.gov -- click on "Notice to Consumers regulation" under "What's New" on our home page. The sign may be printed from the board's Web site.

The Medical Board is an agency within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). At least nine of DCA's other agencies have similar disclosure requirements, including the Pharmacy Board, the Contractors State License Board, the Bureau of Automotive Repair, and the Board of Optometry.

For more information, please contact the Medical Board's information officer, Candis Cohen, at (916) 263-2394 or candis.cohen@mbc.ca.gov.

Thank you very much for any assistance you can provide us. Please contact Ms. Cohen as indicated above if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Linda K. Whitney
Interim Executive Director