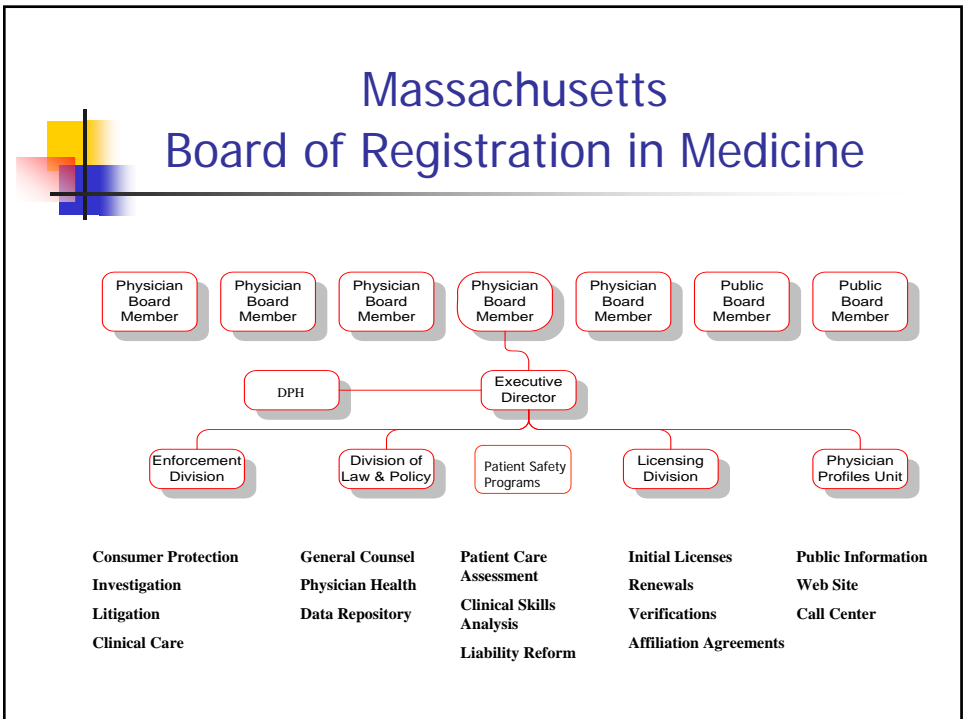


Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine

*A Partnership with Physicians
To Serve Patients*



*Nancy Achin Audesse
Executive Director*





Mission Statement

To ensure that only qualified physicians are licensed to practice in the Commonwealth, and to support an environment which maximizes the high quality of health care in Massachusetts.



Partnership & Collaboration

Board can only be successful in collaboration with the profession, other regulators, health care facilities, and patients.

Without physician “buy-in” and leadership, patient safety initiatives cannot succeed.

This collaboration is earned through trust.





Avoiding Disciplinary Action

Good Communication Skills

Speak Respectfully

Use Technology to Enhance Communications

Good Clinical Skills

Prescribe Carefully

Stay Current through Lifelong Learning

Refer Out When Appropriate

Document Thoroughly



PHYSICIAN DEMOGRAPHICS

Total Licensed	29,973 (100%)
Men	20,093 (67%)
Women	9,880 (33%)

Age Distribution

<40	8,169 (27%)
40-49	8,489 (28%)
50-59	7,689 (26%)
60-69	3,954 (13%)
>69	1,672 (6%)

Board Certified

Yes	84%
No	16%



DISCIPLINARY STATISTICS

YEAR	# PHYSICIANS DISCIPLINED
2006	76
2005	69
2004	77
2003	60
2002	68
2001	55



PAIN MANAGEMENT POLICY

- The Board recognizes that...opioid analgesics may be essential in the treatment of acute pain due to trauma or surgery and chronic pain, whether due to cancer or non-cancer origins.
- The Board will refer to current clinical practice guidelines and expert review in approaching cases involving management of pain.
- Pain should be assessed and treated promptly, and the quantity and frequency of doses should be adjusted according to the intensity, duration of the pain, and treatment outcomes. Physicians should recognize that tolerance and physical dependence are normal consequences of sustained use of opioid analgesics and are not the same as addiction.

*Guideline for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain
Adopted December 15, 2004*



PAIN MANAGEMENT POLICY

“Physicians should not fear disciplinary action from the Board for ordering, prescribing, dispensing or administering controlled substances, including opioid analgesics, for a legitimate medical purpose and in the course of professional practice.”

*Guideline for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain
Adopted December 15, 2004*



Reporting Concerns to the Board

- Do It Early
- Do It Often
- Do It Fully
- Do It With Confidence in the Board's Judgment



All Information Is Available At:

WWW.MASSMEDBOARD.ORG

