State Member Board Briefs

CALIFORNIA

New Resource to Reduce Maternal Deaths

Preconception Medical Assessment (PreMA), is a validated, evidence-based preconception medical assessment developed in collaboration with the California Office of the Surgeon General and Stanford University researchers. The simple, eight-question tool can be completed in everyday community settings, helping people identify potential health risks and access information or medical care before becoming pregnant. By encouraging individuals to better understand and invest in their health, PreMA aims to make preconception care more accessible and proactive.

The initiative addresses significant maternal health challenges, including high rates of unintended pregnancy and chronic health conditions among women of reproductive age. Healthcare providers may soon encounter patients who reference their PreMA results, creating opportunities for earlier intervention and risk reduction. This effort supports California's broader goal of reducing preventable maternal deaths and cutting maternal mortality.

Additional information is available at:
https://www.mbc.ca.gov/News/Newsletter/

MISSISSIPPI

Joint Statement Released

The Mississippi Board of Nursing, Mississippi Board of Pharmacy, and Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure recently issued a joint statement prohibiting healthcare providers from prescribing, administering, dispensing, recommending, or otherwise facilitating the use of non-FDA-approved research-grade peptides. The boards emphasized that these substances have not been evaluated for safety or effectiveness in humans and are not subject to FDA standards governing manufacturing, quality, or consistency, making their contents and potential risks difficult to verify.

The statement also stresses that all drugs intended for human consumption must meet applicable FDA standards and that healthcare providers cannot avoid their professional duty of care by allowing others to purchase, administer, or dispense unapproved substances. Providers are required to obtain prescription products from entities properly permitted by the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy and are encouraged to verify a supplier's license status or report unlicensed entities selling or shipping prescription products into the state.

The full statement is available at:
https://www.msbml.ms.gov/peptide-statement

OHIO

Annual Report Released

The State Medical Board of Ohio released its Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2026 in August. The Board continued to experience unprecedented growth in State Fiscal Year 2026, ending the year with more than 107,000 licensed medical professionals. Applications through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and licensure reciprocity increased significantly, while the Board maintained customer service and reduced processing times without increasing staffing or fees. The Board also focused on emerging issues, including the growing role of artificial intelligence in medical practice and its implications for patient care and regulation.

Working with other state boards, the Board addressed the rise in ketamine prescribing and issued joint guidance to improve data collection and support future regulatory efforts. It also continued its work to combat human trafficking and illicit massage through partnerships with law enforcement and training initiatives. As the Board marked its 130th anniversary, it reaffirmed its commitment to efficient licensure, effective oversight, and patient safety in a rapidly evolving health care landscape.

The complete report is available at: https://med.ohio.gov/about-the-board/communications/news/medical-board-releases-fy26-annual-report

WASHINGTON

Annual Report Released

The Washington Physicians Health Program (WPHP) marked its 40th anniversary with the release of its 2025 Annual Report, highlighting its longstanding role in providing confidential, non-disciplinary support to healthcare professionals across Washington.

WPHP offers voluntary early intervention, assessment, treatment referral, and post-treatment support for a range of conditions that may affect safe practice, including mental health concerns, substance use disorders, cognitive or medical conditions, stress, and burnout. The program emphasizes early intervention and confidential support as essential to promoting a healthy, safe, and resilient healthcare workforce.

The report is available at: https://wmc.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/Newsletter/2026Summer/WMCUpdateSummer2026.pdf