

State Medical Board of Ohio

Jacob Lammers, Communications Specialist

March 27, 2025

Agenda

- Medical Board operations
- Applying for a license
- Overview of the complaint and disciplinary process
- Examples of disciplinary actions from past board cases
- Resources and programs

Mission Statement

To protect and enhance the health
and safety of the public through
effective medical regulation.

Statutes

- Laws enacted by Ohio legislature
- Ohio Revised Code (ORC)

Rules

- Regulations developed and enacted by Medical Board
- Ohio Administrative Code (OAC)
- Rules clarify & amplify provisions in the Ohio Revised Code

The Board

The Medical Board is the state agency charged with regulating the practice of medicine and other selected health professions.

12 members appointed by the governor to 5-year terms:

- 9 doctors: 7 MDs, 1 DO, and 1 DPM
- 3 consumer members

The board meets the second Wednesday of each month in the Rhodes Tower and livestreams the meetings on its YouTube channel.



Medical Board Members



State Medical
Board of Ohio



Yeshwant Reddy, MD
President



Mark Bechtel, MD
Vice President



Kim Rothermel, MD
Secretary



Harish Kakarala, MD
Supervising Member



Amol Soin, MD, MBA



Betty Montgomery, JD



Michael Gonidakis, JD



Sherry Johnson, DO



Jonathan Feibel, MD



John F. Boyle, DPM



Jennifer D. Brumby, JD



Elaine M. Lewis, MD

License Type

The Medical Board regulates more than 101,000 licensees.

Allopathic Physicians 46,079	Anesthesiologist Assistants 399	Massage Therapists 11,308
Osteopathic Physicians 8,520	Physician Assistants 6,090	Dietitians 5,241
Podiatric Physicians 992	Radiologist Assistants 19	Acupuncturists 305
Training Certificates MD-DO-DPM 10,029	Genetic Counselors 649	Respiratory Care 9,443

June 30, 2024

Physician Assistant Policy Committee

The Board is required to appoint a physician assistant policy committee.



Licensure



Confidential investigations



Disciplinary actions



Probationary monitoring



Education & Outreach

Medical Board Core Services



Licensure

All professionals regulated by the Medical Board must have a license issued by the board before they can practice in Ohio.

Licensure staff reviews the applications to be sure that the applicant qualifies for a license. The Chief of Licensure designee has authority to approve applications.

PA License Eligibility



1. At least 18 years of age
2. Background check (FBI and Ohio BCI) submitted to the Board.
3. Hold current Certification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)

PA License Eligibility



(one of the following routes)

Hold a valid PA license by another jurisdiction. Active at least 2 years	Holds degree from accredited program - 2 years on active duty 2 years preceding application, while on active duty	Hold a degree other than a master's or higher from ARC-PA accredited program Hold a master's or higher accredited by CHEA	Hold a degree completed on or before Dec. 31, 2009
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The background of the top half of the image is a photograph of the Ohio Statehouse. It features a large, white, classical building with a prominent circular dome topped by an American flag. Another American flag flies on a tall pole to the right of the dome. The building has many columns and windows. Some green trees are visible on the left and right edges of the frame.

WELCOME TO THE

eLicense Ohio Professional Licensure System

License applications and renewals are
completed through elicense.ohio.gov.



Reciprocity

Effective December 29, 2023, applicants of the Medical Board may be eligible for Ohio licensure if they meet one of three eligibility requirements:

1. Applicant holds a substantially similar out-of-state (OOS) occupational license, or holds a government certification in the same profession or occupation from a state that does not issue an occupational license for at least one year immediately preceding the date of application. Applicant must be in good standing in all jurisdictions the license is held;

Reciprocity

2. Applicant has held a private certification for at least two years preceding the application date in a state that does not issue an OOS license or government certification for the respective profession or occupation. Applicant must be in good standing with the organization that issued the certification; or

Reciprocity

3. Applicant has been actively engaged in the profession or occupation in a state that does not issue an OOS license or government certification for the respective profession or occupation, or in the uniformed services.

Reciprocity

Reciprocity is available for all license types except for training certificates, limited permits and special certificates. The application fee is the same as each corresponding license type in the traditional licensure route.

Applicants will not be eligible for reciprocity if their license or certification has been surrendered or revoked due to negligence or intentional misconduct related to the profession or occupation.



State Medical
Board of Ohio

Criminal Offenses

If you have ever been arrested, charged, or convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony you must disclose the incident(s) on the application, regardless of whether the criminal records were subsequently sealed or expunged.

If you are in doubt as to how to respond to the application questions, full and honest disclosure is recommended.

Failure to provide truthful responses to the questions on the application may result in disciplinary action up to, and including, permanent denial of your application.

Application Status Codes

Pending	License has not been submitted
Submitted	Application and payment received
In review	Board staff have begun review - may have additional questions
Active	License to practice – may have sub status of probation
Inactive	Cannot practice in Ohio - may have sub status - expired



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Scope of Practice

Your scope is primarily determined by the supervision agreement.

You must have a supervision agreement in place to practice.



OHIO LAWS & ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

HOME LAWS ABOUT CONTACT RELATED SITESGO TO101.01GoKeyword Search

The Legislative Service Commission staff updates the Revised Code on an ongoing basis, as it completes its act review of enacted legislation. Updates may be slower during some times of the year, depending on the volume of enacted legislation.

Chapter 4730 | Physician Assistants

Ohio Revised Code / Title 47 Occupations-Professions

Expand AllClose All

Section
Section 4730.01 Physician assistant definitions.
Section 4730.02 Prohibited acts.
Section 4730.03 Construction and application.
Section 4730.04 Disaster or emergency medical care.
Section 4730.05 Physician assistant policy committee.
Section 4730.06 Recommendations to state medical board.
Section 4730.07 Adoption of additional rules.
Section 4730.08 Certificate to practice as physician assistant.
Section 4730.10 Applying for license to practice.
Section 4730.101 Certificate applicant to comply with RC Chapter 4776.



OHIO LAWS & ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

HOME LAWS ABOUT CONTACT RELATED SITESGO TO101-1-01GoKeyword Search

This website publishes administrative rules on their effective dates, as designated by the adopting state agencies, colleges, and universities.

4730 | State Medical Board - Physician Assistant Licensing

Ohio Administrative Code

Chapter
Chapter 4730-1 Regulation of Physician Assistants
Chapter 4730-2 Physician-Delegated Prescriptive Authority
Chapter 4730-4 Opioid Addiction Treatment

Laws & Rules

PA regulation is found in section 4730 of the ORC and OAC.



Complaint Process



What is a complaint?

Any allegation of licensee misconduct received by the Medical Board.

The board received 7,012 complaints in FY 24.

Complaints are confidential.

Medical Board Investigations

- Ohio law makes complaints received by the Medical Board and board investigations confidential.
- The board may only share investigative information with law enforcement agencies, other licensing boards, or other governmental agencies that are prosecuting, adjudicating or investigating alleged violations of statutes or rules.
- Board disciplinary actions are public record – posted on med.ohio.gov and licensee profile on elicense.ohio.gov.

Disciplinary Actions

Ohio statute identifies several grounds for board disciplinary action.

Board action examples:
dismissal, reprimand,
suspension, probation,
permanent revocation,
etc.



OHIO LAWS & ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

HOME LAWS ABOUT CONTACT RELATED SITES GO TO 101.01 Go Keyword Search

The Legislative Service Commission staff updates the Revised Code on an ongoing basis, as it completes its act review of enacted legislation. Updates may be slower during some times of the year, depending on the volume of enacted legislation.

Section 4730.25 | Disciplinary actions.
Ohio Revised Code / Title 47 Occupations-Professions / Chapter 4730 Physician Assistants

« Previous Next »

Effective: October 3, 2023 Latest Legislation: House Bill 33 - 135th General Assembly PDF: Download Authenticated PDF

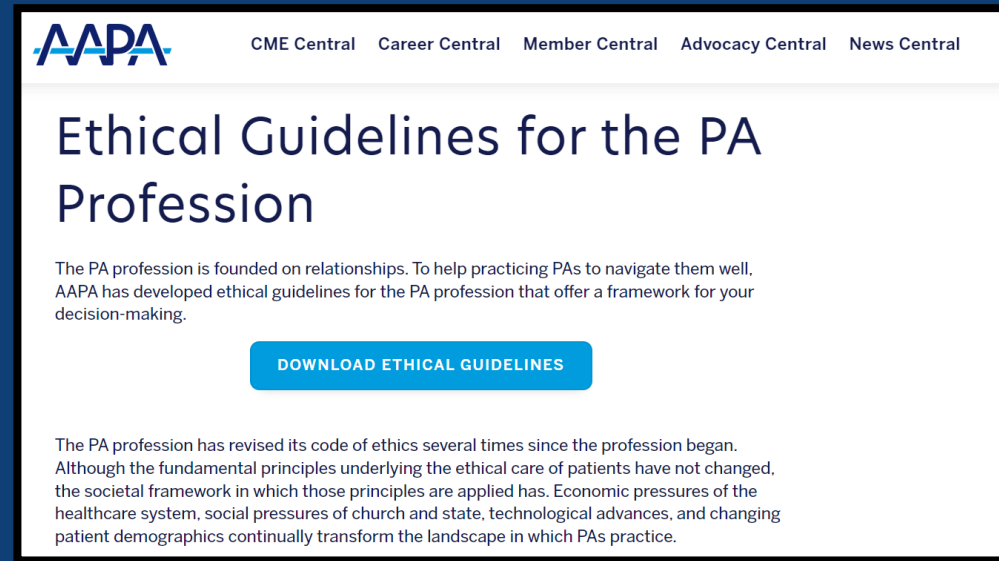
(A) The state medical board, by an affirmative vote of not fewer than six members, may refuse to grant a license to practice as a physician assistant to, or may revoke the license held by, an individual found by the board to have committed fraud, misrepresentation, or deception in applying for or securing the license.

(B) Except as provided in division (N) of this section, the board, by an affirmative vote of not fewer than six members, shall, to the extent permitted by law, limit, revoke, or suspend an individual's license to practice as a physician assistant or prescriber number, refuse to issue a license to an applicant, refuse to renew a license, refuse to reinstate a license, or reprimand or place on probation the holder of a license for any of the following reasons:

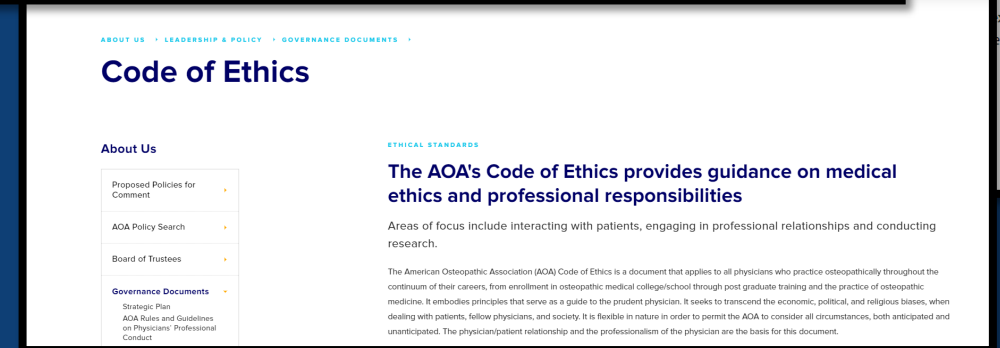
(1) Failure to practice in accordance with the supervising physician's supervision agreement with the physician assistant, including, if applicable, the policies of the health care facility in which the supervising physician and physician assistant are practicing;

Grounds for Disciplinary Action

... violation of any provision of a code of ethics of the American Academy of Physician Assistants ...



The screenshot shows the AAPA website's 'Ethical Guidelines for the PA Profession' page. The header includes the AAPA logo and navigation links: CME Central, Career Central, Member Central, Advocacy Central, and News Central. The main heading is 'Ethical Guidelines for the PA Profession'. Below it, a paragraph states: 'The PA profession is founded on relationships. To help practicing PAs to navigate them well, AAPA has developed ethical guidelines for the PA profession that offer a framework for your decision-making.' A blue button labeled 'DOWNLOAD ETHICAL GUIDELINES' is centered. Further down, another paragraph explains: 'The PA profession has revised its code of ethics several times since the profession began. Although the fundamental principles underlying the ethical care of patients have not changed, the societal framework in which those principles are applied has. Economic pressures of the healthcare system, social pressures of church and state, technological advances, and changing patient demographics continually transform the landscape in which PAs practice.'



The screenshot shows the AOA's 'Code of Ethics' page. The header includes navigation links: ABOUT US, LEADERSHIP & POLICY, and GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS. The main heading is 'Code of Ethics'. On the left, there is a sidebar with a table of contents: 'Proposed Policies for Comment', 'AOA Policy Search', 'Board of Trustees', and 'Governance Documents' (which is expanded to show 'Strategic Plan', 'AOA Rules and Guidelines on Physicians' Professional Conduct', and 'Ethical Standards'). The main content area is titled 'The AOA's Code of Ethics provides guidance on medical ethics and professional responsibilities'. It states: 'Areas of focus include interacting with patients, engaging in professional relationships and conducting research.' A paragraph below explains: 'The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Code of Ethics is a document that applies to all physicians who practice osteopathically throughout the continuum of their careers, from enrollment in osteopathic medical college/school through post graduate training and the practice of osteopathic medicine. It embodies principles that serve as a guide to the prudent physician. It seeks to transcend the economic, political, and religious biases, when dealing with patients, fellow physicians, and society. It is flexible in nature in order to permit the AOA to consider all circumstances, both anticipated and unanticipated. The physician-patient relationship and the professionalism of the physician are the basis for this document.'

Examples of Violations



Sexual misconduct



Inappropriate
prescribing or
impairment



Criminal
actions/malpractice
events



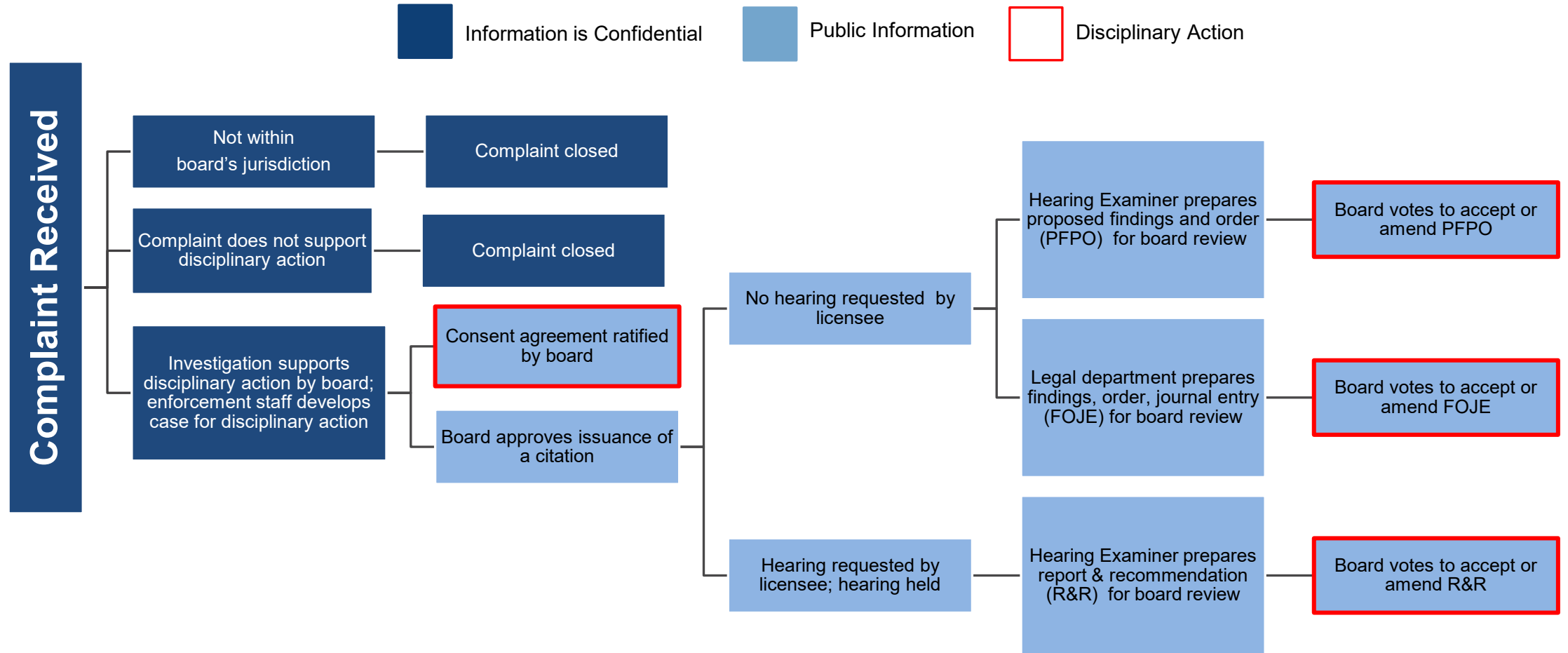
Fraudulent
misrepresentation in
course of practice



Patient privacy

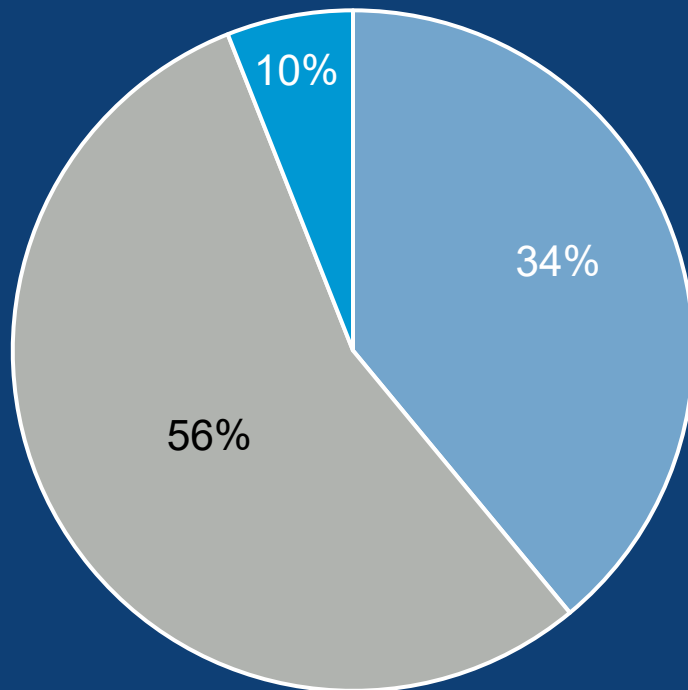


Education & Training



Complaint, Investigation, Enforcement and Disciplinary Process

Disciplinary Actions



No action warranted

2,388 (34%) complaints closed as the issue involved a profession not regulated by the board or no further review.

Investigated, then closed

3,920 (56%) complaints were closed as information obtained about the allegation did not support board action. Although there was no formal discipline, licensee could have received a caution letter, met with board Secretary and Supervising Member or been referred to further education.

Board action

704 (10%) complaints resulted in disciplinary action by the board.

Case: Application

Applicant failed to give the Board and his Ohio training program complete and accurate information regarding his termination from a residency program in another state, and the denial of his licensure application by a medical board in another state.

Board action: permanent revocation of training certificate





State Medical
Board of Ohio

Case: Criminal Offense

Physician Assistant convicted of one count of public indecency. Put on probation for a year and 30 days in jail.

Board action: Revocation

Case: Cellphone in the OR

Doctor used cell phone to photograph a sedated male patient prior to a surgical procedure.

Board action:

PA issued a 60-day suspension and probation

OH ordered a reprimand/probation for one year and professional ethics class

Impairment

Inability to practice according to acceptable standards of care because of habitual or excessive use or abuse of drugs, alcohol or other substances that impair ability to practice

Case: Impairment

Resident admitted on his licensure application that he had undergone inpatient treatment for alcohol dependence, he was in compliance with monitoring requirements with the Pennsylvania Physician's Health Program and that he had been found capable of practicing medicine.

Board action: Medical license granted license subject to probationary terms, conditions and limitations for at least 3 years and six months.



Impairment Modernization

Rules

- Chapter 4731-15 Reporting Requirements
- Chapter 4731-16 Impaired Practitioners
- Chapter 4731-28 Mental or Physical Impairment

New Application Questions

- Applicable to initial applications and renewals
- Questions will revolve around the applicant's condition (physical and mental conditions, including substance use disorder)

Impairment Modernization

Confidential Monitoring Program

The Confidential Monitoring Program provides a path for Medical Board licensees to confidentially receive treatment and support in a non-disciplinary program. The newly expanded Confidential Monitoring Program (formerly the One-bite Program) is now available to all licensees and applicants of the State Medical Board of Ohio who may have issues impacting their health and well-being. This includes:

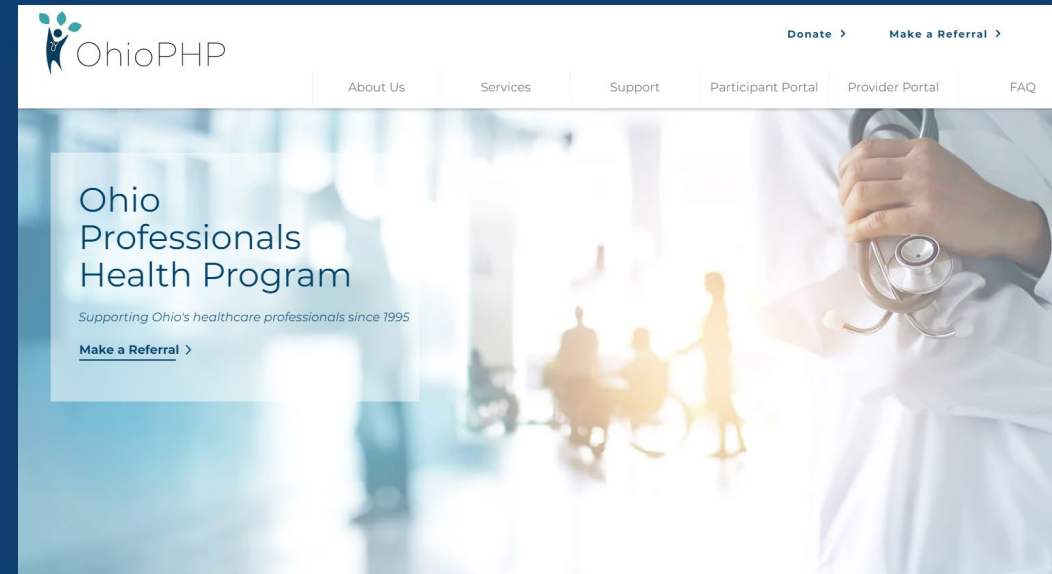
- Substance use disorders
- Mental health disorders (new)
- Physical conditions (new)
- Other potentially impairing illnesses (new)

Ohio Professionals Health Program

Ohio Professionals Health Program (OhioPHP) is a contracted monitoring organization.

Contact OhioPHP: (614) 841-9690
or info@ohiophp.org

Website: www.ohiophp.org



988: Suicide & Crisis Lifeline



988 offers 24/7 access to trained crisis counselors who can help healthcare providers, experiencing mental health-related distress.

For more information, call 988 or visit 988lifeline.org.

Prescribing



OHIO AUTOMATED RX REPORTING SYSTEM

www.ohiopmp.gov

- OARRS contains Rx history report for all controlled substances (schedule II-V)
- Statutes and rules define when OARRS report required

Problem Prescribing



- Inappropriately prescribing drugs to patients
- Selling, giving away, personally furnishing, prescribing, or administering drugs for other than legal and legitimate therapeutic purposes
- Standard of Care - departing from, or the failing to conform to, minimal standards of care of similar practitioners under the same or similar circumstances

Problem Prescribing



- Self & family prescribing of controlled substances
- Drug Conviction - a violation of any federal or state law regulating the possession, distribution, or use of any drug
- Rules Violation - violating Board rule(s)
- OARRS (Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System) violations

Red Flags

Look for signs of drug seeking behavior

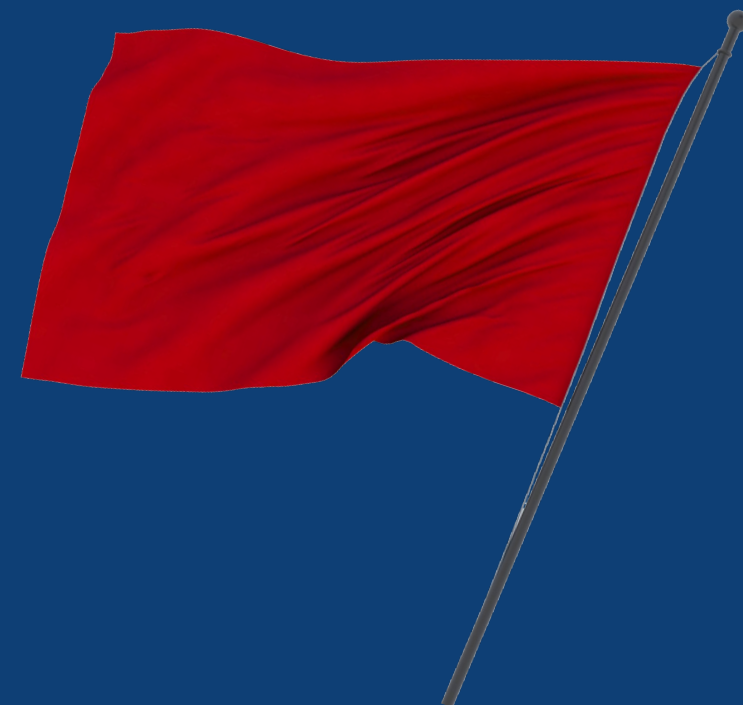
- Appearing impaired or overly sedated during office visit
- Traveling with others to office; requesting specific prescriptions
- Travelling abnormally long distances to the physician's office

Listen for signs of drug seeking behavior

- Reports of lost prescriptions; requests for early refills
- Comments about sharing medications with family or friends
- Recurring visits to ER's, urgent care centers, or walk-in clinics to get meds

Check for signs of drug seeking behavior

- Drug screen results inconsistent with drugs on treatment plan
- History of chemical abuse or dependency; illegal drug use
- Suffering an overdose
- Receiving abused drugs from multiple prescribers



Prescribing Tips

- | |
|--|
| ✓ Learn to say “NO!” - It’s important |
| ✓ Complete and maintain accurate medical records |
| ✓ Never pre-sign or post-date a prescription |
| ✓ Never allow staff to sign your name to a prescription |
| ✓ Never prescribe a controlled substance to yourself, your spouse or a member of your immediate family |
| ✓ Never prescribe a controlled substance to a non-patient colleague, co-worker or acquaintance |
| ✓ Be a part of a health care team |
| ✓ Stay current |
| ✓ Obey all federal and state laws applicable to office stocks of drugs |
| ✓ Obey the Medical Board rules (med.ohio.gov – laws rules tab/Chapter 4731) |
| ✓ Stick to your specialty |

Chart #7 - OARRS Queries, by Year

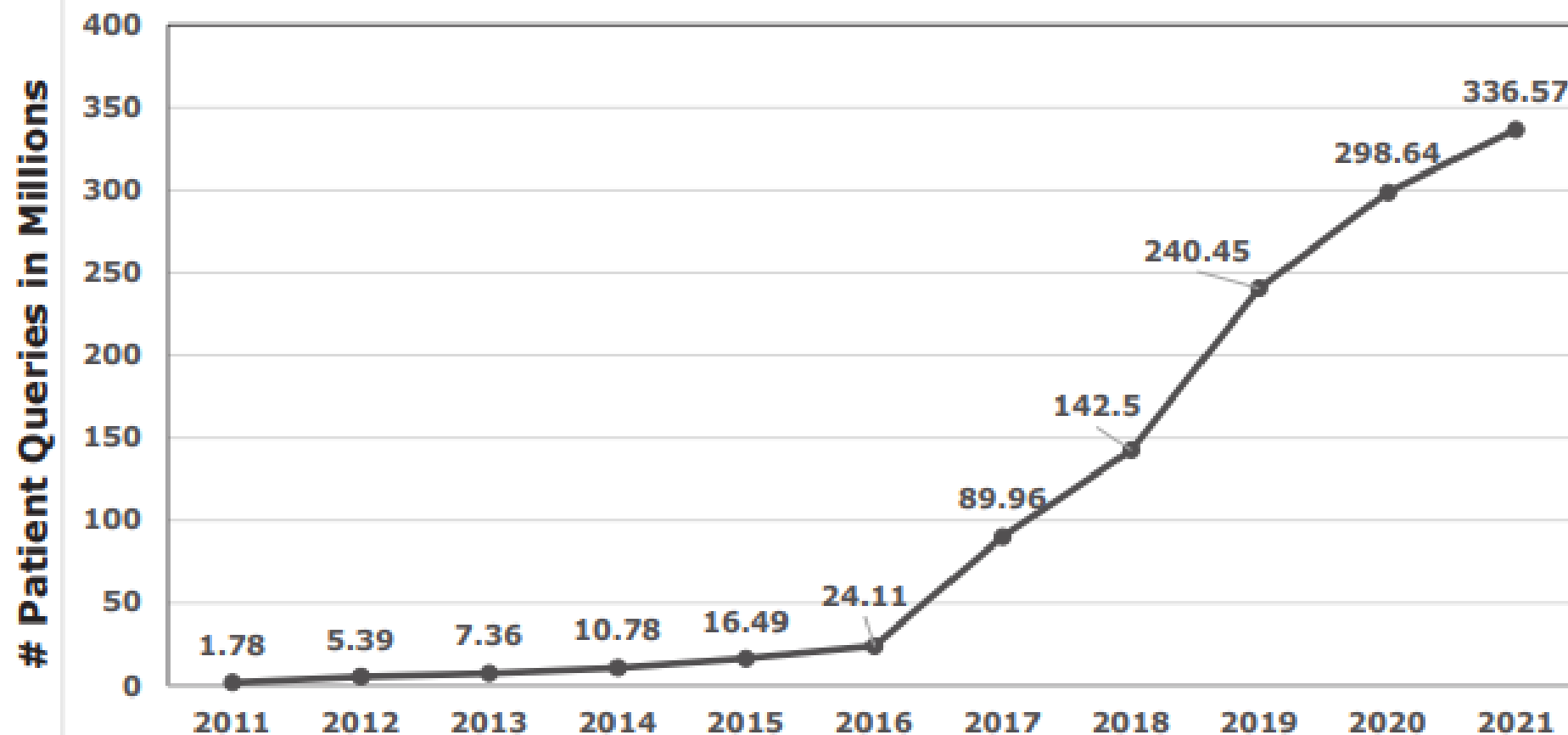
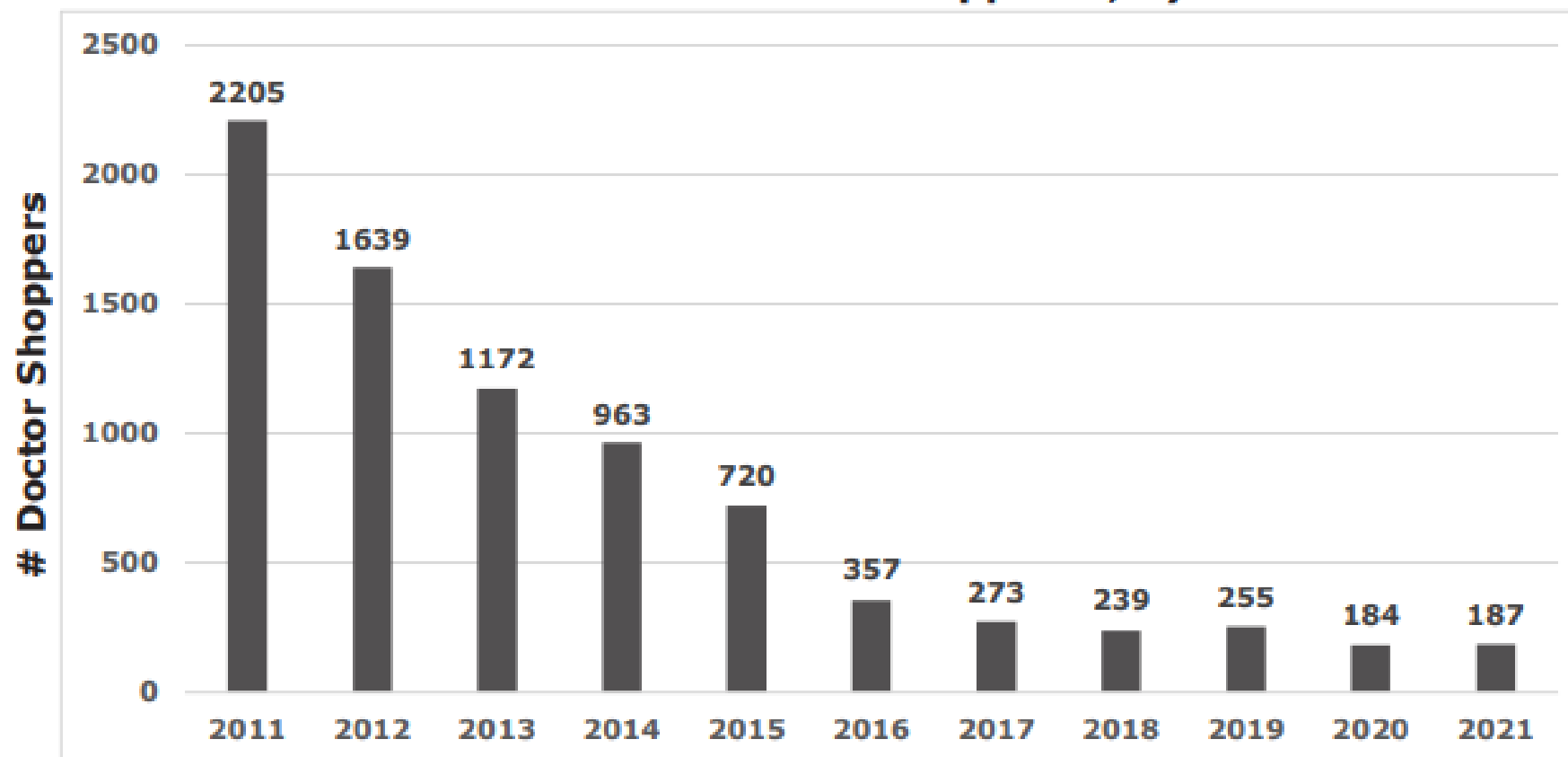


Chart #8 - Total Doctor Shoppers*, by Year





State Medical
Board of Ohio

Case: Prescribing

Physician Assistant wanted to renew his Ohio license. He was licensed in Indiana and Ohio but was charged with 24 counts of Forgery due to prescribing at his hospital. He had access to a pad of blank prescriptions, pre-signed by his physician which he then used to write prescriptions to patients for controlled substances.

Board action: Application to practice as a PA is permanently denied.

Professionalism



Professional behavior is a core competency expected of all physicians.



Social Media & Digital Communications

Participation in social media is, for many, a personal activity BUT can often extend into the professional domain.

The Medical Board of Ohio has the authority to discipline for unprofessional behavior relating to the inappropriate use of social media and electronic communication ranging from a letter of concern to the revocation of a license.

Sexual Misconduct

Sexual Misconduct

OAC 4731-26-01 definition:

“conduct that exploits the licensee-patient relationship in a sexual way, whether **verbal or physical**, and may include the **expression of thoughts, feelings, or gestures** that are sexual or that reasonably may be construed by a patient as sexual. Sexual misconduct includes sexual impropriety, sexual contact, or sexual interaction”

This Includes...

- Making comments that are not clinically relevant about or to the patient, including but not limited to, making sexual comments about a patient's body or underclothing, making sexualized or sexually demeaning comments to a patient, criticizing the patient's sexual orientation, or making comments about potential sexual performance
- Soliciting a date or romantic relationship with a patient
- Kissing in a romantic or sexual manner
- Offering to provide health care services, such as drugs, in exchange for sexual favors

And Any Other Behavior that is Defined in OAC 4731-26

Code of Ethics

Sexual or romantic interactions between physicians and third parties may...

- detract from the goals of the patient-physician relationship
- exploit the trust and vulnerability of the third party
- compromise the physician's ability to make objective judgments about the patient's health care, and
- ultimately be detrimental to the patient's well-being

AMA Code of Ethics

9.1.2 Romantic or Sexual Relationships with Key Third Parties

Good Practices for Patient Exams

- If the patient must disrobe, give them enough time to change and use proper draping practices
- Always knock before entering an exam room
- Ask the patient if they would like another person to be present in the room for a sensitive exam or procedure
- Always ensure consent is given before giving an exam
- Pay attention to verbal and non-verbal indications of discomfort from the patient



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY

Case: Social Media

Doctor had a sexually explicit Facebook messaging and text messaging relationship with a patient, though it never developed into a physical relationship

Board action: License suspended for approximately 3 months, 2-year probation and physician patient boundaries course

Senate Bill 109



In December 2024, Governor DeWine signed Senate Bill 109 into law, significantly strengthening the authority of the State Medical Board of Ohio to hold sexually abusive medical professionals accountable.

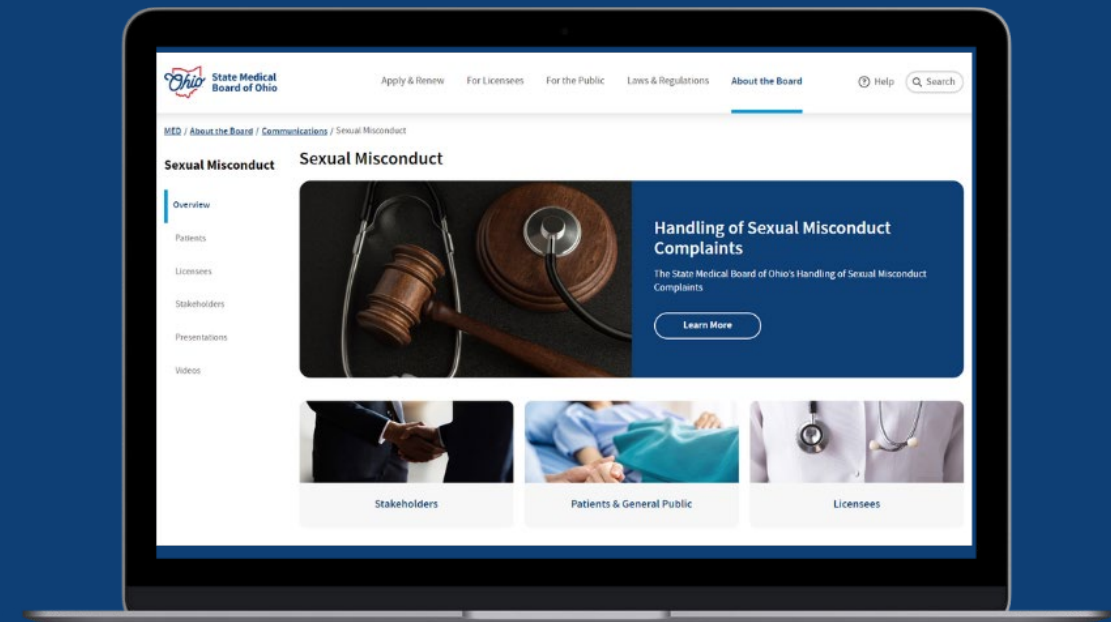
- Makes changes to the criminal code
- Increases reporting requirements
- Authorizes another use of summary suspension
- Provides additional transparency

Sexual Misconduct page

The Medical Board recently launched a resource page to help complainants navigate sexual misconduct issues. Visitors will find various resources targeted at stakeholders, patients and the general public, and licensees.

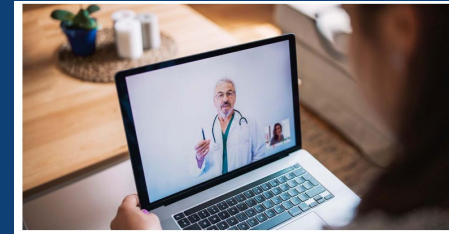
These resources include:

- Presentations
- Videos
- Sexual Misconduct Data
- Human Trafficking information





Telehealth Guidance



Resources

<https://med.ohio.gov/for-the-public/resources/resources>

Transparency

The Medical Board continues to provide increased transparency to the public including reported data for the number of submitted and closed complaints, citations and settlement agreements and allegations of licensee misconduct for a calendar year.

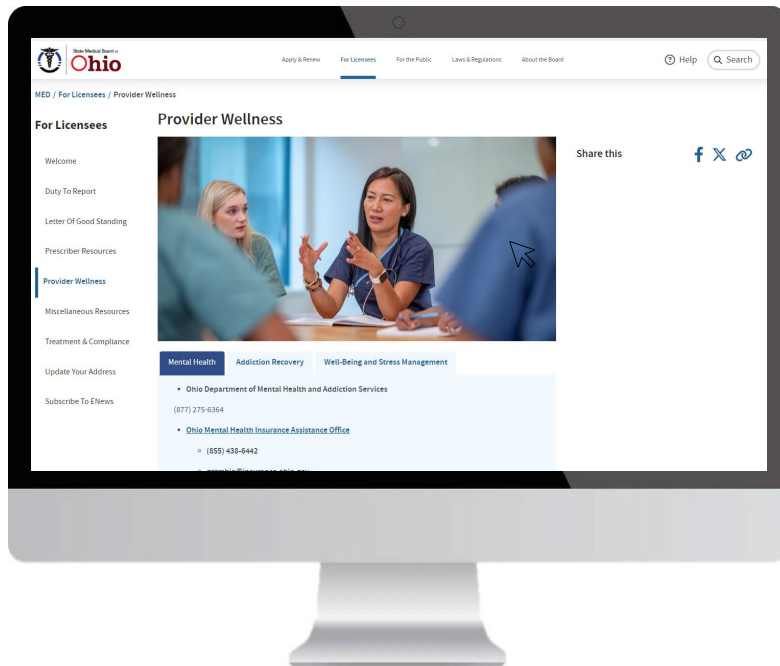
To view the Transparency page, visit med.ohio.gov and click the tab “For the Public.”



Provider Wellness

For Provider Wellness resources, visit med.ohio.gov:

- Mental health
- Addiction recovery
- Stress management



Duty to Report

Duty to Report

Licensees have a personal duty to report to the State Medical Board of Ohio when they believe an individual licensed by the Board has violated the Board's laws or rules including **sexual misconduct, impairment, practice below the minimal standards of care, and improper prescribing of controlled substances.**

Reports of misconduct to supervisors, law enforcement or health care system management do **NOT** fulfill the duty to report to the Board; failure to report could result in formal disciplinary action.



Case: Duty to Report

Doctor knew for almost 3 years that his partner and co-owner of their pain management practice was accused of engaging in sexual misconduct with female patients during medical exams.

He failed to report his partner's inappropriate sexual conduct to the Medical Board.

Board action: Permanent revocation

INVESTIGATIONS

Medical Board revokes license of second doctor at controversial pain clinic

The Ohio Medical Board voted to permanently revoke the medical license of Dr. Robert Geiger.

Author: Tom Meyer
Published: 5:55 PM
Updated: 7:00 PM

MEDICAL BOARD RECORD—35.051474

LICENSE STATUS/DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS—*License Inactive; see [board actions](#) at the bottom of this blog post.*

STOW, Ohio --
Geiger.

Ohio doctor doesn't report pal's sexual abuse, loses license

The action was
former partner.

Rarely do doctors pay the ultimate professional price for keeping quiet about sex abuse. But this spring, the code of silence cost one physician his medical license.

The board said

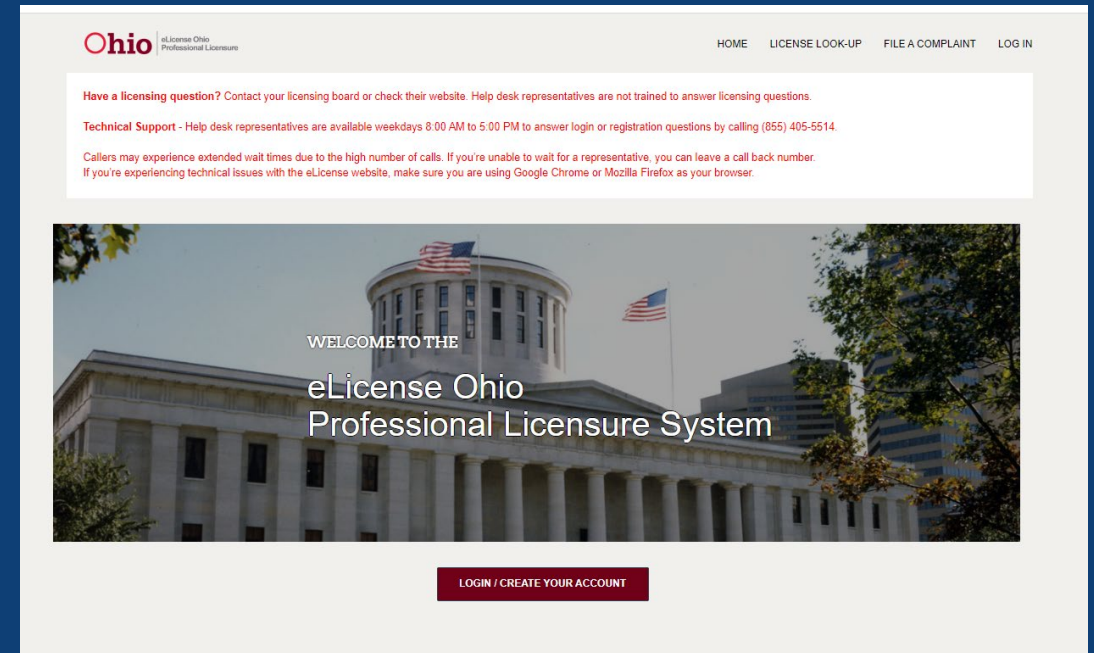
misconduct with his female patients during medical examinations.

Filing a Complaint

Confidential Complaint Hotline
1-833-333-SMBO (7626)



Online
med.ohio.gov



Jacob Lammers

Communications Specialist

State Medical Board
30 E. Broad St. 3rd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
contact@med.ohio.gov
614-466-3934