

February 27, 2024

The North Carolina Medical Board (NCMB) has learned of scammers attempting to defraud physicians and PAs across North Carolina by posing as medical board investigators. Unfortunately, these types of scams are active nationally and target professionals in all fields.

Scammers typically contact professionals by telephone in their workplace. Scammers may incorporate some of the following strategies:

- Use of a "spoofed" telephone number that matches the actual contact number for the North Carolina Medical Board to make the call appear legitimate
- Identifying themselves as a "medical board investigator" or "chief investigator" or similar
- Falsely stating that they are investigating you and plan to suspend your license, unless you pay them money or provide personal information, such as your DEA registration number
- Creating a sense of urgency to encourage prompt compliance with their demands or becoming verbally aggressive when you ask questions or challenge their statements

If you receive a phone call and think it may be fraudulent, here are some steps to take to protect yourself:

- Tell the caller you need to call them back and hang up; then call 919-326-1100 or the number provided below and ask for Chief Investigative Officer Patrick Berckmiller to verify that your license is in good standing.
- Invite the caller to come to your practice to discuss the matter. In the unlikely event that they agree to meet, get a name and title and call NCMB at the numbers provided. Never meet with anyone you have not confirmed is an authorized agent of the North Carolina Medical Board. NCMB staff will always verify the identity of any staff member attempting to contact you, as well as the reason for the contact.

I encourage you to tell your colleagues about these types of scams and share the information in this letter. NCMB is aware of licensees who have fallen victim to scammers. Please help your colleagues protect themselves.

Sincerely,

Patrick Berckmiller, CMBI

Chief Investigative Officer
919-326-1100 x255