

# Getting to know your NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

Protecting the Public, Strengthening the Profession

What is the  
Medical Board?

What does the  
Medical Board do?

The North Carolina Medical Board was established April 15, 1859, “in order to properly regulate the practice of medicine and surgery for the benefit and protection of the people of North Carolina.” It is one of the oldest medical regulatory boards in the country.

[www.ncmedboard.org](http://www.ncmedboard.org) | (800) 253.9653

## Fast Facts about the NC Medical Board

- The Board issues licenses to physicians, physician assistants and certain other medical professionals. It also investigates allegations of incompetence and other misconduct and, where appropriate, takes remedial or disciplinary action.
- The Board currently licenses more than 35,000 practitioners
- The Board consists of 12 members appointed by the Governor, including eight physician members, one member who is either a physician assistant or nurse practitioner and three members representing the general public.
- The Medical Board is a public agency that serves the people of North Carolina, but it is not part of state government and it receives no government funding. The Board's entire operating budget comes from fees paid by its licensees.
- Board meetings and disciplinary hearings are open to the public, though certain committee meetings and other types of proceedings are conducted in closed session.
- Consumers may look up physicians, physician assistants and other medical professionals at [www.ncmedboard.org](http://www.ncmedboard.org) to find information about education, training, licensure history and disciplinary record, if any.
- Consumers who have had problems with a licensee may file a complaint with the Board. The Board reviews complaints about individual practitioners, not about hospitals, clinics or other health care institutions.
- State law authorizes the Board to prosecute violations of the Medical Practice Act, which covers a wide range of misconduct, including behavioral issues and concerns about quality of care.
- Issues that frequently bring licensees to Board attention include: inappropriate prescribing; inappropriate contact with patients; incompetence or providing substandard care; disruptive or unprofessional behavior; abusing patient rights; and abusing alcohol or controlled substances.
- Information about the Board and its work, and other consumer resources can be found on the Board's website. Simply visit [www.ncmedboard.org](http://www.ncmedboard.org)

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