



North Carolina State Board of Chiropractic Examiners **CONNECTION**

SERVING NORTH CAROLINA CITIZENS AND CHIROPRACTIC PROVIDERS

Changes in Continuing Education Requirements

Beginning immediately, the total number of hours required has decreased, with more diverse opportunities to obtain continuing education credits

The Board of Examiners has changed the rules governing continuing education. Total required hours have been reduced, and the activities for which credit will be awarded have been expanded. The following changes take effect immediately:

- 1) The total number of annual required hours is now 18, down from 24.
- 2) The maximum number of hours that can be obtained online is now 8, down from 12.
- 3) Doctors can now earn up to two hours per year for engaging in Professional Development. Professional Development in-

cludes: reading scientific, peer-reviewed professional journals and visiting vendor displays at professional association conventions to become familiar with trends in treatment technologies and new products.

Since there are no course sponsors for Professional Development, this category will be self-reported on the license renewal application form.

Please keep track of the dates and time spent on professional development. Only actual time will be credited, and the total cannot exceed two hours

As always, only courses approved by the Board will count



towards satisfying continuing education requirements. The Board will send out 2016 license renewal application forms on or about December 1, 2015. The changes in continuing education will apply to this year's upcoming renewal.

This Issue

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- 2- Board Office Inspections
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We Need Your Current Email

The Board has been sending out newsletters by regular mail for many years and, like many others organizations, has come to the conclusion that mail is not time efficient or cost effective.

It is the Board's objective to email the newsletter and other announcements to 100% of our licenciates and we are soliciting your current email for this purpose. In that manner, we can get information to our doctors as quickly as possible.

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail, take a moment and send us your email address as soon as possible to carol_hall@ncchiroboard.com, as regular mail from the Board may soon be a thing of the past. If you have a change in your email, let us know as soon as possible. Otherwise, important information that affects your North Carolina licensure may be missed.



The Board of Examiners has proposed a rule to periodically and randomly inspect chiropractic offices in North Carolina for the purpose of assessing compliance with the chiropractic practice act and the rules of the

Chiropractic Facility Inspection Proposed

act as well as the rules of the Board.

Offices will be chosen randomly and not based on suspicion of wrongdoing, although there still can be other inspections if cause is suspected.

At least 30 days' advance written notice will be provided and the inspector will be a chiropractor authorized by the board, but not a nearby com-

petitor. The inspector will employ a published and standardized checklist and will issue a pass or fail grade. Individual patient records will be examined only for the purpose of evaluating formatting, legibility and completeness and quality of care or reasonableness of charges will not be a focus of the visit.

Chiropractic physicians who receive a failing grade will have 30 days to remedy any

problems. If the licensee negligently or willfully fails to correct a problem after exhausting his or her appeal to the Secretary, the physician shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

A provider whose office has been inspected shall not be subject to further random facility inspections for a period of three years thereafter.

Board of Examiners and Other Boards: New Rule to Avoid Conflicts of Interest

For some time, the appropriateness of Board of Examiners members simultaneously serving in an appointed or elected position in a chiropractic trade association has been the focus of discussion.

Most management authorities concede that having regulatory agency members also serving as directors of a trade

association may present issues that could result in actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

For that reason, a new rule has been proposed by the board of examiners to prohibit an examiner from serving as an officer, director, district president or committee chair of any private trade association that exists primarily to advance, promote

and protect the commercial and political interests of the chiropractic profession in North Carolina. This includes but is not limited to the North Carolina Chiropractic Association.

This rule does not prevent an examiner from being a member of a private trade association.



North Carolina State Board of Chiropractic Examiners

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Board Seeks Input on Veterinary Chiropractic

Some chiropractors in North Carolina have provided care for animals at varying levels for years. Some have done so under a formal relationship with veterinarians and others have developed other means of delivering manipulative and other services.

There has been increased interest among some North Carolina Chiropractic doctors in regard to providing more opportunities for animal care

and the board of examiners has had discussion with the North Carolina State Board of Veterinary Medicine about this.

Before any agreement on this topic can be reached, the chiropractic board would like to solicit the thoughts of chiropractic doctors.

The board has composed a short survey that takes about two minutes to complete. It

can be found online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/LHTGV5J (If you are receiving this newsletter electronically, you can hit CTRL and then click on it and you will be taken directly to the survey).

Even if not interested in treating animals, please tell us so at the survey link. All responders can also offer comments.



Demographics in North Carolina

DOCTORS OF CHIROPRACTIC	CERTIFIED CHIROPRACTIC ASSTS.	CA X-RAY CERTIFICATION	X-RAY UNITS
2025 LICENSES (TOTAL)	1491 CCA'S (TOTAL)	571 (TOTAL)	794***
42 PASSED LAST EXAM	77 PASSED LAST EXAM	40 PASSED LAST EXAM	
1714 PRACTICE IN-STATE	530 CA'S WITH ISSUES**		
311 PRACTICE ELSEWHERE	<i>*Cancelled due to non-renewal</i>		
54 RETIREES W/ LICENSES	<i>**190 eligible for grandfathering didn't take exam. 340 are missing documentation.</i>		
78 LICENSES CANCELLED*	<i>*** This figure is 10% less than units owned in 2010. 10% are digital units.</i>		

Improvements and Best Practices for the Board

Recognizing that organizations need self-evaluation, the Board has engaged Laura Bingham with the Newport Board Group to assess its current work and recommend improvements on governance, management succession and operations.

Bingham, who recently inter-

viewed all Board members on a range of issues, is placing the work of the examiners in the context of recent studies by the NC Legislature and Office of State Auditor.

The NC State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, one of 55 licensing boards in the state, now has over 4100 providers to oversee. The volume of

work has nearly doubled with the addition of chiropractic assistant and x-ray technology certifications, and resources to accomplish the Board duties are increasingly constrained.

Bingham is helping reach consensus on and implementing key recommendations, including creating standing

Board committees, web-posting Board actions promptly and making the Board's work more accessible. New approaches to staffing enforcement duties are contemplated, as are changes to the role of the Board Secretary and more frequent and content-rich communication with licentiates.



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Legislative Update

The Board of Examiners has two bills pending in the North Carolina Senate. Rules Committee presently that are of interest to practicing chiropractic doctors.

License renewal fees have not kept up with board expenses for many years and fees are far below those assessed by other similar boards. HB 728 would allow the Board to increase renewal fees up to \$300 and impose fines in disciplinary cases up to \$5000. Any fines would not be kept or used by the Board and must be instead turned over to the state public school fund.

The second bill, HB 729, would require insurance companies to use North Carolina licensed chiropractors to perform paper reviews on chiropractic claims.

As of this writing, the Senate Rules Committee has not met and has no current plans to meet. Presently, there are approximately 450 bills that have not emerged from this committee.

The board's legal counsel, Mr. Vance Kinlaw, has been in contact with a member of this committee to obtain a better viewpoint as to when the logjam might break, but he also was not able to fore-

cast when this might happen, as there likely will be no movement in other areas until the state budget is completed.

Budget negotiations between the Senate and the House began in mid-July and are projected to continue until late September, the longest legislative session in 14 years.



Visit our website at <http://ncchiroboard.com>

The Board's website is currently being updated to include much more information