



# State of Arizona Board of Homeopathic and Integrated Medicine Examiners

## Newsletter

### Spring, 2009

#### President's Letter

##### **Our First Issue**

Welcome to the first issue of the State of Arizona Board of Homeopathic and Integrated Medicine Examiners Newsletter. We plan to send out this newsletter semiannually in the Spring and Fall of each year. It is our hope that this newsletter will improve communications with licensees and registrants, while helping us better serve the public.

##### **Informed Consent**

Board statutes amended in October, 2009 make it an act of unprofessional conduct for failing to obtain informed consent prior to examination or treatment of a patient.

##### **A.R.S. §32-2933.41** states:

*Failing to obtain from a patient before an examination or treatment a signed informed consent that includes language that makes it clear the physician is providing homeopathic medical treatment instead of or in addition to standard conventional allopathic or osteopathic treatment.*

I have written a paper published on the AHIMA website that offers suggestions and guidance about writing informed consent policies. This information is not intended to provide legal advice and does not represent the opinion of the Homeopathic Licensing Board.

<http://www.arizonahomeopathic.org/author/dr-todd-rowe/>

##### **Continuing Medical Education**

Another of the statutory amendments pertains to Continuing Medical Education. Licensees must obtain 20 hours of continuing education in a renewal year.

##### **A.R.S. §32-2915(F)** states:

*Beginning January 1, 2010, each licensee shall include with the renewal form a statement that the licensee has completed at least twenty hours of board approved continuing education in the preceding year. The board shall not renew a license if the licensee does not fully document compliance with this subsection. The board may waive the continuing education requirements of this subsection for a period prescribed by the board if the licensee's noncompliance was due to disability, military service, absence from the United States or circumstances beyond the control of the licensee. If a licensee fails to complete the continuing education requirements of this subsection for any other reason, the board may grant an extension of not more than sixty days. A licensee who fails to comply with the continuing education requirements of this subsection and who has not been granted a waiver pursuant to this subsection commits an act of unprofessional conduct and is subject to probation or licensure suspension or revocation.*

The Board is drafting rules to define acceptable Continuing Medical Education credits. Please see the Approved Continuing Education Course Information in this newsletter and on our website for up to date information about approved courses.

*Todd Rowe, M.D., M.D.(H)*

Dr. Rowe is the president of the State of Arizona Board of Homeopathic and Integrated Medical Examiners. This article reflects the views of the author. Unless noted, it does not necessarily reflect the view of the Board or any other member of the Board.

### **Mission Statement**

The Board's mission is to protect the health, safety and welfare of Arizona citizens by examining, licensing and regulating homeopathic physicians. The Board also registers homeopathic medical assistants that work under the supervision of licensed homeopathic physicians.

### **Board of Homeopathic and Integrated Medicine Examiners**

- Todd Rowe MD, MD(H), CCH, DHT: President (Professional Member)
- Martha Grout MD, MD(H): Vice President: (Professional Member)
- Don Farris: Secretary and Treasurer (Public Member)
- Marie Stika (Public Member)
- Lester Adler MD, MD(H): Professional Member
- David Rupley MD(H): Professional Member

### **Board Staff**

Christine Springer, Executive Director  
(Direct line: 602-542-8154)  
[chris.springer@azhomeopathbd.az.gov](mailto:chris.springer@azhomeopathbd.az.gov)

### **2009 Board Meetings**

May 12, 2009

July 14, 2009

September 8, 2009

November 10, 2009

### **How to Reach Us**

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Phoenix, Arizona 8500

**Phone:** (602) 542-8154

**Fax:** (602) 542-3093

**Email:** [chris.springer@azhomeopathbd.az.gov](mailto:chris.springer@azhomeopathbd.az.gov)

**Website:** [www.azhomeopathbd.az.gov](http://www.azhomeopathbd.az.gov)

### **Did You Change Your Office or Home Address or Phone Number?**

Remember to notify the Board of any changes in home, office address, or

phone number. You may send the information by email or regular mail !

### **A.A.C. R4-38-108 Notification of Address Changes**

*A licensee shall advise the Board in writing within 45 days of opening an additional office address, a change in office address, change in home address, or change in telephone number.*

### **Welcome New Homeopathic Physicians**

**March, 2009:**

- Krystyna Wolski, M.D.

### **Welcome New Homeopathic Medical Assistants**

**January, 2009:**

- Sarah Swerdfeger
- Michelle LaBlonde
- Bonnie Phelps

**March, 2009:**

- Alexander Casler
- Christian Ewelike
- Michele Fanelli
- Mario Fontes
- Sybil Ihrig
- Shenandoah Korn
- Judy Schmitz
- Josephina Tenorio

### **Information About Approved Continuing Education**

- Beginning January 1, 2010 each physician shall indicate in a statement on the renewal form that they have completed 20 hours of board approved continuing education in the previous year.

- Each physician is responsible for keeping a record of their continuing education hours.

- The Board will conduct a random audit each year and request copies of certificates of attendance or other proof of attendance showing that the licensee completed the required hours.

The following coursework received Board approval:

- *Learn Oxidative Therapy* (AHIMA/Westbrook) 1/22/09; 7 hours
- *Ethics & Boundaries*; Dr. Jodi Decker; Flexible; 3 hours
- *Professional Ethics*; Dr. Jodi Decker; Flexible; 4 hours

*\*Contact the Board for information about how to obtain Board approval for a particular course*

### **Board Actions**

At the November, 2008 meeting the Board voted to approve training in *Neural Therapy* as recognized within the *Neuromuscular Integration* modality and included within the scope of practice of the homeopathic medical license.

### **The Board Took the Following Action on Complaints**

*January, 2009*

- Elliott Schmerler MD(H):  
License Surrender

*March, 2009*

- Edward Kondrot MD, MD(H)  
Letter of Concern

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1. What courses will be recognized by the Board to meet CME requirements?**

♦Category One Coursework approved by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education;

♦Homeopathic courses approved by the Council on Homeopathic Education;

#### **The following activities are limited to 10 hours per renewal year:**

♦Serving as an instructor of instructional activities designed to provide understanding of current developments, skills, procedures, or treatments related to allopathic, osteopathic or homeopathic medicine;

♦Publishing a medical paper;

#### **The following types of activity are limited to 6 hours per renewal year:**

♦Self Instruction medical education program;

♦Participation on a staff or quality of care committee, or utilization review committee in a hospital, health care institution, or government agency;

♦Completion of a program approved by the Board designed to provide understanding of current developments, skills, procedures, or treatments related to the practice of homeopathic medicine defined in statute.

Proposed rules to provide guidance to licensees were drafted. Contact the Board to obtain a copy.

### ***Did You Know?***

Recent survey results show the board to be performing with an *excellent to good rating*. Of 112 surveys sent to licensees and new applicants, 28 were returned. If you have comments or concerns please download a survey form and FAX to the Board.

### **Performance Audit Update**

In November, 2009 the Board returns to the Legislature to request a 10 year continuation. All but four of the 2007 performance audit recommendations are implemented. We are *in process* with rules relating to dispensing and continuing education and we have begun the written examination validation process.