This electronic newsletter shall serve as official notice from the Maryland Board of Physicians. It is the responsibility of every licensee to read and understand the contents of this newsletter...





2024

Fall 2024

#### **FEATURED**

- Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program
- Limited X-Ray Machine Operators Registration
- Beware of Scam Callers
   Claiming to be the Board of Physicians
- Expedited Licensure for Physician Assistants (PAs)

#### **ALSO THIS MONTH**



#### <u>Upcoming License Renewals</u>

- Licenses for the following allied health practitioners will expire on April 30, 2025:
  - Nuclear Medicine Technologists
  - Radiation Therapists
  - Radiation Therapists/Radiographers
  - Radiographers
  - Radiologist Assistants
- Licenses for polysomnographic technologists will expire on May 30, 2025.



The Board no longer accepts paper initial licensure applications for RTs. The initial online RT application is available <a href="here">here</a>. The Board is in the process of

### Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program



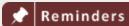
Are you interested in expanding healthcare access in underserved communities in Maryland? The Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants (MLARP) is an excellent opportunity to do just that! MLARP's intent is to improve the recruitment and retention of the health professional workforce, especially in areas of Maryland experiencing professional shortages.

MLARP provides healthcare professionals with higher education loan repayment assistance in exchange for a service commitment at an eligible practice site. This opportunity provides physicians, physician assistants, and final year medical residents with up to \$100,000 in loan repayment grants, dependent on licensure/certification.

The next annual application period for MLARP is from March 1, 2025, through April 15, 2025. The application process is competitive, with a technical scoring process based on State and Federal priorities and funding availability. Click here to learn more.

Coming Soon Limited X-Ray Machine Operators Registration

transitioning all allied health practitioners' paper applications to online applications.



#### Keep Your Email Address Updated

All licensees are reminded to maintain a current email address. Having the correct email address on file is essential for licensees to receive important notifications from the Board, including renewal notifications. To update your email address, log into your <u>Practitioner Profile</u>.

#### PA Advanced Duty Workgroup

As a result of the Physician Assistant Modernization Act of 2024, the Board is holding a workgroup meeting on November 6th to review and update the list of advanced duties for physician assistants (Appendix A). The workgroup will include Board staff, MdAPA, the Physician Assistant Education Association, and physician assistant education programs in Maryland. Please register here if you are interested in participating in the workgroup.

<u>Physician Assistant Modernization Act</u> <u>- Changes Started Oct 1st, 2024</u>



During the 2024 session of the Maryland General Assembly, the <u>Physician</u>
<u>Assistant Modernization Act of 2024</u> was passed and went into effect on October 1, 2024. This legislation substantially changed the requirements for physician assistants and may impact physicians in Maryland. This includes but is not limited to:

• transitioning from delegation agreements to collaboration

Effective January 1, 2025, the Board will be implementing a registration for Limited X-Ray Machine Operators (LXMOs). Individuals who meet the qualifications and register with the Board will be authorized to perform certain X-ray examinations of the chest, spine, lower extremities, and upper extremities under the supervision of a Maryland-licensed physician or radiologic technologist. A supervising physician or radiologic technologist must be on-site or able to provide immediately available supervision. FAQs and other guiding documents are expected to be posted on the website at the end of October 2024. Check the Board's website periodically for updates.

## Beware of Scam Callers Claiming to be the Board of Physicians

Licensees should be aware of an ongoing scam in which a scammer calls claiming to be the Chief Investigating Officer from the Maryland Board of Physicians. The caller claims there are pending charges related to a Maryland license. The caller can "spoof" the Maryland Board of Physicians phone number, which means the number that appears on your caller ID may match the legitimate Board phone number. The Federal Trade Commission has offered tips on how to avoid a scam.

# New Expedited Licensure for Physician Assistants (PAs): Reciprocity and Endorsement

There are two new expedited licensing processes available now for physician assistants:

• Licensure by Endorsement - Available Now

- agreements;
- transitioning from a supervising physician to patient care team physicians; and
- altering the advanced duty approval process, including introducing a variety of exemptions.

The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MdAPA), the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA), and the Board hosted a webinar in September 2024 to assist with the transition. For more information on the webinar, please contact MdAPA. FAQs can be found here, and additional resources, including a Collaboration Agreement sample and other guiding documents, can be found here (select "physician assistant").

## BOARD EMAIL ADDRESSES

General Inquiries | Policy Questions | Licensure Inquiries: mbpmail@rcn.com

Matters regarding Maryland licensure through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact: <a href="mailto:mbp\_compact@maryland.gov">mbp\_compact@maryland.gov</a>

Physician Drug Dispensing Permits: mdh.mbpdrugdispense@maryland.gov

## BOARD LINKS OF INTEREST

Practitioner Profiles
Laws and Regulations
Recent Board Actions | Sanctions
Applications | Forms
Board Members



Under licensure by endorsement, the Board will accept PA licensure from another state as sufficient evidence that the applicant

has met some or all of the requirements for PA licensure in Maryland. Additional eligibility requirements include good moral character, no disciplinary actions, and fulfillment of any additional Maryland-specific requirements. A criminal background check, including fingerprints, is required.

• Licensure by Reciprocity - Available Now



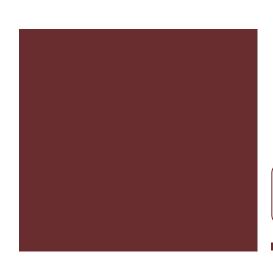




Under licensure by reciprocity, Maryland will accept PA licenses from Virginia and D.C. as sufficient evidence that the applicant has met Maryland PA licensure requirements. To be eligible, applicants must have good moral character, no disciplinary action, and meet any additional Maryand-specific requirements. PAs licensed in Maryland may also apply for licensure in Virginia or D.C. through licensure by reciprocity.

If you are interested in starting the process for licensure by endorsement or licensure by reciprocity, please keep in mind some important information about expedited licensing:

- Expedited licensure is restricted to PA applicants who have never been issued a Maryland license.
- Applicants must meet the requirements for the expedited pathway selected.
- Applicants must complete the screening questions and the online application.
- Applicants must submit the payment of the application review and processing fee.
   Payment 1: Application review and processing fee of \$100.00
- If the application is approved, the applicant must sign in and make the second payment of the monthly licensure fee. <u>Payment 2:</u> Prorated \$5 monthly licensure fee assessed from the month of license application



- approval to the month of license expiration. The prorated licensure fee will not exceed \$220.
- There are **no refunds** if the Board determines that the applicant does not qualify for the expedited pathway selected.

More information on expedited licensing can be found <u>here</u>.