



OLR RESEARCH REPORT

May 19, 2011

2011-R-0230

QUESTIONS FOR MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD NOMINEE-PHYSICIAN MEMBER

By: John Kasprak, Senior Attorney

Connecticut Medical Examining Board (CGS § 20-8a)

The board, which is within the Department of Public Health (DPH), must (1) hear and decide matters concerning suspension or revocation of a practitioner's license, (2) adjudicate complaints against practitioners, and (3) impose sanctions where appropriate. The board must refer all statements of charges filed with the board by DPH to a medical hearing panel within 60 days of receiving the charges. The board then reviews the proposed final decisions of the medical hearing panels. It may adopt, modify, or remand the decisions for further review or the taking of additional evidence.

QUESTIONS

1. What do you consider the primary role and function of the Medical Examining Board? Is the board's primary responsibility to the medical community, consumers of health care, others?
2. Do you believe that the board, as currently structured, funded and administered, is able to meet its statutory duties?

3. How do you view the relationship between the board and DPH? Do you see any need for changes in this relationship?
4. What particular expertise do you bring to the board?
5. The board is sometimes criticized for failure to discipline physicians in a timely and appropriate manner. How do you react to this? What should be the board's approach in its oversight and review of physician performance?
6. What are your views on the program that allows physicians, with the consent of DPH, to participate in appropriate rehabilitation programs?
7. The issues of “medical error” and “health care quality improvement” have received a great deal of attention in recent years. What can medical practitioners do to minimize medical error and improve the overall quality of health care delivery in the state? What role, if any, can the board play in this? What are your views on electronic medical records, particularly – in regard to preventing medical error and enhancing quality?
8. How does your practice or institution address complaints related to the performance and possible discipline of a physician?

JK:ts