

Application for a New or Renewal of Medical License

Overview

The Board of Medical Examiners (BME) was created in 1901 by an act of the State Legislature. Its mission is to protect the health, safety and welfare of people in the State of Tennessee. The Board

- awards licenses to qualified candidates who have graduated from approved medical schools and who have completed appropriate postgraduate work;
- interprets the laws, rules, and regulations to determine the appropriate standards of practice in an effort to ensure the highest degree of professional conduct;
- is responsible for the investigation of alleged violations of the Practice Act and rules; and
- is responsible for the discipline of licensees who are found guilty of such violations.

New Initiative

As the BME moves into the third decade of the 21 Century, it is seeking to become more proactive in its supportive interactions with the more than 23,000 health care professionals who comprise its membership. This new initiative will take shape on several fronts, the first of which will be in its licensing renewal process and the language found within the applications.

The Board recognizes that licensees encounter health conditions, including those involving mental health and substance use disorders, just as their patients and other health care providers do. Nonetheless, the Board expects its licensees to proactively address such concerns to ensure patient safety. Options include

- seeking medical care,
- self-limiting the licensee's medical practice, and
- anonymous self-referral to the Tennessee Medical Foundation (www.tmf.org), a physician advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and wellness of medical professionals in a confidential manner or other appropriate organizations.

The failure to adequately address a health condition, where the licensee is unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients, can result in Board discipline against the license to practice medicine.

Licensees who have or may develop mental health challenges can take a free, confidential and anonymous self-screening to evaluate their condition and connect with help as needed. Visit the Tennessee Professional Screening Questionnaire (TN PSQ) at <https://tn.providerwellness.org/welcome.cfm>. This service is not provided by the BME but is open to all licensees.

As you complete the application process, we are hopeful you will carefully consider the modifications in the language of the information required. Please provide thorough and appropriate responses for all questions with the understanding that the new language within the application will offer more complete safeguards to the applicant through the opportunity for anonymity and confidentiality.

You must initial that you have read and understand the above to complete the application.

_____ Initial