

# OREGON BOARD OF OPTOMETRY BOARD BULLETIN



Board Newsletter

November 2015

## Recreational Marijuana & Your License

Change is inevitable and some changes may impact your license to practice optometry. As you know, Oregon legalized recreational marijuana use. If you use marijuana, please keep in mind the effect it could have on your license. Marijuana can cause impairment, which can affect patient care. Any reports of impaired use are investigated by the Board and can lead to discipline. The following statement is being added to the Board's website related to marijuana use.



*"Given that the use of cannabis was legalized in Oregon as of July 1, 2015, the Oregon Board of Optometry wants to reiterate to our licensees that you are expected to practice with professional skill and safety at all times. Any marijuana use while practicing can and will be investigated for possible impairment in the workplace."*

*High quality  
Oregon patient  
care is our  
number one  
priority at the Ore-  
gon Board of  
Optometry*

## Updating your Record

Oregon law requires you to maintain a current mailing address and phone number with the Board. The Board is requesting that you maintain a current email address. The Board is moving to more electronic communications, so email will be critical to communicate with licensees. Here are some reminders:

- Any new practice location must be reported to the Board in writing **prior to** seeing patients there.
- The Board must have a valid physical address (for legal notices) and phone number at all times.
- All practice locations must be reported in writing to the Board prior to seeing patients at the location.

Updated information can be sent via fax, U.S. mail or email—please specify if it's a mailing or practice address update. If you use email, please use the electronic signature to validate that it's you. An electronic signature is comprised of your legal name, license number and the last 4 digits of your social security number.

### In This Issue

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- Rule Changes
- Online services & credit card payments
- Background checks, arrests & discipline
- Board statistics



## Email Renewal Forms & Credit Card Payment

If your license expired on or after October 31, 2015, you may have noticed a change. The Board has started sending renewal notices via email if we have a valid email address on file for you. The advantage of email is that you have the option to pay your renewal fees by credit card.

If you have other fees due to the Board that you'd like to pay via credit card, call Debbie. She can email you an invoice that has a link to the credit card payment system.

This is the first step to the Board moving to online license renewal and payment. Stay tuned for more changes. The Board will also keep paper processes for those of you who do not want to use an online system.



**NEW WEB SITE COMING SOON!**



## Rule Change update

The Board has updated its rules to reflect the legislative change that affected ODs' opportunities to prescribe hydrocodone products. The rules reflect new language that makes it clear that Oregon ODs can prescribe Schedule II hydrocodone-combination drugs. Another update was to specify Board compensation in rule to comply with ORS 683.250(4). Lastly, the Board created a public records process with associated fees. This clarifies for interested parties how records can be requested, how records will be prepared and accessed, and the associated fees. Due to the amount of staff time and costs involved, there will be fees assessed after the first 15 minutes of agency staff time for records research and production. Another rule change added a \$25 agency processing fee for any returned checks.

## Proposed Rule Changes

At their November 6th meeting the Board approved moving forward with a new online database system. In order to prepare for the changes related to moving forward with the online system, the Board directed staff to commence with rule making on several topics:

- 1) Allowing attestation and audit for CE hours. At audit, original CE documents will be required to verify CE hours reported.
- 2) Moving forward with national background checks for new applicants as of April 1, 2016.
- 3) At renewal, licensees will attest to CPR certification.

## Board Members

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President, Grants Pass

**Molly Cardenal, OD**  
Vice President, Portland

**Jessica Lynch, OD**  
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# BOARD MEETING

## Board Activities

As of October 31, 2015 the Board had the following licensee counts:

Active Licenses	800	Inactive Licenses	448
2015 new applications to date	14		
2015 new licenses issued	15		

Discipline Cases for 2015:

New complaints	9	New complaints reviewed	4
Complaints resolved & closed	1		
Complaints resolved with no discipline	1		

## Background Checks and Arrests

Just as a reminder, if you are arrested or are disciplined by another optometry licensing board, you are required to report that information to the Oregon Board of Optometry. Here are the related statutes:

ORS 683.140(1)(a) gives the Board authority to discipline for a conviction related to the practice of optometry. Your duty is to report and then the Board may request more information about the arrest .

ORS 683.140(1)(o) allows the Board to take disciplinary action if a licensee has a discipline report by any health regulatory board of another state.

ORS 676.150(3) requires licensees to report an arrest or conviction within 10 days.

OAR 852-010-0015(3)(k) requires licensees to have a criminal records check per OAR 852-050-0025.

When in doubt, call our Executive Director and discuss your situation.

# Online Services

In early 2016 the Board will be implementing a new online licensing system. The system will allow licensees to renew licenses online and pay via credit card. We know that not everyone will want to use the online system, so paper renewal will still be an option.

The goal of the online system is to allow licensees to make updates to your records and ensure that the Board always has accurate information on file for you. The new system will also track approved Oregon CE hours and allow licensees to report completed CE. There are details that will be worked out as the Board works with the vendor, so watch for more information as the system is rolled out.

## Email addresses are critical

Moving to more online services means that the Board needs to have a current email address on file for you. By having a current email address, the Board can contact you with the newsletter, license renewal information and other services. The Board will always ensure that those of you who do not have current email addresses will receive the same information, but email is faster, easier and less expensive.

Licensing Optometrists in Oregon since 1905

### Oregon Board of Optometry

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