



Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure Newsletter

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Spring 2025

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Reminder on Physician Self-Treatment or Treatment of Immediate Family Members

One of the common mistakes the members of the Board review on a regular basis centers on physicians and their self-treatment or treatment of immediate family members. Due to this fact, the Board would like to remind all physicians that according to the American Medical Association's Code of Medical Ethics, physicians generally should not treat themselves or members of their immediate families. Professional objectivity may be compromised when an immediate family member or the physician is a patient; the physician's personal feelings may unduly influence his/her medical judgment, interfering with the care provided. When treating themselves or immediate family members, physicians may be inclined to treat problems that are beyond their expertise.

In emergency or isolated settings where there is no other qualified physician available, physicians should not hesitate to treat themselves or family members until another physician becomes available. However, it is important to note that **it is not appropriate for physicians to write prescriptions for controlled substances for themselves or immediate family members.**

Unfortunately, the Board has recently reviewed several cases involving allegations that physicians were self-prescribing a controlled substance, such as testosterone, for themselves or an immediate family member. Physicians are strongly encouraged to become familiar with drugs that may be scheduled as controlled substances in Kentucky. A list of all controlled substances (Schedule II-V) in Kentucky can be found at KentuckyScheduledDrugList.pdf.

The Board routinely enforces principles of the AMA Code of Medical Ethics discouraging physicians from treating themselves or members of their "immediate family." The Board, at its June 2024 meeting, amended its definition to the following: "Immediate Family" is defined as "husband or wife; natural or adoptive parent; child, or sibling; stepparent, stepchild, stepbrother, or stepsister; father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law; grandparent or grandchild; spouse of a grandparent or grandchild; and any person residing in the same residence as the licensee."

Board Mourns the Loss of Former Board President

The Board would like to extend its condolences to the family of Preston P. Nunnelley, M.D., who passed away on April 15, 2025. As many physicians throughout the Commonwealth are aware, Dr. Nunnelley served on the Board for 24 years, making countless contributions to the Commonwealth during his distinguished career. Among his many roles, he chaired the Board's Inquiry/Hearing Panel for 10 years and Board President for nine years. In 2017, he was awarded the John H. Clark Leadership award from the Federation of State Medical Boards recognizing him for his outstanding and exemplary leadership, commitment and contribution to advancing the public good at the state medical board level.

Dr. Nunnelley had an extremely successful OB/GYN practice in Lexington where he practiced for over 40 years, before he retired to take on the administrative responsibility as Chief Medical Officer of then Central Baptist Hospital. In addition to his role with the Board, Dr. Nunnelley also served as president of what was then the Fayette County Medical Society, and President of the Kentucky Medical Association, just to name a few of his accomplishments.

Dr. Nunnelley's passion for public service and medicine was evident in everything he touched throughout his life. The positive impact of his contributions to the citizens of the Commonwealth and medical community truly cannot be expressed into words. The Board honors his memory and again offers our thoughts and prayers to his wife, Lucille and their wonderful family during this time.

Board Orders can be viewed under the Physician Profile/
Verification of License link on the Board's website:
www.kbml.ky.gov

Board Action Report (actions taken since 01/01/2025)

Samrath Bhimani, M.D. Prospect, KY License #58180
Order Terminating Emergency Order of Restriction
issued 2/14/2025

Jean O'Nan Bramer, M.D., Louisville, KY License #32399
Order Terminating Emergency Order of Restriction
issued 3/25/2025

Jason L. Chertoff, M.D., Lexington, KY License #60634
Agreed Order entered into 3/21/2025

Gina Gee-Hee Chung, M.D. Cincinnati, OH License #51860
Order Terminating Emergency Order of Restriction
issued 2/18/2025

Nicholas A. Crawford, D.O. Farmington, MI License #C2451
Order Terminating Emergency Order of
Restriction issued 2/21/2025

Helena Do, D.O., Nicholasville, KY License #05850
Agreed Order entered into 3/06/2025

David P. Easley, M.D., Louisville, KY License #22832
Agreed Order entered into 3/17/2025

Dawn L. Falco, M.D., Peabody, MA License #28802
Order Reinstating Suspended License issue
2/26/2025

Richard K. Gaines, M.D., Boca Raton, FL License #43284
Order Reinstating Suspended License issued
1/15/2025

Michael S. Gainey, M.D., Georgetown, KY License #22283
Agreed Order of Permanent Surrender issued
3/20/2025

Thierry Jacquemin, D.O. Miami, FL License #05360
Order Terminating Emergency Order of Restriction
issued 2/17/2025

Ahmed M. Khan, D.O., Binghamton, NY License #05912
Agreed Order entered into 3/13/2025

Ajay Jani, M.D. Leesburg, GA License #56756
Order Terminating Emergency Order of Restriction
issued 2/18/2025

Narendranath Lakshmipathy, M.D. Perrysburg, OH License
#54718
Order Terminating Emergency Order of Restriction
issued 2/21/2025

Kiernan H. Morrow, M.D., Beachwood, OH License #51933
Order Dismissing Complaint issued 3/20/2025

Stephen M. Pickstone, M.D. Fairfax, VA License #C2596
Order Terminating Emergency Order of Restriction
issued 2/24/2025

Thomas A. Ricke, M.D., Floyds Knobs, IN License #C2349
Agreed Order entered into 2/03/2025

Thomas A. Ricke, M.D., Floyds Knobs, IN License #C2349
Order Terminating Agreed Order issued 2/06/2025

Santu Saha, M.D. Paducah, KY License #56892
Order Terminating Emergency Order of Restriction
issued 2/18/2025

Mark A Secor, M.D., Berea, KY License #23629
Agreed Order entered into 3/13/2025

Christopher M. Smith, M.D., Prospect KY License #43824
Default and Final Order issued 3/24/2025

Nolan S. Smith, M.D., Louisville, KY License #R6838
Order Terminating Agreed Order issued 3/26/2025

Miljan Stankovic, M.D. New York, NY License #55393
Order Terminating Emergency Order of Restriction
issued 2/18/2025

Eric L. Stewart, M.D., Owensboro, KY License #R6518
Order Terminating Emergency Order of Restriction
issued 3/05/2025

Matthew D. Stone, M.D. Bowling Green, KY License #56961
Order Terminating Emergency Order of Restriction
issued 2/17/2025

Bianca Ummat, M.D. Louisville, KY License #51605
Order Terminating Emergency Order of Restriction
issued 2/18/2025

**Restrictions have also been placed on the following
physicians' licenses pending resolution of charges
brought against them.**

Samrath Bhimani, M.D. Prospect, KY License #58180
Complaint and Emergency Order of Restriction issued
2/12/2025, effective 2/13/2025

Jean O'Nan Bramer, M.D. Louisville, KY License #32399
Complaint and Emergency Order of Restriction issued
2/12/2025, effective 2/13/2025

Gina Gee-Hee Chung, M.D. Cincinnati, OH License #51860
Complaint and Emergency Order of Restriction issued
2/12/2025, effective 2/14/2025

Nicholas A. Crawford, D.O. Farmington, MI License #C2451
Complaint and Emergency Order of Restriction issued
2/12/2025, effective 2/12/2025

Thierry Jacquemin, D.O. Miami, FL License #05360
Complaint and Emergency Order of Restriction issued
2/13/2025, effective 2/14/2025

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Restrictions have also been placed on the following physicians' licenses pending resolution of charges brought against them.

Ajay Jani, M.D. Leesburg, GA License #56756

Complaint and Emergency Order of Restriction issued 2/17/2025, effective 2/17/2025

Narendranath Lakshminpathy, M.D. Perrysburg, OH License #54718

Complaint and Emergency Order of Restriction issued 2/13/2025, effective 2/13/2025

Norman V. Lewis, M.D., Louisville, KY License #15527

Order Suspending License Pursuant to 201 KAR 9:310 issued 11/20/2024, effective 1/04/2025

Kiernan H. Morrow, M.D. Beachwood, Ohio License #51933

Complaint and Emergency Order of Suspension issued 1/02/2025, effective 1/06/2025

Aman K. Patel, D.O. Keller, Texas License #C0692

Complaint and Emergency Order of Suspension issued 1/22/2025, effective 1/29/2025

Stephen M. Pickstone, M.D. Fairfax, VA License #C2596

Complaint and Emergency Order of Restriction issued 2/13/2025, effective 2/18/2025

Santu Saha, M.D. Paducah, KY License #56892

Complaint and Emergency Order of Restriction issued 2/13/2025, effective 2/13/2025

Miljan Stankovic, M.D. New York, NY License #55393

Complaint and Emergency Order of Restriction issued 2/13/2025, effective 2/13/2025

Eric L. Stewart, M.D. Owensboro, KY License #R6518

Complaint and Emergency Order of Restriction issued 2/14/2025, effective 3/01/2025

Matthew D. Stone, M.D. Bowling Green, KY License #56961

Complaint and Emergency Order of Restriction issued 2/14/2025, effective 2/14/2025

Bianca Ummat, M.D. Louisville, KY License #51605

Complaint and Emergency Order of Restriction issued 2/14/2025, effective 2/14/2025

Notice of Proposed (Not Yet Final) KBML Regulation(s) PENDING 201 KAR 9:270. Professional standards for prescribing, dispensing, or administering Buprenorphine-Mono-Product or Buprenorphine-Combined-with-Naxolone

A public hearing on administrative regulation 201 KAR 9:270 shall be held on Friday, June 27, 2025 at 9:00 am, using the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure Zoom meeting room. A Zoom link will be posted on the agency's website prior to the meeting.

If you do not wish to be heard at the public hearing, you may submit written comments on the proposed administrative regulation. Written comments previously submitted will be considered and new comments shall be accepted through June 30, 2025. Please send written notifications of intent to be heard at the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to the contact person. CONTACT Person: Leanne K. Diakov, General Counsel, Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure, 310 Whittington Parkway, Suite 1B, Louisville, KY 40222, fax (502) 429-7118, email – leanne.diakov@ky.gov.

How to Request a Board Opinion

According to KRS 311.602, in order to assist a Kentucky licensed physician in determining what actions would constitute unacceptable conduct under the provisions of KRS 311.595, the physician may request an opinion of the Board by written request. Upon receipt of a licensee's request, it is presented to the Board at one of its quarterly Board meetings for consideration. Please note the Board does keep a permanent record of all the requests made and their response. While these opinions are not statute, they are extremely important as their primary purpose is to assist physicians in determining what actions would constitute unacceptable conduct under the Medical Practice Act.

You can find a listing of published Board Opinions on our website at: [Opinion and Policy Statements - Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure](#). You may also contact our Legal Department for information as well.

Food and Drug Administration Concerns with Unapproved GLP-1 Drugs Used for Weight Loss

The FDA recently issued correspondence to the Federation of State Medical Boards to bring to the attention of state medical boards information related to compounded drug products containing retatrutide, some of which claim to treat chronic weight management, diabetes, and related conditions. FDA believes that health care professionals should be advised about the current regulatory status of compounded retatrutide.

Sections 503A and 503B of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) describe the conditions that must be satisfied for compounded human drug products to be exempt from certain sections of the FD&C Act, including the requirements of premarket approval and labeling with adequate directions for use. Among the conditions of sections 503A and 503B are restrictions on the bulk drug substances (active pharmaceutical ingredients or APIs) that may be used to compound human drug products.

One of the conditions that must be met for a compounded drug product to qualify for the exemptions under section 503A of the FD&C Act is that a licensed pharmacist in a State licensed pharmacy or a Federal facility, or a licensed physician, compounds the drug product using bulk drug substances that: (1) comply with the standards of an applicable United States Pharmacopeia (USP) or National Formulary (NF) monograph, if a monograph exists, and the USP chapter on pharmacy compounding; (2) if such a monograph does not exist, are drug substances that are components of drugs approved by the Secretary; or (3) if such a monograph does not exist and the bulk drug substance is not a component of a drug approved by FDA, appear on a list developed by FDA through regulation ("503A Bulks List") (section 503A(b)(1)(A)(i) of the FD&C Act). Retatrutide is not the subject of an applicable USP or NF monograph, is not a component of an FDA-approved drug product, and does not appear on the 503A Bulks List. Therefore, compounded retatrutide products would not at this time qualify for the exemptions under section 503A of the FD&C Act.

One of the conditions that must be met for a drug product compounded by an outsourcing facility to qualify for the exemptions under section 503B of the FD&C Act, is that the outsourcing facility does not compound drug products using a bulk drug substance unless: (1) the bulk drug substance appears on a list established by the Secretary identifying bulk drug substances for which there is a clinical need ("503B Bulks List"), or (2) the drug product compounded from such bulk drug substance appears on FDA's drug shortage list in effect under section 506E at the time of compounding, distribution and dispensing (section 503B(a)(2)(A)(i) and (ii) of the FD&C Act). Retatrutide does not appear on the 503B Bulks List, nor does it appear on FDA's drug shortage list. Therefore, compounded retatrutide products would not at this time qualify for the exemptions under section 503B of the FD&C Act.

Additionally, FDA has warned companies that have illegally sold unapproved drugs containing retatrutide and other ingredients that are falsely labeled "for research purposes" or "not for human consumption." These products have been sold directly to consumers for human use with dosing instructions. The agency recommends that consumers not purchase these products which are of unknown quality and may be harmful to their health and encourages health care providers to discuss this issue with their patients.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Office of Compounding Quality and Compliance at compounding@fda.hhs.gov. In addition, the **Board strongly encourages all of its licensees to review the attached link from FDA** for all updated information on their concerns on this important issue: [FDA's Concerns with Unapproved GLP-1 Drugs Used for Weight Loss | FDA](#)

Help Protect Your Practice – Review Your Prescribing Report Card

One of the best ways to help protect your practice is to review your personal KASPER Prescriber Report card on a regular basis. The Kentucky Cabinet for Health & Family Services provides this important resource and expanded the information that is available to help physicians monitor their controlled substances prescribing and actually compare your prescribing practices with physicians in same specialty throughout the Commonwealth. KASPER Prescriber Report Cards are available on a quarterly basis and annual (calendar year) basis. A copy of the user guide for this option is now available at the following link: <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/os/oig/dai/deppb/Documents/KASPERPrescriberReportCardUserGuide.pdf>

To simplify access, KASPER prescriber master account holders have the option to authorize one or more of their delegates to request an electronic or hardcopy of the prescriber report card on their behalf. Prescribers with multiple DEA licenses should contact the KASPER Help Desk to add them to their account so they will be included in the prescriber report card calculations.

The Board strongly encourages all physicians who are authorized to prescribe controlled substances to take advantage of this information and periodically run obtain a reverse KASPER report to determine whether there may be any diversion taking place in the office setting.

Board and Criminal Action Reporting Requirement

The Board would like to remind its licensees that like many states, it has a mandatory reporting requirement for criminal actions and disciplinary actions in other states.

According to 201 KAR 9:081, every person licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy within the Commonwealth of Kentucky shall report to the board any criminal conviction or plea of guilt, nolo contendere, or Alford plea to any criminal charges, regardless of adjudication, within ten (10) days of the entry of judgment of conviction or the entry of the plea, entered into in any state. As part of this reporting, the licensee shall provide a copy of the judgment of conviction or plea documents.

In addition, the regulation requires that every person licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy within the Commonwealth of Kentucky shall report to the board within ten (10) days of receipt, notice of any disciplinary action taken or sanction imposed upon the person's license in any state, including surrendering a license or placing a license into inactive or retired status to resolve a pending licensing investigation. As part of this reporting requirement, the licensee shall provide a copy of the order issued by or entered into with the other licensing board. Please note that failure to report a criminal conviction or plea, or action taken by another licensing board, as required of an applicant by paragraphs (a) through (c) of this subsection, shall constitute a violation of KRS 311.595(9) and (12).

**Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure
310 Whittington Parkway, Suite 1B
Louisville, KY 40222**

Change of Address Notice

All information provided below is used to update the licensee's profile on the Board's website www.kbml.ky.gov.

You may also change your address online by clicking [here](#).

Date: _____ License Number: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Practice Address: _____

Practice County: _____

Office Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

*The Board does not publish your email address.