

## Experiences of U.S. Medical Regulatory Authorities During COVID-19

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June 12, 2022 Helsinki, Finland



## Federation of State Medical Boards

- Non-profit national organization, established in 1912
- Represents all 70 state and territorial licensing boards in the U.S.A. that license physicians (MD and DO), physician assistants (PA) and other health care practitioners (e.g., EMTs)
- Corporate Office in Eules, Texas
- Advocacy Office in Washington, DC
- Services: USMLE, FCVS, Physician Data Center, health policy development, advocacy and education



## SARS-CoV-2 Virus, a Novel Coronavirus



As captured with Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), "Detailed structure of SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus"

## Three Warnings at the Outset

The New York Times

Is America Ready for Another Outbreak?

By Adam Lipton and Michael S. Schmidt

Published 12/15/2019



1st warning: Not



2nd warning: Not



3rd warning: Not

Yale University School of Medicine

## FSMB Pandemic Response Task Force Established February 25, 2020

- Humayun Chaudhry, DO, MS (Interim Chair)
- Anne Lawler, JD
- CAPT Robin Hunter Buskey, DHSc, PA-C
- Susan Ksiazek, RPh, DPH (NABP)
- L. Blanton Marchese
- Frank Meyers, JD
- Jacqueline Watson, DO, MBA
- Janelle Rhyne, MD, MA
- Katherine Thomas, MN, RN (NCSBN)
- Scott Steingard, DO
- Patricia King, MD, PhD
- Cheryl Walker-McGill, MD, MBA
- Kandis McClure, JD, MPH (FSMB Staff)

## FSMB Response to COVID-19

- We mobilized **data and advocacy** resources to assist states and territories in their efforts to **quickly** increase health care workforce capacity
- We provided **free access** to our **Physician Data Center (PDC)** to enable hospitals to quickly/accurately verify medical licenses
- We created an *Ad Hoc Task Force on Pandemic Preparedness* (later renamed *Pandemic Response*)
- We developed a **COVID-19 website** ([www.fsmb.org](http://www.fsmb.org)) with state-by-state details on licensure waivers & other resources
- We released **recommendations** for licensure portability during COVID-19

## State and Territorial Responses to COVID-19

- The states and territories have shown **extraordinary flexibility** by temporarily **waiving** or **modifying** medical licensure requirements to meet healthcare workforce needs:
  - 49 states have modified medical licensure requirements and/or renewals for out of state health care professionals
  - 45 states have modified in-state medical licensure requirements for telehealth from other states
  - 33 states have expedited licensure for retired or inactive physicians
  - 29 states are part of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
  - 11 states are allowing early MD and DO graduates to provide care under the supervision of a licensed physician before July 1

## "COVID-19 Junior Physician"



## Coalition for Physician Accountability



## Coalition for Physician Accountability April 9, 2020

- The FSMB partnered with leaders of the AMA, AOA, CMSS, AAMC, AACOM, ACCME, ACGME, ECFMG, LCME, NBME, and NBOME to issue a consensus statement:

We support "strengthened efforts that must be in place to safeguard the public and... protect our nation's health care workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic so they remain able to meet the public's needs."

## AOA House of Delegates July 18, 2020



## Single Accreditation System

Boyd R. Buser, DO  
AOA Past President

Thomas J. Nasca, MD  
ACGME Chief Executive Officer


ANNUAL HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING

AOA

## Tom Nasca, MD, MACP ACGME President and CEO

**Single GME Accreditation System:  
A Tremendous Achievement**

- Special thanks to AOA leadership, volunteers and staff
- 8-year effort, 5-year implementation process completed
- Significant success in achieving Initial/Continuous Accreditation by Sponsoring Institutions and programs
- 88.6% of AOA-approved programs that applied are now ACGME accredited
- All elements of the MDU have been successfully implemented
- Osteopathic Tradition codified and woven into the fabric of ACGME
- ACGME and AOA successfully pursued our shared goals while preserving our respective strengths
- The future of medicine is stronger through inclusion of osteopathic colleagues, values, and culture in a Unified Accreditation System



## Admiral Brett Giroir, MD, U.S. HHS Secretary Rear Admiral Jerome Adams, MD, U.S. Surgeon General Joseph Giampo, DO, MACOI, FCCP, AOA President



## USMLE changes since 2020...

- Pandemic disrupted computer-based testing and Step 2CS
- Step 2CS discontinued
- Shift to reporting Step 1 as Pass/Fail (Effective 1/26/22)
- USMLE adopts 4 attempt limit

## Positive Developments: The Rise of "Hospital at Home"



<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/941173>

## Positive Developments: Rich Innovations in Home Care

### Accelerating the Delivery of Cancer Care at Home During the Covid-19 Pandemic

From Medicare's Cancer Care at Home program, contributors to address clinical, administrative, and financial obstacles to delivering patient cancer drugs at home, a vital benefit of value patients receive to continue their treatment during the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Bringing Kidney Care Home: Lessons from Covid-19

Even the end-stage kidney disease, which disproportionately affects people of color, has been predominantly delivered in dialysis centers, even when those facilities would offer the same benefits with less cost and strain on resources for the patient.

**Mobile Integrated Health Care in Los Angeles: Upstream Solutions to Mitigate the Covid-19 Pandemic**

<https://analyst.ngm.org/dofitbio.usgicaf.co.02/>, <https://analyst.ngm.org/dofitbio.usgicaf.co.03/>, <https://analyst.ngm.org/dofitbio.usgicaf.co.04/>, <https://analyst.ngm.org/dofitbio.usgicaf.co.05/>

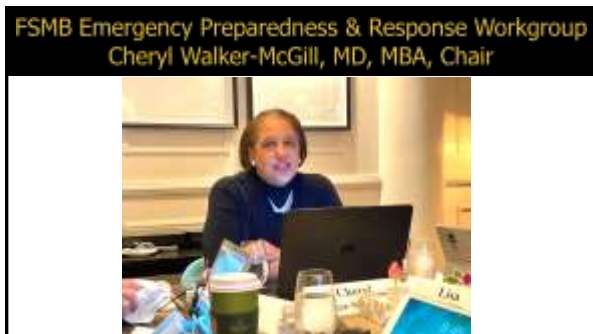
## CDC Risk Factor Analysis: Cases, Hospitalizations and Death by Race/Ethnicity



Factor	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic Asian	Non-Hispanic Pacific Islander
Cases	1.0x	1.6x	1.2x	1.0x	1.0x
Hospitalization	1.0x	1.8x	1.4x	1.0x	1.0x
Death	1.0x	2.2x	1.6x	1.0x	1.0x

Note: Non-Hispanic and overall population are the reference groups. All figures are relative to the reference group. All figures are relative to the reference group.

CDC.gov/pressroom



### COVID-19: A Watershed for Telemedicine in the U.S.

- Expanded reimbursement of telemedicine by Medicare in March 2020 was a pivotal event
- Same story in almost every sector of health care from outpatient care to nursing homes
- A watershed moment in the use and regulation of telemedicine moving forward

Patel SV, et al. JAMA Internal Medicine, 2021

### What is Telehealth?

The use of electronic information and telecommunication technologies to support and promote: long distance health care; patient and professional health-related education; public health; and health administration.

**Telehealth Technologies**

- Video conferencing
- The internet
- Store-and-forward imaging
- Streaming media
- Terrestrial and wireless communications
- Mobile phone use

**HRSA**

### Who is Getting Telemedicine?

- Telemedicine use more common among:
  - **Younger enrollees (especially <50yo)**
  - **Urban enrollees**
- Telemedicine use is less frequent among:
  - Older enrollees (>65yo)
  - Rural enrollees
  - Enrollees living in high % white counties

Patel SV et al. Health Affairs 2021;40(2):349-58

### Which Doctors are Using Telemedicine?

- Substantial variation
- Majority of doctors using:
  - **Endocrinology**
  - **Psychiatry**
- Less than 1/3<sup>rd</sup>:
  - Orthopedic surgery
  - Ophthalmology

Patel SV et al. Health Affairs 2021;40(2):349-58

### For What Conditions?

- Wide variation
- **Behavioral health dominates in use**
- Common chronic illnesses that are middle of the road – hypertension, diabetes
- Remarkable drop in upper respiratory infections like sinusitis

Patel SV et al. Health Affairs 2021;40(2):349-58



### Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (As of March 11, 2022)

www.imlcc.org

### 9 Physician Eligibility Requirements for Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

- **Graduate of a medical school** accredited by LCME, COCA, or a medical school listed in the International Medical Education Directory or its equivalent
- **Passed USMLE or COMLEX within 3 attempts**, or any of its predecessor's exams accepted by a state medical board
- **Completed GME** approved by ACGME or AOA
- **Holds specialty certification** or a time-unlimited specialty certificate recognized by ABMS or AOA's Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists
- **Possesses a full and unrestricted license** to practice medicine in a Member state
- Has **no criminal history**
- Has **no disciplinary action** by a licensing agency
- Has **never had a controlled substance license or permit suspended or revoked** by the US DEA
- Is **not under active investigation** by a licensing agency or law enforcement authority

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

Perspective  
2020-05-20

**Improving Access and Mobility — The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**

Thomas J. Hooley, D.O., Lisa A. Baker, M.D., De M. Ode, D.O., Deborah R. Hill, D.O., and J. David Clark, M.D.

Interstate compact — legislative agreement among participating states that takes the legal burden of both licensure and specialty law — offers means to address issues of medical regulatory or administrative barrier within — some benefits have also been realized in using this service, which enables physicians to practice both in medical school degree and post-graduate medical education in the state of their licensure as well as in other states, leading to better patient care outcomes.

**Fake COVID-19 news**

The internet is awash with unverified and outright fake claims about COVID-19.

A Reuters Institute report indicates that about 69 percent of the misinformation they sampled was misrepresentations of existing facts, while 38 percent was completely fabricated.

Whereas only 20 percent of the misinformation came from politicians, celebrities, and other public figures, these accounted for 69 percent the social media engagement.

It is therefore important to fact-check any COVID-19 information you find on the internet or social media.



unesco

Source: Communication Agency UNESCO



**FSMB Statement on Physician Misinformation July 29, 2021**

fsmb FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS

"PHYSICIANS WHO GENERATE AND SPREAD COVID-19 VACCINE MISINFORMATION OR DISINFORMATION ARE RISKING DISCIPLINARY ACTION... INCLUDING THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF THEIR MEDICAL LICENSE."

EXCLUSIVE  
DOCTOR SPREADS DISINFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 AND VACCINES

LIVE CNN

**Anderson Cooper's AC 360 Show, CNN October 21, 2021**



Dr. Humayun Chaudhry | President, Federation of State Medical Boards

LIVE CNN

**Infectious Pandemics: A Comparison**

YEARS	1918-20	2009-10	2020-?
World Population	1.8 Billion	6.8 Billion	7.8 Billion
Primary Mode of Transportation	Ships, Railroad	Jet Aircraft, Automobile	Jet Aircraft, Automobile
Time for Virus to Circle the Globe	4 months	4 days	2 days
Estimated Dead Worldwide	50+ Million	151,700-575,400	6.3+ Million

Thank You

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