

## ARTICLE 5. STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND COMPETENT PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

### Rule 1. General Provisions

#### 844 IAC 5-1-1 Definitions

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 16-18-2-199; IC 16-42-19-5; IC 25-1-9; IC 25-10; IC 25-13; IC 25-14; IC 25-20; IC 25-20.5-1-7; IC 25-23; IC 25-23.5; IC 25-23.6; IC 25-24; IC 25-26-13-17; IC 25-27; IC 25-27.5; IC 25-29; IC 25-33; IC 25-34.5; IC 25-35.6; IC 35-48-1-9; IC 35-48-2

Sec. 1. For purposes of this article and IC 25-1-9, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Addict" means a person who is physiologically and/or psychologically dependent upon a drug that is classified as a narcotic, controlled substance, or dangerous drug.
- (2) "Classified as a narcotic" means any substance that is designated as a controlled substance under IC 35-48-1 or IC 35-48-2, or so classified in any subsequent amendment or revision of said statutes.
- (3) "Controlled substance" has the same meaning set forth in IC 35-48-1-9.
- (4) "Dangerous drug" means any substance that is designated as a controlled substance under IC 35-48-1 or IC 35-48-2, or so classified in any subsequent amendment or revision of said statute.
- (5) "General health information site" means a noninteractive Internet site that is accessible by anyone with access to the Internet and intended to provide general, user nonspecific information or advice about maintaining health or the treatment of an acute or chronic illness, health condition, or disease state.
- (6) "Habitue" means a person who:
  - (A) is physiologically and/or psychologically dependent upon any narcotic drug classified as a narcotic, dangerous drug, or controlled substance under Indiana law; or
  - (B) consumes, on a regular basis and without any medically justifiable purpose, a narcotic drug classified as a narcotic, dangerous drug, or controlled substance under Indiana law, whether or not such person has developed a physiological or psychological dependence upon such substance.
- (7) "Institutional setting" means any health care facility whose primary purpose is to provide a physical environment for patients to obtain health care services, except those places where practitioners, as defined by IC 16-42-19-5, who are duly licensed, engage in private practice and pharmacies licensed under IC 25-26-13-17.
- (8) "Internet medical practice site" means a patient-specific Internet site, access to which is limited to licensed physicians, associated medical personnel, and patients.
- (9) "Internet site" means an electronic source of health information content, commerce, connectivity, and/or service delivery.
- (10) "Legend drug" has the meaning set forth in IC 16-18-2-199.
- (11) "Passive tracking mechanism" means a persistent electronic file used to track Internet site navigation, which allows the Internet site to record and retain user-specific navigation information whenever the user accesses the Internet site. Examples include:
  - (A) cookies;
  - (B) clear.gifs; or
  - (C) Web bugs.
- (12) "Personal health information" means any information, whether oral or recorded in any form or medium, that:
  - (A) is created or received by a physician or other health care provider, health plan, public health authority, employer, life insurer, school or university, or health care clearinghouse; and
  - (B) relates to the:
    - (i) past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual;
    - (ii) provision of health care to an individual; or
    - (iii) past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to an individual.
- (13) "Physician-patient e-mail" means computer-based communication between physicians or associated medical personnel and patients within a professional relationship in which the physician has taken on an explicit measure of responsibility for the patient's care.
- (14) "Practitioner" means a person who holds an unlimited license to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine in Indiana or a limited license or permit as may be issued by the board.
- (15) "Professional incompetence" may include, but is not limited to, a pattern or course of repeated conduct by a practitioner

demonstrating a failure to exercise such reasonable care and diligence as is ordinarily exercised by practitioners in the same or similar circumstances in the same or similar locality.

(16) "Specific professional health care provider" means any person who holds a specific license to practice in an area of health care in Indiana, including, but not limited to, the following persons:

- (A) Any chiropractor licensed under IC 25-10.
- (B) Any dental hygienist licensed under IC 25-13.
- (C) Any dentist licensed under IC 25-14.
- (D) Any hearing aid dealer licensed under IC 25-20.
- (E) Any nurse licensed under IC 25-23.
- (F) Any optometrist licensed under IC 25-24.
- (G) Any pharmacist licensed under IC 25-26.
- (H) Any physical therapist licensed under IC 25-27.
- (I) Any podiatrist licensed under IC 25-29.
- (J) Any psychologist licensed under IC 25-33.
- (K) Any speech pathologist or audiologist licensed under IC 25-35.6.
- (L) Any respiratory care practitioner certified under IC 25-34.5.
- (M) Any occupational therapist certified under IC 25-23.5.
- (N) Any clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or mental health counselor licensed under IC 25-23.6.
- (O) Any physician assistant certified under IC 25-27.5.
- (P) Any hypnotist certified under IC 25-20.5-1-7.

*(Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-1-1; filed Apr 12, 1984, 8:28 a.m.: 7 IR 1522; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325; filed Oct 1, 2003, 9:32 a.m.: 27 IR 521)*

**844 IAC 5-1-2 Standards of professional conduct (Repealed)**

Sec. 2. *(Repealed by Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 755; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325)*

**844 IAC 5-1-3 Disciplinary action**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7  
Affected: IC 25-1-9

Sec. 3. Failure to comply with this article may result in disciplinary proceedings against the offending practitioners. Further, all practitioners licensed in Indiana shall be responsible for having knowledge of the standards of conduct and practice established by statute and rule pursuant to IC 25-22.5-2-7. *(Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-1-3; filed Apr 12, 1984, 8:28 a.m.: 7 IR 1526; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 750; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325; filed Oct 1, 2003, 9:32 a.m.: 27 IR 522)*

**Rule 2. Standards of Professional Conduct**

**844 IAC 5-2-1 Applicability**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7  
Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 1. A practitioner in the conduct of his/her practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine shall abide by, and comply with, the standards of professional conduct in this rule. *(Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-1; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 750; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325)*

**844 IAC 5-2-2 Confidentiality**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7  
Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 2. A practitioner shall maintain the confidentiality of all knowledge and information regarding a patient, including, but not limited to, the patient's diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis, and of all records relating thereto, about which the practitioner may learn or otherwise be informed during the course of, or as a result of, the patient-practitioner relationship. Information about a patient shall be disclosed by a practitioner when required by law, including, but not limited to, the requirements of IC 34-4-12.6-1 [IC 34-4 was repealed by P.L.1-1998, SECTION 221, effective July 1, 1998.] and of IC 16-4-8-1, and any amendments thereto, or when authorized by the patient or those responsible for the patient's care. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-2; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 750; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**844 IAC 5-2-3 Information to patient**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 3. A practitioner shall give a truthful, candid, and reasonably complete account of the patient's condition to the patient or to those responsible for the patient's care, except where a practitioner reasonably determines that the information is or would be detrimental to the physical or mental health of the patient, or in the case of a minor or incompetent person, except where a practitioner reasonably determines that the information is or would be detrimental to the physical or mental health of those persons responsible for the patient's care. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-3; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 750; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**844 IAC 5-2-4 Case withdrawal**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 4. (a) The practitioner shall give reasonable written notice to a patient or to those responsible for the patient's care when the practitioner withdraws from a case so that another practitioner may be employed by the patient or by those responsible for the patient's care. A practitioner shall not abandon a patient.

(b) A practitioner who withdraws from a case, except in emergency circumstances, shall, upon written request and in conformity with the provisions of IC 16-4-8-1 through IC 16-4-8-11 and of any subsequent amendment or revision thereof, make available to his/her patient or to those responsible for the patient's care, and to any other practitioner or specific professional health care provider employed by the patient, or by those responsible for the patient's care, all records, test results, histories, x-rays, radiographic studies, diagnoses, files, and information relating to said patient which are in the practitioner's custody, possession, or control, or copies of such documents hereinbefore described. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-4; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 751; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**844 IAC 5-2-5 Reasonable care**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 5. A practitioner shall exercise reasonable care and diligence in the treatment of patients based upon generally accepted scientific principles, methods, treatments, and current professional theory and practice. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-5; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 751; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**844 IAC 5-2-6 Degree basis for licensing**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 6. A practitioner shall not represent, advertise, state, or indicate the possession of any degree recognized as the basis for licensure to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine unless the practitioner is actually licensed on the basis of such degree in the state(s) in which he/she practices. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-6; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 751; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**844 IAC 5-2-7 Consultations; referrals**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 7. A practitioner shall make reasonable efforts to obtain consultation whenever requested to do so by a patient or by those responsible for a patient's care. Further, the practitioner shall refer a patient to another practitioner in any case where the referring practitioner does not consider himself/herself qualified to treat the patient, and may refer the patient to another practitioner where the referring practitioner is unable to diagnose the illness or disease of the patient. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-7; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 751; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**844 IAC 5-2-8 Peer reviews**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 8. (a) A practitioner who has personal knowledge based upon a reasonable belief that another practitioner holding the same licenses has engaged in illegal, unlawful, incompetent, or fraudulent conduct in the practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine shall promptly report such conduct to a peer review or similar body, as defined in IC 34-4-12.6-1(c) [*IC 34-4 was repealed by P.L. 1-1998, SECTION 221, effective July 1, 1998.*], having jurisdiction over the offending practitioner and the matter. This provision does not prohibit a practitioner from promptly reporting said conduct directly to the medical licensing board. Further, a practitioner who has personal knowledge of any person engaged in, or attempting to engage in, the unauthorized practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine shall promptly report such conduct to the medical licensing board.

(b) A practitioner who voluntarily submits himself/herself to, or is otherwise undergoing a course of, treatment for addiction, severe dependency upon alcohol or other drugs or controlled substances, or for psychiatric impairment, where such treatment is sponsored or supervised by an impaired physicians' committee of a state, regional, or local organization of professional health care providers, or where such treatment is sponsored or supervised by an impaired physicians' committee of a hospital, shall be exempt from reporting to a peer review committee as set forth in subsection (a) or to the medical licensing board for so long as:

- (1) the practitioner is complying with the course of treatment; and
- (2) the practitioner is making satisfactory progress.

(c) If the practitioner fails to comply with, or is not benefitted by, the course of treatment, the practitioner-chief administrative officer, his designee, or any member of the impaired physicians' committee shall promptly report such facts and circumstances to the medical licensing board. This section shall not, in any manner whatsoever, directly or indirectly, be deemed or construed to prohibit, restrict, limit, or otherwise preclude the medical licensing board from taking such action as it deems appropriate or as may otherwise be provided by law. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-8; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 751; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**844 IAC 5-2-9 Fees**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 9. (a) Fees charged by a practitioner for his/her professional services shall be reasonable and shall reasonably compensate the practitioner only for services actually rendered.

(b) A practitioner shall not enter into agreement for, charge, or collect an illegal or clearly excessive fee.

(c) Factors to be considered in determining the reasonableness of a fee include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) The difficulty and/or uniqueness of the services performed and the time, skill, and experience required.
- (2) The fee customarily charged in the locality for similar practitioner services.
- (3) The amount of the charges involved.
- (4) The quality of performance.
- (5) The nature and length of the professional relationship with the patient.
- (6) The experience, reputation, and ability of the practitioner in performing the kind of services involved.

(*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-9; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 752; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**844 IAC 5-2-10 Fee division**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 10. A practitioner shall not divide a fee for professional services with another practitioner who is not a partner, employee, or shareholder in a professional corporation, unless:

(1) the patient consents to the employment of the other practitioner after a full disclosure that a division of fees will be made; and

(2) the division of fees is made in proportion to actual services performed and responsibility assumed by each practitioner.

*(Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-10; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 752; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325)*

**844 IAC 5-2-11 Referral fees**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 11. A practitioner shall not pay, demand, or receive compensation for referral of a patient, except for a patient referral program operated by a medical society or association which is approved by the medical licensing board. *(Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-11; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 752; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325)*

**844 IAC 5-2-12 Employees**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 12. A practitioner shall be responsible for the conduct of each and every person employed by the practitioner (whether such employee is a physician, nurse, physician's assistant, or other specific professional health care provider employed by the practitioner) for every action or failure to act by said employee or employees in the course of said employee's employment relationship with said practitioner, provided, however, that a practitioner shall not be responsible for the actions of persons he/she may employ whose employment by the practitioner does not relate directly to the practitioner's practice of medicine or of osteopathic medicine. *(Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-12; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 752; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325)*

**844 IAC 5-2-13 Advertising**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 13. (a) A practitioner shall not, on behalf of himself/herself, a partner, associate, shareholder in a professional corporation, or any other practitioner or specific health care provider affiliated with the practitioner, use, or participate in the use of, any form of public communication containing a false, fraudulent, misleading, deceptive, or unfair statement or claim.

(b) Subject to the requirements of subsection (a), and in order to facilitate the process of informed selection of a practitioner by the public, a practitioner may advertise services through the public media including, but not limited to, a telephone directory, physicians' or osteopaths' directory, newspaper or other periodical, radio or television, or through written communication not involving personal contact, provided that the advertisement is dignified and confines itself to the existence, scope, nature, and field of practice of the practitioner.

(c) If the advertisement is communicated to the public by radio, cable, or television, it shall be prerecorded, approved for broadcast by the practitioner, and a recording and transcript of the actual transmission shall be retained by the practitioner for a period of five (5) years from the last date of broadcast.

(d) If a practitioner advertises a fee for a service, treatment, consultation, examination, radiographic study, or other procedure, the practitioner must render that service or procedure for no more than the fee advertised.

(e) Unless otherwise specified in the advertisement, if a practitioner publishes or communicates any fee information in a publication that is published more frequently than one (1) time per month, the practitioner shall be bound by any representation made

therein for a period of thirty (30) days after the publication date. If a practitioner publishes or communicates any fee information in a publication that is published once a month or less frequently, the practitioner shall be bound by any representation made therein until the publication of the succeeding issue. If a practitioner publishes or communicates any fee information in a publication which has no fixed date for publication of a succeeding issue, the practitioner shall be bound by any representation made therein for one (1) year.

(f) Unless otherwise specified, if a practitioner broadcasts any fee information by radio, cable, or television, the practitioner shall be bound by any representation made therein for a period of ninety (90) days after such broadcast.

(g) Except as otherwise specified in this article, a practitioner shall not contact or solicit individual members of the public personally or through an agent in order to offer services to such person or persons unless that individual initiated contact with the practitioner for the purpose of engaging that practitioner's professional services. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-13; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 752; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**844 IAC 5-2-14 Referrals**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 14. A practitioner may, whenever the practitioner believes it to be beneficial to the patient, send or refer a patient to a qualified specific professional health care provider for treatment or health care which falls within the specific professional health care provider's scope of practice. Prior to any such referral, however, the practitioner shall examine, and/or consult with, the patient to ensure that a condition exists in the patient which would be within the scope of practice of the specific professional health care provider to whom the patient is referred or sent. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-14; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 753; errata filed Feb 18, 1991, 3:55 p.m.: 14 IR 1457; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**844 IAC 5-2-15 Admitting patients**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 15. A practitioner shall not charge a separate and distinct fee for the incidental, administrative, nonmedical service of securing admission of a patient to a hospital or other medical or health care facility. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-15; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 753; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**844 IAC 5-2-16 Discontinuance of practice**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 16. (a) A practitioner, upon his/her retirement, or upon discontinuation of the practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine, or upon leaving or moving from a community, shall not sell, convey, or transfer for valuable consideration, remuneration, or for anything of value, patient records of that practitioner to any other practitioner.

(b) A practitioner, upon his/her retirement, or upon discontinuation of the practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine, or upon leaving or moving from a community, shall notify all of his/her active patients in writing, or by publication once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the community, that he/she intends to discontinue his/her practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine in the community, and shall encourage his/her patients to seek the services of another practitioner, provided, however, that this section shall not apply to practitioners solely engaged in internship, residency, preceptorship, fellowship, teaching, or other postgraduate medical education or training programs. The practitioner discontinuing his/her practice shall make reasonable arrangements with his/her active patients for the transfer of his/her records, or copies thereof, to the succeeding practitioner, or to a program conducted by a medical society or association approved by the medical licensing board.

(c) As used herein, "active patient" applies and refers to a person whom the practitioner has examined, treated, cared for, or otherwise consulted with during the two (2) year period prior to retirement, discontinuation of the practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine, or leaving or moving from a community.

(d) Nothing herein provided shall preclude, prohibit, or prevent a practitioner from conveying or transferring the practitioner's patient records to another practitioner, holding an unlimited license to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine, who is assuming

a practice, provided that written notice is furnished to all patients as hereinbefore specified. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-16; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 753; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**844 IAC 5-2-17 Contingency fees prohibited**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 17. A practitioner shall not base his fee upon the uncertain outcome of a contingency, whether such contingency be the outcome of litigation or any other occurrence or condition which may or may not develop, occur, or happen. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-17; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 754; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**844 IAC 5-2-18 Liability to patients**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 18. A practitioner shall not attempt to exonerate himself from or limit his liability to a patient for his/her personal malpractice except that a practitioner may enter into agreements which contain informed, voluntary releases and/or waivers of liability in settlement of a claim made by a patient or by those responsible for a patient's care. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-18; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 754; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**844 IAC 5-2-19 Patient complaints**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 19. A practitioner shall not attempt to preclude, prohibit, or otherwise prevent the filing of a complaint against him/her by a patient or other practitioner for any alleged violation of this title or of any alleged violation of IC 25-22.5-1, or any other law. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-19; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 754; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**844 IAC 5-2-20 Schedule II controlled substances**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1; IC 35-48-2-6

Sec. 20. A physician shall not utilize, prescribe, order, dispense, administer, supply, sell, or give any amphetamine, sympathomimetic amine drug or compound designated as a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to the provisions of IC 35-48-2-6 to any person for purposes of weight reduction or for control in the treatment of obesity. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-20; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 754; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**844 IAC 5-2-21 Schedule III or IV controlled substances (Voided)**

Sec. 21. (*Voided by P.L.177-1997, SECTION 14, effective July 1, 1997.; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**844 IAC 5-2-22 Use of term, "board certified"**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1

Sec. 22. A practitioner shall not represent in any manner that he or she is "board certified" or use any similar words or phrase calculated to convey the same unless the practitioner states by which board he/she is certified and the specific field or area of certification. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-2-22; filed Nov 30, 1990, 4:15 p.m.: 14 IR 755; readopted filed Nov 9, 2001, 3:16 p.m.: 25 IR 1325*)

**Rule 3. Appropriate Use of the Internet in Medical Practice**

**844 IAC 5-3-1 General provisions**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5

Sec. 1. A practitioner shall comply with this article when utilizing the Internet in the delivery of patient care. *(Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-3-1; filed Oct 1, 2003, 9:32 a.m.: 27 IR 522)*

**844 IAC 5-3-2 Evaluation of the patient**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5

Sec. 2. A documented patient evaluation, including history and physical evaluation adequate to establish diagnoses and identify underlying conditions or contraindications to the treatment recommended or provided, must be obtained prior to providing treatment, including issuing prescriptions, electronically or otherwise. *(Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-3-2; filed Oct 1, 2003, 9:32 a.m.: 27 IR 523)*

**844 IAC 5-3-3 Treatment**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5

Sec. 3. Treatment, including issuing a prescription, based solely on an on-line questionnaire or consultation is prohibited. *(Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-3-3; filed Oct 1, 2003, 9:32 a.m.: 27 IR 523)*

**844 IAC 5-3-4 Electronic communications**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5

Sec. 4. (a) Written policies and procedures must be maintained by the physician for the use of patient-physician electronic mail. Such policies and procedures must address the following:

(1) Privacy.

(2) Health care personnel (in addition to the physician addressee) who will process messages.

(3) Hours of operation.

(4) Types of transactions that will be permitted electronically.

(5) Required patient information to be included in the communication, such as patient name, identification number, and type of transaction.

(6) Archival and retrieval of patient medical data.

(7) Quality oversight mechanisms.

(8) Protocol to be followed in emergency situations.

(b) Policies and procedures must be periodically evaluated for currency and maintained in an accessible and readily available manner for review.

(c) Sufficient security measures must be in place and documented to assure confidentiality and integrity of patient-identifiable information. Transmissions, including patient e-mail, prescriptions, and laboratory results must be secure within existing technology, that is, password protected, encrypted electronic prescriptions, or other reliable authentication techniques.

(d) Patient-physician e-mail pertinent to the ongoing care of the patient, as well as other patient-related electronic communications, must be maintained as part of, and integrated into, the patient's medical record, whether that record is paper or electronic.

(e) Turnaround time shall be established for patient-physician e-mail and medical practice sites must clearly indicate alternative form or forms of communication for urgent matters.

(f) E-mail systems must be configured to include an automatic reply to acknowledge message delivery and that messages have



been read. Patients must be encouraged to confirm that they have received and read messages. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-3-4; filed Oct 1, 2003, 9:32 a.m.: 27 IR 523*)

**844 IAC 5-3-5 Informed consent**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5

Sec. 5. A written agreement must be employed documenting patient informed consent for the use of patient-physician e-mail. The agreement must be discussed with and signed by the patient and included in the medical record. The agreement must include the following terms:

- (1) Types of transmissions that will be permitted, such as:
  - (A) prescription refills;
  - (B) appointment scheduling; and
  - (C) patient education.
- (2) Fees, if any, that will be assessed for on-line consultations or other electronic communication.
- (3) Under what circumstances alternate forms of communication or office visits must be utilized.
- (4) A statement that physician-patient e-mail is not to be used in emergency situations.
- (5) Instructions on what steps the patient should take in an emergency situation.
- (6) Security measures, such as encrypting data, password protected screen savers and data files, or utilizing other reliable authentication techniques, as well as potential risks to privacy.
- (7) Hold harmless clause for information lost due to technical failures.
- (8) Requirement for express patient consent to forward patient-identifiable information to a third party.
- (9) Patient's failure to comply with the agreement may result in physician terminating the e-mail relationship.

(*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-3-5; filed Oct 1, 2003, 9:32 a.m.: 27 IR 523*)

**844 IAC 5-3-6 Medical records**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5

Sec. 6. (a) The medical record must include written or electronic copies of all patient-related electronic communications, including the following:

- (1) Patient-physician e-mail.
- (2) Prescriptions.
- (3) Laboratory and test results.
- (4) Evaluations and consultations.
- (5) Records of past care.
- (6) Instructions.

Informed consent agreements related to the use of e-mail shall also be filed in the medical record.

(b) Patient medical records must remain current and accessible for review and be maintained in compliance with applicable state and federal requirements. (*Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-3-6; filed Oct 1, 2003, 9:32 a.m.: 27 IR 523*)

**844 IAC 5-3-7 Disclosure**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5

Sec. 7. (a) An interactive Internet medical practice site is a practice location and requires a defined physician-patient relationship.

- (b) Internet medical practice sites must clearly disclose the following:
  - (1) The owner of the site.
  - (2) The specific services provided.
  - (3) The office address and contact information for the medical practice.

- (4) Licensure and qualifications of the physician or physicians and associated health care providers.
- (5) Fees for on-line consultation and services and how payment is to be made.
- (6) Financial interests in any information, products, or services.
- (7) Appropriate uses and limitations of the site, including providing health advice and emergency health situations.
- (8) Uses and response times for e-mails, electronic messages, and other communications transmitted via the site.
- (9) To whom patient health information may be disclosed and for what purpose.
- (10) Rights of patients with respect to patient health information.
- (11) Information collected and any passive tracking mechanisms utilized.

*(Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-3-7; filed Oct 1, 2003, 9:32 a.m.: 27 IR 524)*

**844 IAC 5-3-8 Accountability**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5

Sec. 8. Medical practice sites must provide patients a clear mechanism to do the following:

- (1) Access, supplement, and amend patient-provided personal health information.
- (2) Provide feedback regarding the site and the quality of information and services.
- (3) Register complaints, including information regarding filing a complaint with the consumer protection division of the office of the attorney general.

*(Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-3-8; filed Oct 1, 2003, 9:32 a.m.: 27 IR 524)*

**844 IAC 5-3-9 Advertising or promotion of goods or products**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5

Sec. 9. Advertising or promotion of goods or products from which the physician receives direct remuneration, benefits, or incentives is prohibited unless the physician discloses that the physician receives direct remuneration, benefits, or incentives from the sale of the goods or products. *(Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-3-9; filed Oct 1, 2003, 9:32 a.m.: 27 IR 524)*

**844 IAC 5-3-10 Links**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5

Sec. 10. Practitioner Internet sites may provide links to general health information sites to enhance patient education; however, the physician shall not receive direct remuneration, benefits, or incentives from providing such links or from the services or products marketed by such links unless the physician discloses that the physician receives direct remuneration, benefits, or incentives from providing such links or from the services or products marketed by such links. *(Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-3-10; filed Oct 1, 2003, 9:32 a.m.: 27 IR 524)*

**Rule 4. Prescribing to Persons Not Seen by the Physician**

**844 IAC 5-4-1 General provisions**

Authority: IC 25-22.5-2-7

Affected: IC 25-1-9; IC 25-22.5-1-2; IC 25-23-1-19.4

Sec. 1. (a) Except in institutional settings, on-call situations, cross-coverage situations, and situations involving advanced practice nurses with prescriptive authority practicing in accordance with standard care arrangements, as described in subsection (d), a physician shall not prescribe, dispense, or otherwise provide, or cause to be provided, any controlled substance to a person who the physician has never personally physically examined and diagnosed.

(b) Except in institutional settings, on-call situations, cross-coverage situations, and situations involving advanced practice nurses with prescriptive authority practicing in accordance with the requirements of IC 25-23-1-19.4 and 848 IAC 5, as described

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in subsection (d), a physician shall not prescribe, dispense, or otherwise provide, or cause to be provided, any legend drug that is not a controlled substance to a person who the physician has never personally physically examined and diagnosed unless the physician is providing care in consultation with another physician who has an ongoing professional relationship with the patient, and who has agreed to supervise the patient's use of the drug or drugs to be provided.

(c) A physician shall not advertise or offer, or permit the physician's name or certificate to be used in an advertisement or offer, to provide any legend drug in a manner that would violate subsection (a) or (b).

(d) Subsections (a) and (b) do not apply to or prohibit the following:

(1) The provision of drugs to a person who is admitted as an inpatient to or is a resident of an institutional facility.

(2) The provision of controlled substances or legend drugs by a physician to a person who is a patient of a colleague of the physician, if the drugs are provided pursuant to an on-call or cross-coverage arrangement between the physicians.

(3) The provision of controlled substances or legend drugs by emergency medical squad personnel, nurses, or other appropriately trained and licensed individuals as permitted by IC 25-22.5-1-2.

(4) The provision of controlled substances or drugs by an advanced practice nurse with prescriptive authority practicing in accordance with a standard care arrangement that meets the requirements of IC 25-23-1-19.4 and 848 IAC 5.

*(Medical Licensing Board of Indiana; 844 IAC 5-4-1; filed Oct 1, 2003, 9:32 a.m.: 27 IR 524; errata filed Oct 8, 2003, 1:45 p.m.: 27 IR 538)*

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