



MEDICAL MINUTE *with* **IDFPR**

Quarterly Newsletter

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

SUMMER 2022

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INTRODUCING IDFPR SECRETARY MARIO TRETO, JR.



Mario Treto, Jr. was appointed by Illinois Governor JB Pritzker to serve as the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation on April 1, 2021. In this role, he leads and oversees the State of Illinois' lead regulatory agency with a budget of \$135 million charged with strengthening consumer protections through the licensing of over 1.2 million licensed professionals and the regulation of banking and financial services. Under Secretary Treto's leadership, the agency has continued to see increased departmental efficiencies, updated and modernized professional regulatory frameworks, reduced barriers to licensure in the State of Illinois, increased license portability for veterans and their spouses, and established diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies for the advancement of the people of Illinois. During the COVID-19 pandemic, various initiatives were implemented to address concerns with health care workforce shortages by allowing out-of-state, retired, and international medical graduates to provide their services to Illinoisans. In addition, Secretary Treto has taken part in and spoken at several healthcare-related conferences and panels, including the Illinois Association of Healthcare Attorneys and the Cook County Physicians Association program "Health and Justice in Race and the Law."

Previously, Secretary Treto served as the Deputy City Attorney for the City of Evanston, where he provided legal counsel to its elected officials, departments, and staff with compliance, transactional, and corporate matters. Secretary Treto also worked at a Chicago firm focusing his law practice in commercial & residential real estate, corporate law, and commercial transactions.

Secretary Treto serves on notable and prominent civic boards and committees, including being appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Supreme Court Committee on Professional Responsibility and elected to the Indiana University Maurer School of Law Alumni Board. He served as an Obama Foundation Scholars Program Strategist at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and recently as the Board Chair of Howard Brown Health, a federally qualified health center serving 30,000 patients through 12 clinics. Mario has received national recognition from various organizations, including the International Municipal Lawyers Association, the Hispanic National Bar Association, and the National LGBT Bar. Secretary Treto has also received leadership accolades from Crain's Business Magazine, Business Equality Magazine, Chicago Scholars, and Hispanic business publication *Negocios Now*. In 2018, he was presented with the Humanitarian Award by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and in 2020, he was the recipient of the Illinois REALTORS Presidential Medallion.

Secretary Treto earned his Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Psychology from Washington University in St. Louis and his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. Secretary Treto is a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow and University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs Edgar Fellow. He has also been recognized by the Leyden Township High School Alumni Hall of Fame.



LICENSING UPDATE FOR PHYSICIANS

With the next renewal period for physicians and surgeons less than a year away, IDFPR wants to make sure you're prepared to renew your license starting early April 2023. At the direction of Governor Pritzker, licensing renewal fees will be waived for physicians and surgeons. For more information, please see our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) [here](#).

You'll be able to renew your license online by going to <https://online-dfpr.micropact.com/> and creating an online account. Make sure your account is created and contact information is up to date so IDFPR can send you any important updates regarding your license renewal process.

One hundred fifty (150) Continuing Medical Education (CME) hours are required to renew a physician and surgeon license. More about what's required in those hours may be found [here](#).

Physicians and surgeons must also complete one hour continuing education on each of the following topics:

Safe Opioid Prescribing Training

The three-hour education requirement for safe prescribing of opioids is applicable to all licensed healthcare professionals who also possess an Illinois Controlled Substance License. See our FAQs [here](#).

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

The one-hour sexual harassment prevention education mandate applies to ANY profession licensed by IDFPR that requires continuing education as a condition of licensure renewal. See our FAQs [here](#).

Recognizing Dementia

This one-hour requirement applies to every licensed healthcare professional who interacts with patients 26 years of age or older. It involves completing a one-hour training on the diagnosis, treatment, and care of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Learn more under Sec. 2105-365 [here](#).

Implicit Bias

This one-hour requirement on recognizing implicit bias in health care applies to all licensed healthcare professionals. Learn more under Sec. 2105-15.7 [here](#).

Make Sure IDFPR Has Your Updated Contact Information!

Licensees, make sure your contact information (including email address!) is up to date so we can send you important updates! Update your information through our online portal: <https://ilesonline.idfpr.illinois.gov/DFPR/Default.aspx>

CONSUMER CORNER: WHAT HAPPENS AFTER IDFPR RECEIVES A COMPLAINT



The Division of Professional Regulation within the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (Department) is structured to meet two objectives:

- 1) Examination and credential review to determine eligibility for professional licensure in Illinois; and
- 2) Investigation and prosecution resulting in formal discipline of license holders for violations of professional practice acts.

To accomplish these objectives, the Division is divided into two functional areas:

- The Licensing and Testing Section; and
- The Statewide Enforcement Section.

The Department received approximately 1,297 medical complaints in 2021. The Statewide

Enforcement Section receives complaints made against professionals who are licensed in Illinois, initiates investigations of those complaints when appropriate, and, finally, prosecutes those professionals who have violated a professional practice act. Pursuant to Illinois law (20 ILCS 2105/2105-117), all information collected by the Department during an investigation of a licensee, registrant, or applicant is confidential and cannot be publicly disclosed. This includes complaints and any information collected during an investigation. Exceptions to this law exist only for law enforcement, other regulatory agencies with appropriate regulatory interest, or a party presenting a lawful subpoena. If you wish to file a complaint with the Department, please do so [here](#).

What happens to your complaint after it is submitted to the Department?

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What Happens After I Submit My Complaint?

COMPLAINT

The complaint is received by the Complaint Intake Unit and is logged and reviewed for determination of Department jurisdiction. Complaints come from a number of sources:

- the public
- another licensee
- professional associations
- other governmental agencies
- the Division itself
- the licensee him/herself

Valid complaints are then assigned to an investigator in the Investigations Unit.

COMPLAINT INTAKE UNIT

Once assigned to an investigator, the complaint is analyzed and reviewed for the gathering of additional information.

INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The complaint and investigative file is then submitted to the Medical Coordinators for an in-depth review of allegations and recommendation based on the appropriate standards of care.

MEDICAL COORDINATORS

Medical Coordinators present the complaint and recommendation to the Illinois State Medical Board.

ILLINOIS MEDICAL BOARD

The Illinois State Medical Board makes a recommendation for closure, referral back to investigations, or referral to the Prosecution Unit.

PROSECUTION UNIT

Working in conjunction with agency investigators, as well as board members, the Prosecution Unit attorneys conduct informal conferences and develop full formal disciplinary charges against licensees the Division believes have violated a professional practice act.

CASE RESOLUTION

Cases may be resolved in a number of ways, with discipline or without. Examples of case resolution are: case closure, administrative warning letter, consent order that includes reprimand, probation, suspension, etc., and administrative hearing.

Need to contact the Division of Professional Regulation?

General Assistance: 1-888-473-4858

Professional Licensing: 1-800-560-6420

Complaint Intake Unit: 1-312-814-6910

TDD Line: 1-866-325-4949



MEDICAL PEARLS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOU PRESCRIBE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

The right to practice medicine is a privilege granted by the State of Illinois. The State of Illinois has rules and regulations that govern the practice of medicine and specify the responsibilities of the Illinois State Medical Board (Medical Board) in regulating that practice. These regulations are codified by [statute](#), titled the Medical Practice Act of 1987 (Medical Practice Act).

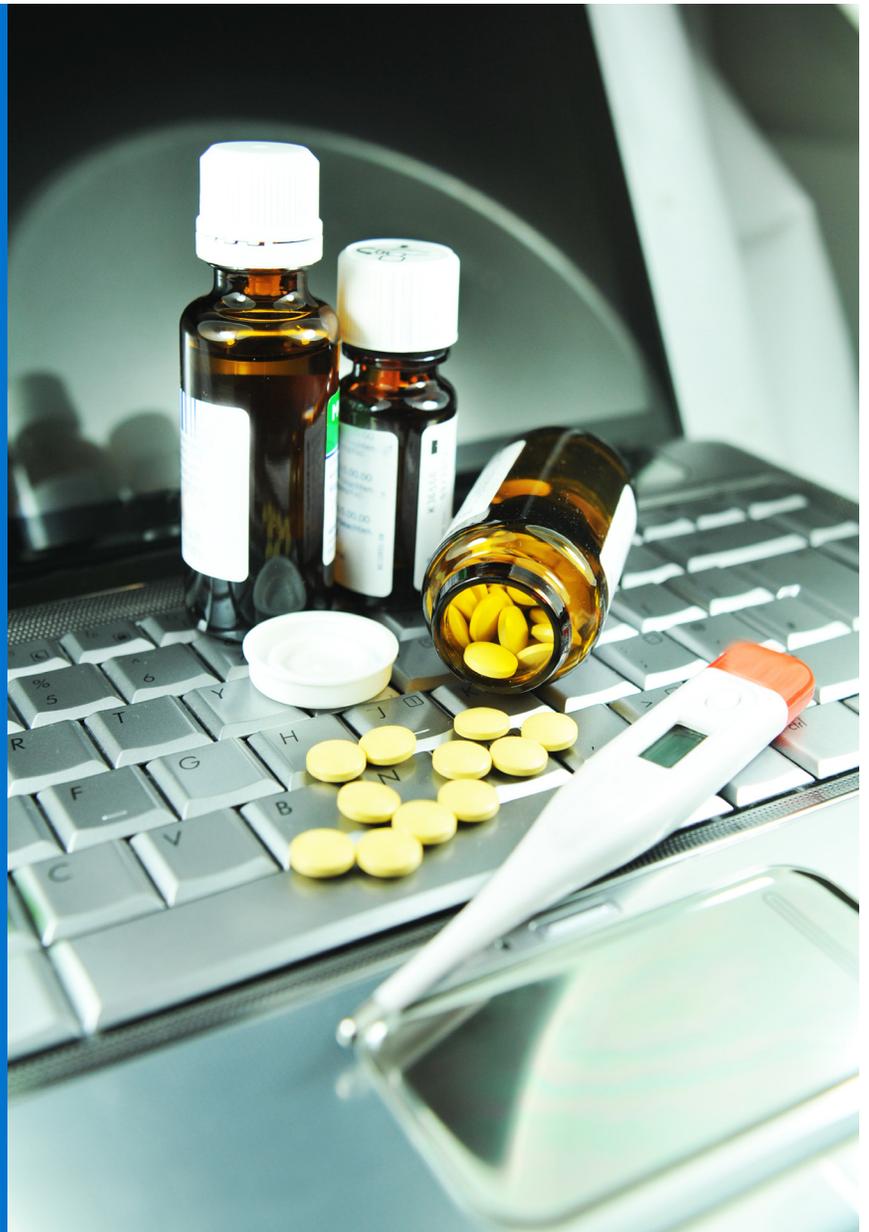
The Medical Board serves the public by protecting it from incompetent, unprofessional, and improperly trained physicians. The Medical Board accomplishes this by striving to ensure that only qualified physicians are licensed to practice medicine in Illinois and that those physicians provide their patients with a high standard of care.

In July 2018, in response to the opioid epidemic, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation amended Section [1285.240](#) of the Rules for Administration of Illinois Medical Practice Act to include the Federation of State Medical Board's Model Policy on the Use of Opioid Analgesics in the Treatment of Chronic Pain.

Physicians must not only manage chronic pain responsibly with their patients, but they also have a codified duty to assess whether opioid analgesics, when prescribed by them, are being abused, misused, or diverted.

Beginning in 2020, Illinois physicians were required to take three hours of Continuing Medical Education specifically on safe opioid prescribing practices. These three hours count towards the 150 CME hours necessary for license renewal.

NEW E-PRESCRIBING LAW TAKES EFFECT JANUARY 2023

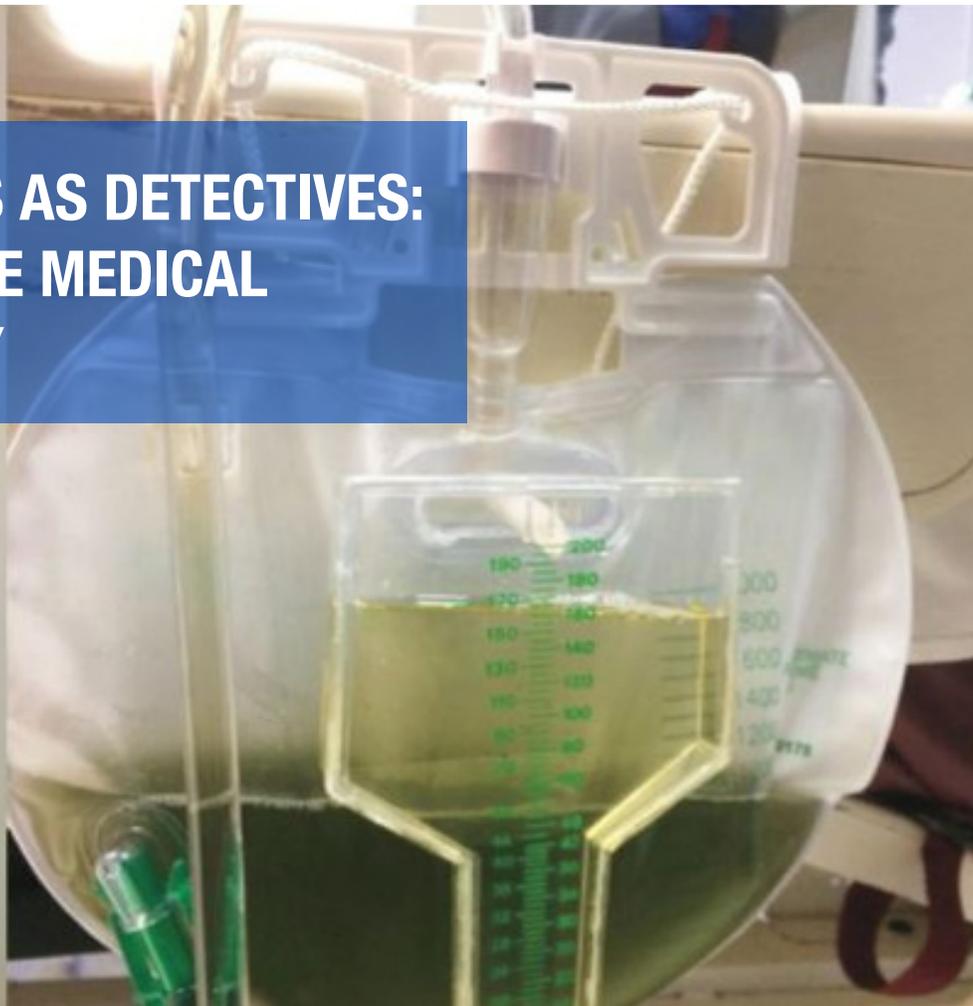


Electronic Prescriptions

Effective January 1, 2023, [Public Act 102-0490](#) will require prescribers who write more than 25 prescriptions during a 12-month period (both oral and written) of Schedule II, III, IV or V must be sent and received electronically. The Department of Financial and Professional Regulation shall adopt rules for the administration of this section.

The [Illinois Prescription Monitoring Program \(ILPMP\)](#) is an electronic database that collects dispensing information for Schedule II-V controlled substances and selected drugs of interest. This data is reported on a daily basis by retail pharmacies dispensing in Illinois and displayed for providers to assist with the clinical decision-making process.

DOCTORS AS DETECTIVES: REAL-LIFE MEDICAL MYSTERY



(Image credit: The New England Journal of Medicine ©2020)

Clinicians are a like detectives. They gather clues from history, physical examination, laboratory tests, diagnostic imaging, and other sources to solve the mystery of patients' symptoms.

The 62-year-old man was hospitalized after he was found to have high levels of carbon dioxide in his blood, a condition that can be life threatening. The man was placed on a ventilator and given a general anesthetic called propofol, according to a report of the case, published in [The New England Journal of Medicine](#). Five days later, the man's urine, which was being collected in a catheter bag, turned green. While green urine can be due to several factors. Propofol, medication widely used for general anesthesia, in rare cases can turn a person's urine green. Fortunately, this discoloration goes away once the medication is stopped. The man's urine returned to a normal color once he was taken off propofol, the report said.

ILLINOIS

STATE MEDICAL BOARD NEEDS YOU!

If you live in Illinois and have a full-time active practice in Illinois, apply to be an expert reviewer for the board.



Requirements to serve:

- Must be licensed in the State of Illinois as a physician and surgeon and must have no prior complaints or disciplinary history.
- Board certification by a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties is preferred.

To learn more or to apply to be a reviewer for the Illinois State Medical Board, please email Diane Casas at Diane.Casas@illinois.gov.

The Board is looking for experts in the following specialties:

- Addiction Medicine with added certification in Family or Internal or Psychiatry
- Dermatology
- Family Medicine
- Gastroenterology
- Hematology
- Neurological Surgery
- Neurology
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Pain Medicine
- Plastic Surgery
- Psychiatry (Forensic and Addiction)
- Surgery
- Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery
- Urology
- Vascular Surgery



Connect With

THE MEDICAL BOARD

1

LINKS TO OUR WEBSITE

1. [Update your contact information](#)
2. [Physician webpage on the IDFPR website](#)
3. [Submit questions to IDFPR about your profession](#)

2

FOLLOW IDFPR ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Linkedin](#)
[Instagram](#)

3

FEEDBACK

We want your feedback on the Medical Minute with IDFPR newsletter! Are there updates you wish to see? An idea on how we could improve our publication? Please email IDFPR's public information officer, Chris Slaby, at Christopher.Slaby@illinois.gov!



IDFPR RECOGNIZED FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATE INITIATIVE

On July 5, the Chicago Tribune published a commentary piece titled "[Internationally trained doctors can help solve Illinois' doctor shortage.](#)" Written by Upwardly Global CEO Jina Krause-Vilner and American Immigration Council Executive Director Jeremy Robbins, the commentary praises the collaborative effort by IDFPR, Illinois State Representative Theresa Mah, Governor Pritzker, and industry advocacy groups to enable internationally trained medical graduates (IMGs) to provide those services under the supervision of an Illinois-licensed physician. To date, more than 360 IMGs have received authorization to provide healthcare services in Illinois.

Learn more about our initiative for International Medical Graduates on our website, <https://idfpr.illinois.gov/COVID-19%20HC.asp>.

MEET IDFPR'S INTERIM MEDICAL ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL

Lauren Craig began her career at the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation while in law school at DePaul University College of Law. During her 3L year, Lauren clerked for the Health-Related Prosecutions Unit. It was during that time that she realized her love of and developed her appreciation for public service. Upon the passage of the Illinois Bar, Lauren transitioned into the Office of General Counsel. In her current role as Interim Associate General Counsel, Lauren now oversees the Illinois Medical Board. She is excited to work with and learn from the exceptional licensees that voluntarily give their time and efforts to the continued success of the Board and the protection of the Illinois public.



CONTACT US

Licensing and Testing

320 West Washington Street
3rd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62786

General Assistance:

1-888-473-4858

Enforcement, Complaints, and Investigations

555 West Monroe Street
Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60661

Complaint Intake Unit:

312-814-6910

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State of Illinois

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation