

Quarterly Management Report

THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SECOND QUARTER—FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007

Florida Department of Health Releases Practitioner's Guide to Completing and Updating the Profile

The Florida Department of Health's (DOH) Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) announces the release of the Practitioner's Guide to Completing and Updating the Profile. This guide provides information to health care practitioners on what information is reported by the practitioner and/or other sources, what information is verified by MQA, and whether the information is optional or mandatory. The guide also provides instruction on how to complete and update the practitioner profile.

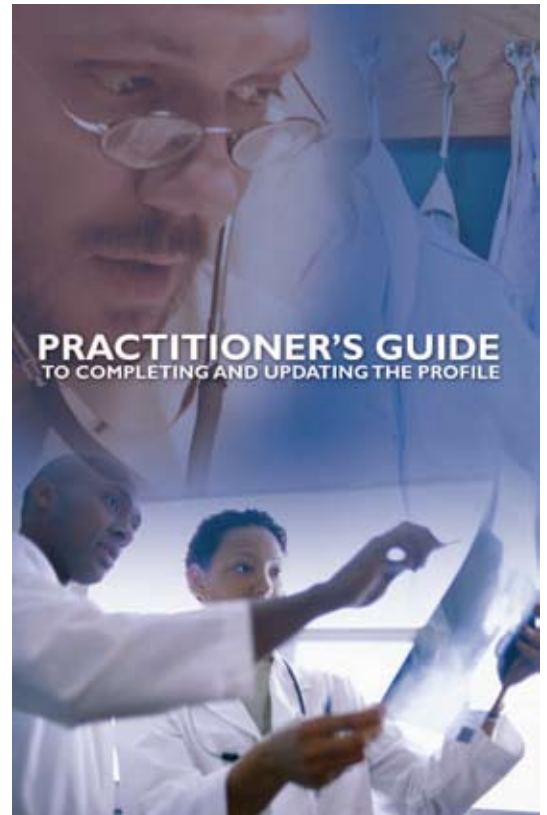
"This guide allows practitioners to provide information in an efficient manner," said DOH MQA Division Director Lucy C. Gee, M.S. "In turn, Floridians will be able to access practitioner information with greater ease."

In 1997, the Florida Legislature passed a law requiring DOH to maintain profiles on certain health professionals licensed in Florida. The law also specified the information to be maintained, how it was to be reported, and other requirements dealing with compiling and updating the information in the profiles. Practitioner profiles are required for all Medical Doctors (M.D.s), Osteopathic (D.O.s), Chiropractic (D.C.s) and Podiatric Physicians (D.P.s), and Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (A.R.N.P.s) licensed in Florida.

The profile contains required and optional information from the practitioner. Required information includes the practitioner's education and training, current practice and mailing addresses, staff privileges and faculty appointments, reported financial responsibility, legal actions taken, board final disciplinary action, liability claims filed against Podiatric Physicians which exceed \$5,000 and liability claims filed against M.D.s and Osteopathic Physicians which exceed \$100,000. Optional information may include committees/memberships, professional or community service awards, and publications the practitioner has authored.

If you are a licensed profiled practitioner, you should review your profile information frequently and report any corrections to DOH immediately. By law, you are responsible for updating your profile information within 15 days after a change of an occurrence in each section of the profile.

The Practitioner's Guide is available at www.doh.state.fl.us/MQA/profiling. If you have any questions about the guide or updating your profile, you can also contact a Licensure Services Specialist at (850) 488-0595, extension 3 for assistance, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., excluding state holidays. Practitioners, along with consumers, are encouraged to visit www.flhealthsource.com, DOH's health care practitioner web site, to verify information and learn more about Florida's healthcare licensee regulation system.



Department of Health Queries Practitioner Profiles Against the National Practitioner Data Bank

The Florida Department of Health's (DOH) Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) is currently querying the practitioner profiles of podiatrists, chiropractors, osteopathic physicians and medical doctors against the National Practitioner Data Bank. MQA is reviewing the disciplinary history and medical malpractice claims information self-reported by practitioners in their practitioner profiles.

“This audit helps ensure that consumers have access to accurate and up-to-date information on the practitioner profiles so they can make informed decisions when choosing a licensed health care professional,” DOH MQA Division Director Lucy C. Gee, M.S., said. “By cross referencing the information on the profiles to the national databank, MQA and the Department are holding practitioners accountable and continuing our stride toward excellence in healthcare regulation.”

DOH is considered a national leader in disciplining physicians. Public Citizen, a consumer advocacy group in Washington, D.C., ranked Florida in the top 10 for physician look-up websites. Florida ranks ninth out of 51 states, including the District of Columbia, for being among the best websites to search for physician information and disciplinary actions. In 2002, the group awarded Florida, specifically the Boards of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine, with a “B” for the content and user-friendliness of the site.

MQA, which manages and maintains DOH's practitioner look-up site, is mandated by Florida Statute to ensure the information on practitioner profiles is correct; therefore, DOH can discipline practitioners choosing not to comply with audits. These measures are taken to protect the safety of Florida's residents and visitors.

Florida Department of Health Acknowledges October as American Pharmacists Month

The Florida Department of Health (DOH), along with the Florida Pharmacy Association, recognized October as American Pharmacists Month. This year's theme for American Pharmacists Month was Know Your Medicine; Know Your Pharmacist. The pharmacist is a key health care professional in helping people achieve the best results from their medications.

“Establishing a good rapport with your primary pharmacist is an effective way to become more informed about your prescribed medications,” said Secretary of Health M. Rony François, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D. “Floridians should choose a pharmacist they trust and build a partnership for good health through genuine communication.”

Pharmacy is practiced in a wide range of settings: community pharmacies, hospitals, long term care facilities, the pharmaceutical industry, managed care and government. A survey identified 112,000 pharmacists in community pharmacy, 40,000 in hospitals, and 21,000 in consulting, government, academic, industry and other settings.

“Taking your medications properly is one of the best ways to avoid future health care costs,” said Florida Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Rebecca Poston, R.Ph., C.Ph. “Each year, thousands of people end up in the hospital, fail to get better, and spend more than they should, simply because they do not take their medication properly.”

DOH Investigation Leads to Arrest in South Florida

The Florida Department of Health’s (DOH) South Florida Unlicensed Activity (ULA) Unit announced that their joint investigation with the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) has led to the arrest of Ms. Teodolinda Bolivar DeGonzalez for three counts of the unlicensed practice of health care (a third degree felony), three counts of the unlicensed practice of health care with serious injury (a second degree felony) and one count of possession of legend drugs with intent to dispense, which is a third degree felony.

Detectives from the MDPD Medical Crimes Unit were informed of the criminal activity by one of DeGonzalez’ victims. The victim described how she and two other women had agreed to have their buttocks “enhanced” by allowing DeGonzalez to inject silicone directly into their bodies. Immediately following the injections, all of the victims experienced a skin irritation that rapidly worsened and ultimately required medical attention. Subsequent to the arrest of DeGonzalez, a search of the residence where the injections were performed was conducted. This search resulted in the recovery of eight 50 ML bottles of Lidocaine, ten 10 ML bottles of Xilocaine and various other legend drugs.

DOH has several resources to combat unlicensed activity:

- Consumers are encouraged to use DOH’s Web site www.flhealthsource.com where they can conveniently view the license information of their health care practitioner.
- Complaints may be filed anonymously by completing and mailing the complaint form on the DOH Web site or calling 1-877-HALT-ULA or 1-877-425-8852.

Second Quarter ULA Statistics

Complaints Received	182
Referred for Investigation	168
Investigations Completed.	292
Cease and Desists Issued	70
Referrals to Law Enforcement.	99
Arrests	29

ULA Finances - July 1, 2006 -December 31, 2006

Beginning Cash Balance	\$4,731,641
Revenues	\$453,821
Expenditures	\$541,301
Ending Cash Balance.	\$4,644,161

**To Report Unlicensed Activity call:
1-877-HALT-ULA**



Practitioner Regulation Quarterly Summary • October 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006

BOARD	COMPLAINTS RECEIVED	LEGALLY SUFFICIENT	INVESTIGATIONS COMPLETED	CITATIONS ISSUED	DISMISSED BY PANEL	PC FOUND	PC FOUND DISMISSED	FINAL ORDERS	CONSUMER SERVICES	INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES	LEGAL SERVICES	TOTAL SERVICES
ACUPUNCTURE	27	28	4	15	2	3	2	1	10	1	17	28
ANESTHESIOLOGY ASSISTANTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
ATHLETIC TRAINERS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
CERTIFIED NURSING ASST	472	240	240	15	151	60	9	55	136	129	504	769
CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE	170	50	38	37	47	25	8	24	129	33	173	335
CLINICAL LAB PERSONNEL	7	3	5	2	3	5	0	1	5	1	13	19
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS	11	4	4	0	5	4	1	0	3	1	15	19
DENTAL HYGIENISTS	28	25	3	4	2	0	0	1	4	0	8	12
DENTAL LABORATORIES	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	14
DENTISTRY	315	169	115	14	113	42	6	27	127	64	243	434
DIETETICS AND NUTRITION	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
DRUGS, DEVICES & COSMETICS	149	252	233	0	197	0	0	40	0	79	464	543
ELECTROLYSIS	5	5	4	10	1	2	0	0	5	3	6	14
ELECTROLYSIS FACILITIES	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECH	16	13	13	0	11	8	2	8	7	1	90	98
HEARING AID SPECIALISTS	21	10	15	0	55	6	0	10	14	6	41	61
MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPISTS	4	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	3	7	11
MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS	48	45	12	1	17	11	1	12	8	19	54	81

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MASSAGE THERAPY	50	52	57	61	17	22	0	12	51	48	148	247
MEDICAL PHYSICISTS	1	1	5	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	10	11
MEDICINE	3,949	669	446	16	368	113	7	91	2,740	561	1,607	4,908
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS	19	17	7	0	14	5	0	4	7	6	28	41
MIDWIFERY	11	7	2	0	2	3	2	3	2	3	7	12
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NURSING - ARNP	73	24	40	0	21	20	0	16	140	23	88	251
NURSING - LPN	253	157	139	38	76	79	7	93	70	112	424	606
NURSING - RN	343	208	215	5	84	117	7	123	283	124	709	1,116
NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS	79	15	16	0	104	7	0	9	16	5	71	92
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	13	5	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	7	11
OPTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS	2	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	6	3	17	26
OPTICIANRY	12	12	3	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	25	33
OPTOMETRY	15	10	4	0	2	1	1	0	5	0	21	26
OPTOMETRY BRANCH OFFICES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ORTHOTISTS & PROSTHETISTS	5	8	15	57	0	0	0	0	13	3	32	48
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE	397	90	58	1	53	13	0	18	326	46	153	525
PARAMEDICS	27	21	29	0	6	8	1	6	7	11	124	142
PHARMACIES	153	121	102	3	113	1	5	14	91	99	128	318

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PHARMACISTS	103	87	124	22	86	40	6	46	34	84	210	328
PHYSICAL THERAPY	11	9	13	1	6	6	1	6	40	7	25	72
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS	40	12	9	0	10	3	2	2	111	13	35	159
PODIATRIC MEDICINE	137	22	18	0	0	4	0	4	86	7	81	174
PSYCHOLOGY	21	16	13	2	5	5	2	1	4	8	48	60
RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY	36	29	14	0	3	4	0	6	7	12	46	65
REFERRED NON-JURISDICTIONAL	6,524	10	2	0	3	0	0	0	1,546	4	12	1,562
RESPIRATORY CARE	18	12	2	0	0	0	0	4	9	4	28	41
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	3	9
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATH/AUDIO	35	41	7	12	2	4	0	0	3	2	23	28
TOTAL FOR ALL BOARDS	13,610	2,521	2,038	317	1,586	621	70	641	6,055	1,539	5,764	13,358