

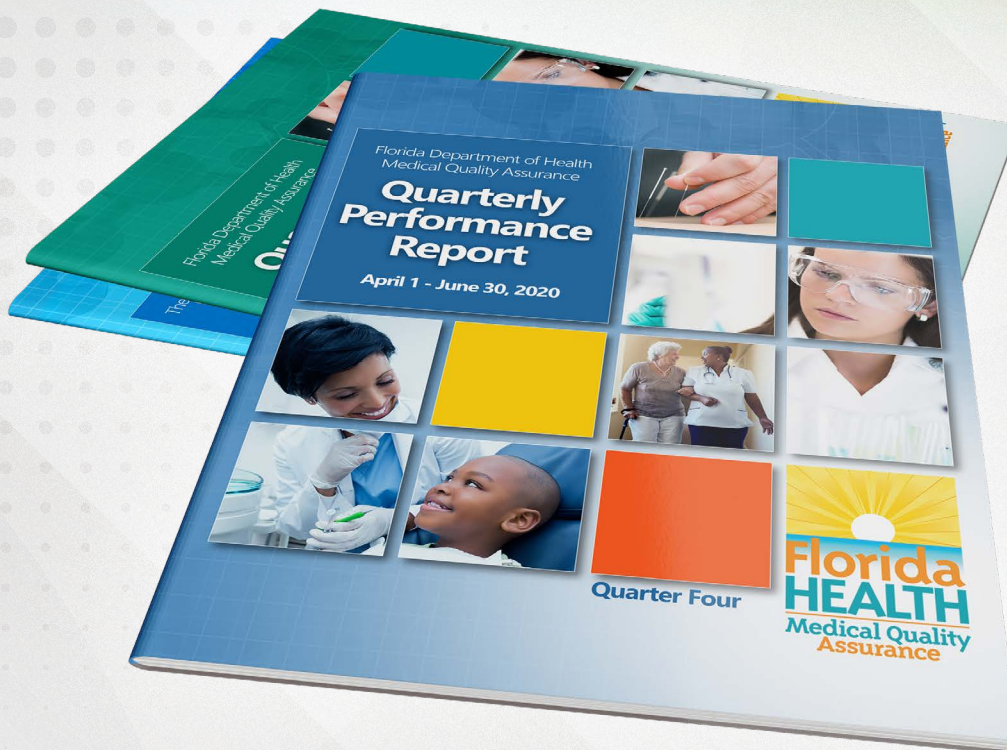
# MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

As required by section 456.025(9), Florida Statutes

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Q1



[Section 456.005](#), Florida Statutes, requires the Florida Department of Health (Department), Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) to develop and implement a long-range plan. This plan serves as a road map for accomplishing the Department's mission and is communicated through the [MQA annual and quarterly performance reports](#). Quarterly performance reports are required under [section 456.025\(9\)](#), Florida Statutes.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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4	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
5	UNLICENSED ACTIVITY
6	BALANCED SCORECARD MEASURES
9	BY THE NUMBERS
12	GLOSSARY

The Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) provides information about revenues and expenditures, performance measures, and recommendations. The QPR is prepared by the Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) for 22 health care practitioner boards, 4 councils, stakeholders, and health care consumers to inform them of the vital work performed in health care regulation. The QPR also includes financial and statistical data resulting from unlicensed activity enforcement.

MQA furthers the Department's mission to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts. This is accomplished through collaboration with other stakeholders and agencies at the state and federal level and working with local officials and law enforcement agencies to stop and prevent dangerous unlicensed activity within Florida's communities.

During the first quarter of fiscal year 2021-22, MQA:

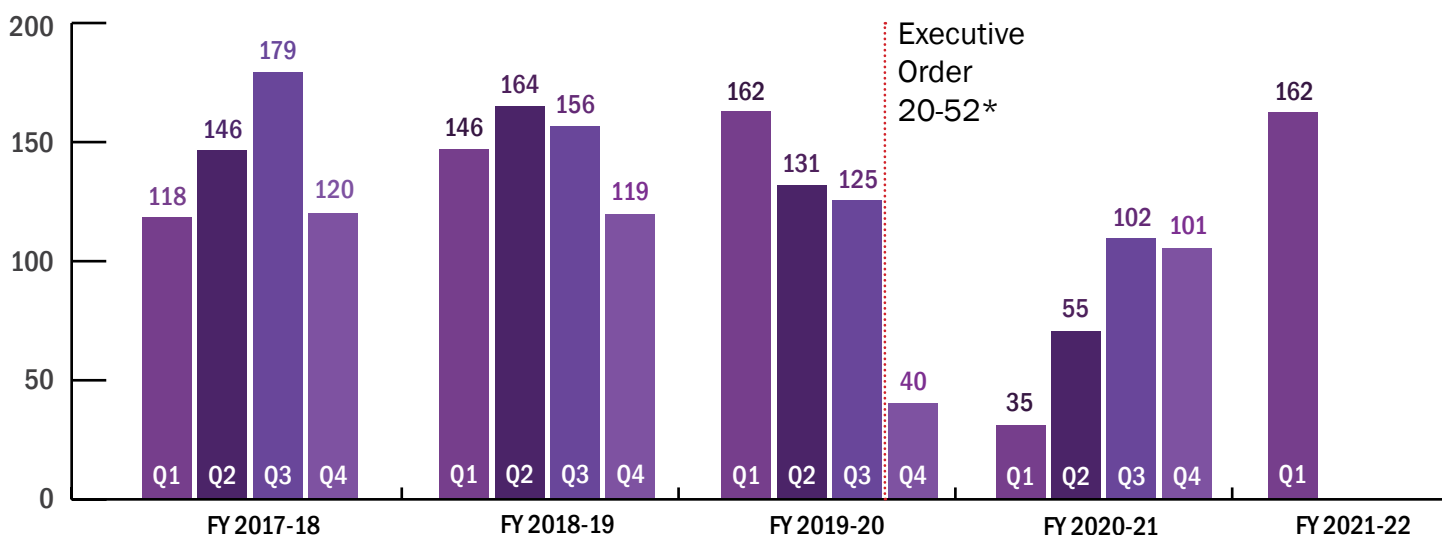
- Received 47,122 applications for initial licensure or re-examination.
- Issued 37,304 initial licenses.
- Processed renewal applications for qualified applicants in less than one day (average 15 days).
- Issued 162 cease and desist orders to unlicensed individuals (preventing potentially harmful or life-threatening unregulated/illegal activities).
- Referred 141 complaints to law enforcement for potential criminal violations.

Performing regulated health care activities without proper licensing in Florida is a crime. Treatment by an unlicensed person is dangerous and may result in injury, disease, or even death. When practitioners pay licensing fees, \$5 is designated for the enforcement of health care regulations to reduce and prevent unlicensed activity.

From educating the public to conducting complex investigations and issuing cease and desist orders, the Unlicensed Activity (ULA) program protects the people of Florida and remains at the forefront of health care regulation.

## ORDERS TO CEASE AND DESIST

Below is a comparison of the results from Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 to the first quarter of FY 2020-21, highlighting each quarter.



## HALT UNLICENSED ACTIVITY

Consumers are encouraged to verify the license of their health care provider by using the [www.FLHealthSource.gov/ula](http://www.FLHealthSource.gov/ula) website, or calling 1-877-HALT-ULA, to speak directly with an investigator in the Consumer Services Unit. Tips of suspicious or potential unlicensed activity may be emailed to [HALTULA@FLHealth.gov](mailto:HALTULA@FLHealth.gov).

\*On March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52, declaring a Public Health Emergency regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

This section highlights three of MQA's Balanced Scorecard measures: the number of days to process a renewal application for qualified applicants, the number of days to issue an initial license for qualified applicants, and the number of days to complete initial inspections before licensure. These measures are critical components of MQA's strategic priorities and management in monitoring progress.

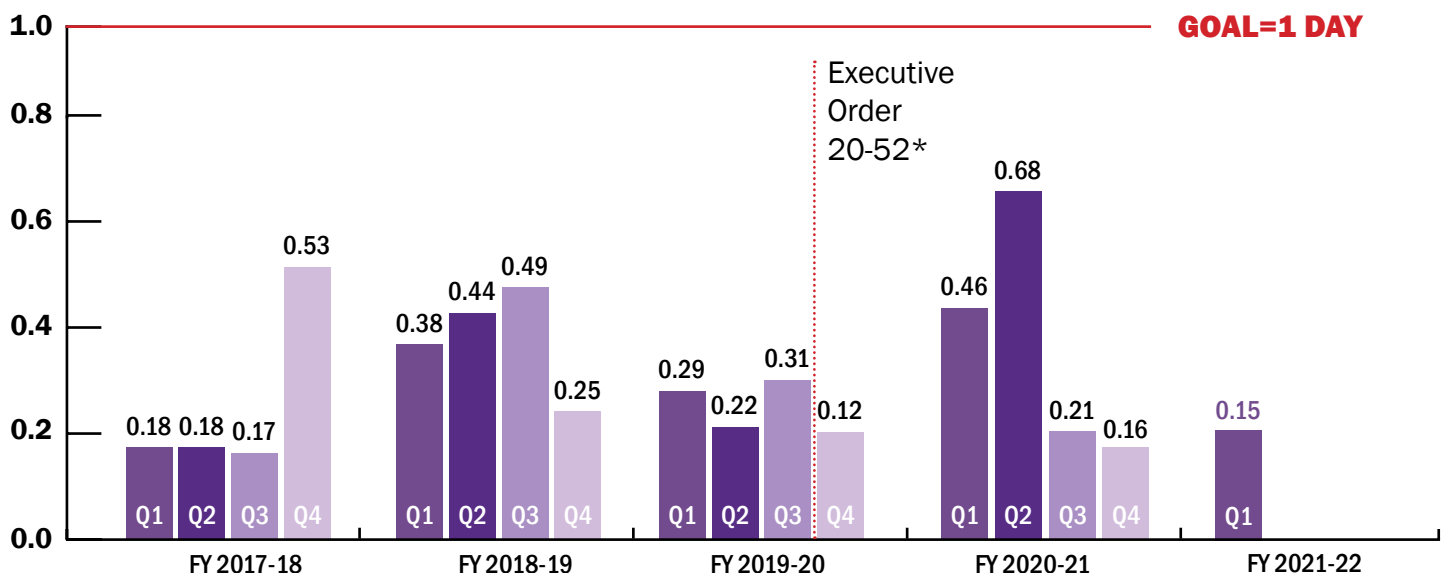
**Measure: Number of Days to Process a Renewal Application for a Qualified Applicant**

**Goal:** 1 Day

**Definition:** This measure calculates the average number of days to renew a license for health care practitioners and facilities. Included in this measure are electronic renewal applications processed online, and paper renewal applications processed through the U.S. mail. During the first quarter, paper renewals were a small percentage, as 97.39 percent of licensees using the online renewal system. For practitioners who renew their licenses online, the measure includes the average number of days from the date the transaction was initiated online to the time the renewal application was approved. For practitioners who renew their license by mail, this measure includes the average number of days from the date the Department receives the renewal fee in its entirety to the time the renewal application is approved. If a deficiency letter was sent, the measure is adjusted to the number of days from the date the renewal fee or documents are received in their entirety.

**Initiative:** No action steps are currently needed to improve performance.

### LICENSE RENEWAL



Data source: MQA Licensing and Enforcement Information Database System (LEIDS).

\*On March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52, declaring a Public Health Emergency regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

# BALANCED SCORECARD MEASURES

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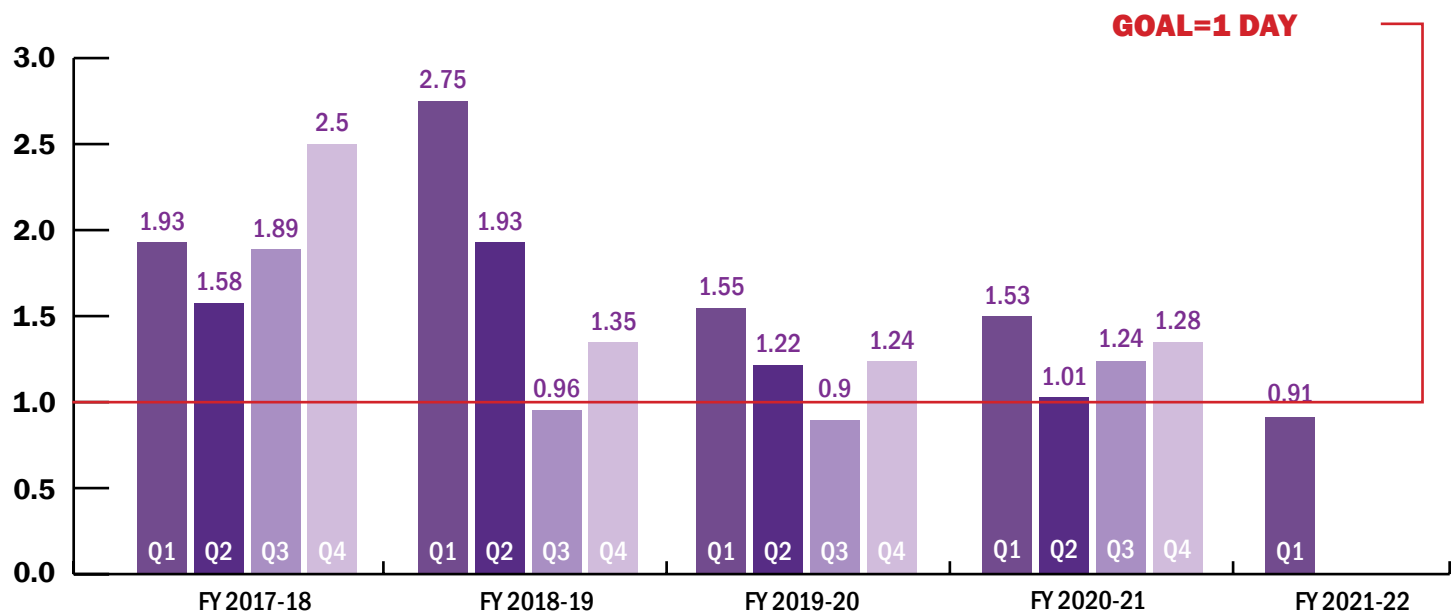
**Measure:** Number of Days to Issue an Initial License for Qualified Applicants

**Goal:** 1 Day

**Definition:** This measure calculates the average number of days from the date an applicant is deemed qualified for licensure to the date a license is issued. This measure is used for all health care practitioner applications submitted for initial licensure in Florida.

**Initiative:** To improve time to license qualified applicants, the Bureau of Health Care Practitioner Regulation analyzes all aspects of the application process through process improvement reviews. Additionally, each board office identifies trends regarding the deficiencies found in applications and provides a work plan to eliminate or reduce the delays caused by these deficiencies. The boards actively engage in activities that improve the efficiencies of the licensure process.

## INITIAL LICENSES



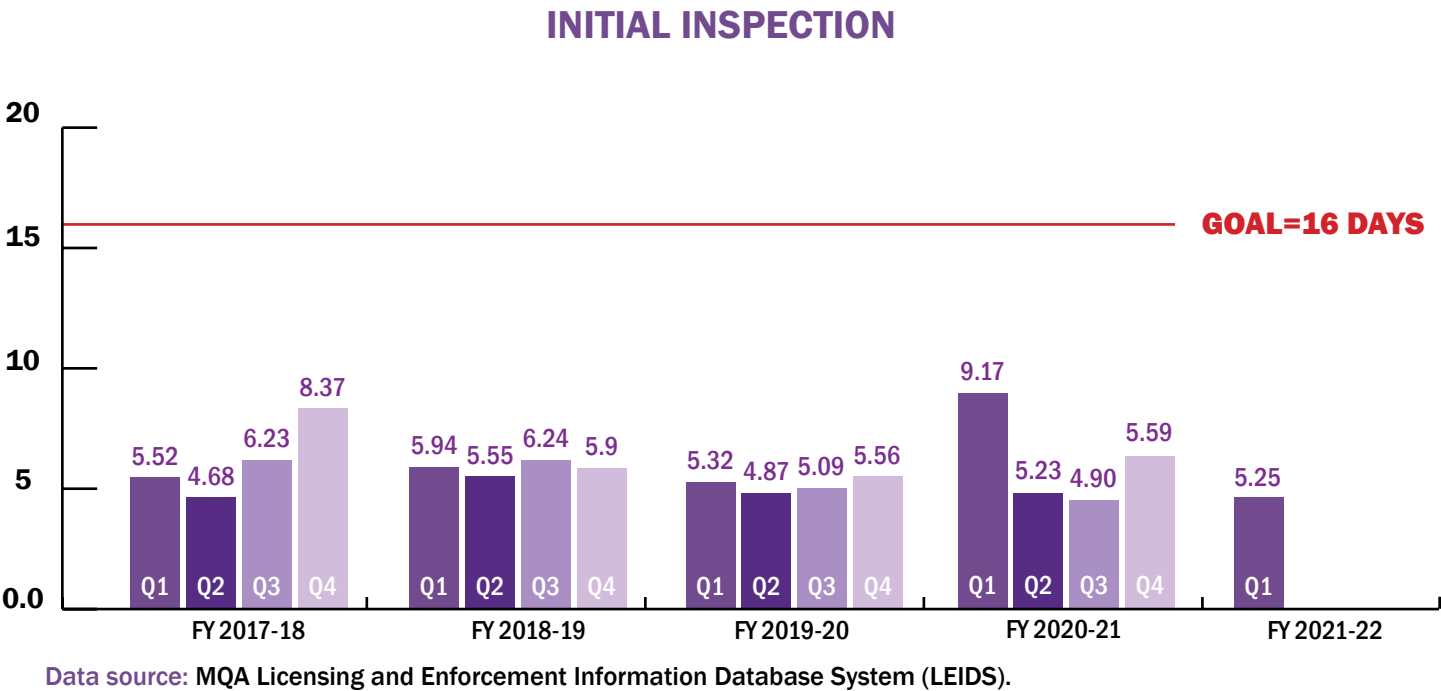
**Data source:** MQA Licensing and Enforcement Information Database System (LEIDS).

**Measure:** Number of Days to Complete Initial Inspection Prior to Licensure

**Goal:** 16 Days

**Definition:** This measure calculates the average number of days from the date an applicant is ready to open a Pharmacy Establishment, and MODE (Massage, Optical, Dental Lab, and Electrolysis Establishments) inspection to the date the inspection is completed. This measure includes all initial inspections where the applicant did not formally request a delay in the completion of the opening inspection.

**Initiative:** No action steps are currently needed to improve performance.



## FINANCIAL DATA

MQA's financial data, including the fees that are collected and expenses paid from the MQA trust fund, are reported as required by law. At the end of each year, MQA calculates the cost to regulate professions and reviews the adequacy of license renewal fees to ensure professions cover their costs of regulation.

***Section 456.025(9), Florida Statutes: The Department shall provide a management report of revenues and expenditures, performance measures, and recommendations to each board at least once a quarter.***

MQA is funded by a trust fund, which consists of fees and fines collected through the licensing and enforcement process. The funds are allocated among the boards and councils to provide administrative support for licensing and regulating health care practitioners. MQA is committed to ensuring the administrative costs of regulation do not serve as a barrier to licensed health care practitioners practicing their profession in Florida.

MQA collaborates with individual boards to reduce fees whenever possible. Analyses are performed periodically to compare the cost of regulation against the current renewal fees.

	Licensed	Unlicensed	Total
<b>Beginning Cash Balance 7/1/2021</b>	\$32,209,759	\$5,405,926	\$37,615,685
<b>Total Revenues 9/30/2021</b>	\$26,515,832	\$883,516	\$27,399,348
<b>Total Expenditures 9/30/2021</b>	\$21,486,289	\$1,219,432	\$22,705,721
<b>Ending Cash Balance 9/30/2021</b>	\$37,239,302	\$5,070,010	\$42,309,312

## LICENSEE DATA

MQA licenses qualified applicants in conjunction with the regulatory board that oversees each profession.

## QUARTERLY SUMMARY

Initial Applications Received .....	42,364
Re-Examination Applications Received.....	4,758
Initial Licenses Issued.....	37,304

[Click here for a detailed report by profession](#)

### ENFORCEMENT DATA

The key role of MQA's Bureau of Enforcement is to investigate complaints and reports against licensed practitioners and unlicensed persons. Specialized units within the Bureau of Enforcement are: Unlicensed Activity Program, Consumer Services Unit, Investigative Services Unit, and the Compliance Management Unit.

MQA received over 40,000 complaints in FY 2020-21. Practitioners who are disciplined may receive reprimands, sanctions, or other actions. The Department takes emergency action for violations that pose an immediate and severe threat to the public under section 456.074, Florida Statutes, including the commission of certain crimes and violations.

Complaints Received	13,741
Legally Sufficient	1,575
Investigations Completed	1,423
Citations Issued	78
Dismissals	75
Probable Cause Found	320
No Probable Cause Found	743
Final Orders	290

### EMERGENCY ORDERS ISSUED

Emergency Restriction Orders	37
Emergency Suspension Orders	54
Total Emergency Orders	91

### FINES AND COST DATA FOR CURRENT LICENSEES

Dollar Amount Collected	\$450,578.89
Dollar Amount Imposed	\$544,464.57
Percentage Collected	82.76%

### NUMBER OF ACTIVE CASES

Consumer Services	9,095
Investigative Services	853
Prosecution Services	3,761

[Click here for a detailed report by profession](#)

### UNLICENSED ACTIVITY DATA

MQA reviews and investigates complaints of unlicensed activity through the central office in Tallahassee and 11 regional offices located around the state. MQA issues cease and desist orders and fines against unlicensed persons. MQA relies on partnerships with law enforcement for criminal prosecution.

### QUARTERLY SUMMARY

Complaints Received	220
Legally Sufficient	286
Investigations Completed	262
Cease and Desist Orders Issued	162
Referrals to Law Enforcement	141

[Click here for a detailed report by profession](#)

**Balanced Scorecard**

A way to measure whether the key processes performed by MQA (licensing, enforcing, and providing information) support our vision and our strategic objectives.

**Emergency Action**

An action taken by the State Surgeon General to suspend or restrict the ability to practice when a licensed health care practitioner poses an immediate and serious threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

**Emergency Suspension Order (ESO)**

An order issued by the Florida Department of Health suspending the license of a practitioner. A practitioner may not practice in the state of Florida while under an emergency suspension order.

**Emergency Restriction Order (ERO)**

An order issued by the Florida Department of Health restricting the practice of a practitioner in the state of Florida under conditions specified by the Department.

**Final Order**

An order of a regulatory board or the Department of Health outlining the finding of facts, and penalties in a disciplinary case against a licensee. The administrative complaint outlining the charges against the licensee is attached and becomes part of the final order when it is filed with the agency clerk.

**Investigations Completed**

Investigations are initiated when a complaint is considered legally sufficient. All completed investigations are presented to the Prosecution Services Unit with an Investigative Report and all documents related to the complaint.

**Legally Sufficient**

Complaints that, if found to be true, show a potential violation of Florida Statutes or Rules.

**LEIDS**

Licensing and Enforcement Information Database System. MQA's licensure and enforcement database.

**MQA Trust Fund Unlicensed Activity Fee**

A \$5 fee collected at initial and renewal licensing that funds the investigation and enforcement of unlicensed activities, according to Florida law.

**Probable Cause**

A determination that there is a reasonable basis to suspect that a person has violated or is violating the law.

**Qualified Applicant**

A qualified applicant has met all requirements to become licensed and could essentially be licensed on the day they become qualified. This is different from an approved applicant who may still have to pass an examination or meet an additional requirement outside of having their application approved.

**Unlicensed Activity (ULA)**

Potentially dangerous activity by an unauthorized person that could cause injury, disease, or death.



## **CONTACT US**

Your feedback is important to us.  
If you have questions or suggestions about  
this report, please let us know.

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