First Year Medical Students Presentation Resources

The presentation to first year medical students touches on the following areas of potential interest:

**Examinations**

1. **Attempt Limits**
   
   You must pass each part of the examination within **3 attempts**, or

   If you
   
   - have been licensed in good standing in another state for at least 5 years, or
   - held a Texas PIT permit on 9/1/05, then
     
     - a 4th attempt allowed **on one part only**, or
     - Up to 6 attempts allowed **on one part only**, if you also:
       - are specialty board certified by an ABMS or BOS board, and
       - you complete, in Texas, an additional 2 years of residency training

2. **Time Frame for Passage of All Licensing Examination Steps**
   
   7 calendar years, or
   
   10 calendar years if you:
   
   - are specialty board certified by an ABMS or BOS board, or,
   - have practiced under a Texas FTL for 1 year

   Or, 2 calendar years after completion of required postgraduate training (1 year for US/Canadian graduates and 2 years for IMGs), if:
   
   - you graduated from a combined MD/PhD or DO/PhD program, or

   10 calendar years after completion of the required postgraduate training if:
   
   - you graduated from a combined MD/PhD or DO/PhD program and:
     - are specialty board certified by an ABMS or BOS board, or,
     - have practiced under a Texas FTL for 1 year

   EXCEPTION – Applicants who meet all requirements for licensure except time frame, and who have been licensed for 5 years in good standing in another state are eligible for a license limited to practice exclusively and indefinitely in an MUA or HPSA.

**Postgraduate Training**

To be eligible for a full license US or Canadian graduates must have 1 continuous year of graduate medical training in the US or Canada in an ACGME or AOA accredited program, or a board approved fellowship.
**Active Practice**

We start telling you about this now so if you decide to take time off after training you apply for licensure FIRST! To be eligible for a full license you must have practiced medicine full-time (at least 20 hours per week for 40 weeks) for one of the two years preceding the date of application. (Training counts!)

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**Criminal History**

The Physician in Training permit and the full physician licensure applications both ask the following questions:

- Have you ever been arrested?
- Have you ever been cited or ticketed for, or charged with any violation of the law? (Unless the offense involved alcohol or drugs you may exclude 1) traffic tickets; and 2) violations with fines of $250 or less).

Explanations such as “I wasn’t convicted!” “I was a minor” “The judge told me it was dismissed and wouldn’t be on my record” are unacceptable. The only time you don’t need to disclose an offense that meets the criteria above is if you had it expunged, and have a copy of the expunction order. The text of the physician in training permit application can be found here: [http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/professionals/physicians/training/Text-Facsimile-of-PIT-app_12-06-09.pdf](http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/professionals/physicians/training/Text-Facsimile-of-PIT-app_12-06-09.pdf)

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**Impairment**

Wondering if you have to disclose a particular condition to the Texas Medical Board? If it affected your ability to function in school or work, or your behavior or judgment, you should tell us about it. The Board may take no action, or may refer you to the Texas Physician’s Health Program. If you prefer you may self-refer to the TPHP and then just inform the Board you have self-referred.
Professional Boundaries

**Romantic relationships or friendships with current patients** – Board Rule 190.8(2) defines unprofessional and dishonorable conduct:
- Unprofessional and dishonorable conduct that is likely to deceive, defraud, or injure the public within the meaning of the Act includes, but is not limited to:
  - (E) engaging in sexual contact with a patient;
  - (F) engaging in sexually inappropriate behavior or comments directed towards a patient;
  - (G) becoming financially or personally involved with a patient in an inappropriate manner;

**Romantic relationships or friendships with former patients** – not explicitly disallowed, however, the physician/patient relationship must be terminated in writing.

**Social media** – “Friending” patients on social media sites such as Facebook can blur professional boundaries so should be treated with caution. Physicians must be careful to not disclose patient information. Patients can sometimes be identified by their issues, or descriptions, even if names are not used. Physicians should be careful not to diagnose or treat patients over social media sites.

**Prescribing to Friends and Family** – Board Rule 190.8(1)(M) states:
- Practice Inconsistent with Public Health and Welfare. Failure to practice in an acceptable professional manner consistent with public health and welfare within the meaning of the Act includes, but is not limited to: inappropriate prescription of dangerous drugs or controlled substances to oneself, family members, or others in which there is a close personal relationship that would include the following:
  - (i) prescribing or administering dangerous drugs or controlled substances without taking an adequate history, performing a proper physical examination, and creating and maintaining adequate records; and
  - (ii) prescribing controlled substances in the absence of immediate need. "Immediate need" shall be considered no more than 72 hours.

Have more questions?

[http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/firstyears/](http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/firstyears/)

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