

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY EXAMINERS
Board Zoom Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 31, 2021 - 12:00 p.m.

The Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners met via teleconference on Wednesday, March 31, 2021. The following members were present:

Board Members Present

Dr. Leonard La Russa, DPM, Chair
Dr. Joseph Giovinco, DPM, Vice Chair
Dr. Sarvepalli Jokhai, DPM, Board Member
Ms. Judy Sanders, Consumer Board Member

Board Members Not Present

No members absent.

Visitors Present

No visitor's present.

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor
Meagan Doss, Complaints/Compliance Analyst

Office of Attorney General

Mary Brannen, Assistant Attorney General

Administrative Staff Absent

Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

Call to Order

Dr. La Russa established that a quorum of the Board was present and the meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda

The Board accepts the agenda as presented.

Open Session Minutes – January 22, 2021 Open Session Board Zoom Meeting Minutes

Dr. Giovinco motioned, Dr. Jokhai seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the January 22, 2021 open session Board zoom meeting minutes as presented.

Discussion – Board Rule 500-5-.01 Continuing Education Hours. Amended.

Ms. Sanders motioned, Dr. La Russa seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer Board Rule 500-5-.01. Continuing Education Hours. Amended. to the Attorney General's Office for a Memorandum of Authority and if no objections, vote to post.

The amendment includes a requirement that licensees complete continuing education hours which cover the subject of controlled substance prescribing practices and further clarifies that the continuing education hour requirements do apply to persons whose license has been reinstated by the Board.

The Board further discussed the economic impact of the rule amendment noting that it was a matter of public protection to require licensed podiatrists to take continuing medical education specifically designed to address controlled substance prescribing practices, guidelines, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, and controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management.

Within the economic impact discussion the Board determined that increasing Podiatrists knowledge surrounding the subject will better enable and equip them to treat individuals in a manner which recognizes the signs and symptoms of opioid addiction and minimizes incidences of opioid addiction which will decrease the amount of financial and human resources needed to treat addiction. Whereas, the Board recognizes there is a cost associated with taking the course such costs may be negated as the 3 hours required to satisfy the new requirement in the rule may be used toward meeting the 50 hour CME requirement for license renewal during the biennium in which the course was taken. In addition, such hours are required of physicians licensed under the Georgia Composite Medical Board.

Dr. La Russa motioned, Dr. Jokhai seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that the economic impact of Board Rule 500-5-.01. Continuing Education Hours. Amended., and the cost on any licensee or business to comply, cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative and ensure public safety.

Rule 500-5-.01. Continuing Education Hours. Amended.

- (1) The purpose of continuing education hours for podiatrists is to maintain and enhance the professional competence of podiatrists licensed to practice in Georgia for the protection of the health and welfare of the people of the State of Georgia.
- (2) As a requirement for the biennial renewal of his/her license, a podiatrist must certify to the Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners the completion of not less than fifty (50) hours of approved continuing education in the preceding two (2) years prior to the license expiration date.
 - (a) No more than ten (10) hours shall be obtained from online courses/correspondence courses/webinar, and such courses must be approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME).
 - (b) No more than ten (10) hours shall be obtained live (in person) from any healthcare related source.
 - (c) At least thirty (30) continuing medical education hours must be approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) and/or the Georgia Podiatric Medical Association (GPMA) and must be obtained live (in person).
 - (d) Every Podiatrist who maintains an active DEA certificate and prescribes controlled substances, except those holding a residency training permit, shall complete, at least one time, three (3) hours of CME that is specifically designed to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME shall include instruction on controlled substance prescribing guidelines, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, and controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management.
 - (i) Beginning the biennium ending August 31, 2023, Podiatrists must certify on their renewal application that the controlled substance prescribing CME requirement has been met.
 - (ii) Any controlled substance prescribing guidelines coursework that meet the requirements of this rule will count toward completion of this requirement provided that the podiatrist can submit documentation of such to the satisfaction of the Board.
 - (iii) Completion of this requirement may count toward the CME requirement for license renewal if submitted during the biennium in which the coursework was taken.
- (3) A podiatrist who has obtained a Georgia license by reciprocity, reinstatement or by examination, and who must renew his or her Georgia license for the first time, shall obtain the following number of continuing education hours prior to renewal of the license:
 - (a) If the license was issued or reinstated during the first six (6) months of the biennial renewal period, from September of the odd numbered year to the end of the following February, the full fifty (50) hours of continuing education shall be required for renewal;
 - (b) If the license was issued or reinstated during the following twelve (12) months of the biennial renewal period, from March of the even numbered year to February of the odd numbered year of the licensure period, thirty (30) hours of continuing education shall be required for the license renewal;
 - (c) If the license was issued or reinstated during the last six (6) months of the biennial renewal period, from March of the odd numbered year to August of the odd numbered year, the licensee shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements for that biennial licensing cycle and no continuing education hours shall be required to renew the license.
- (4) ~~This rule shall become effective with the 2013-2015 renewal cycle.~~

Cite as GA Regs. 500-5-.01

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-4](#), [43-1-25](#), [43-35-9](#), [43-35-15](#).

History. Original Rule entitled "General Requirements" adopted. F. Sept. 7, 1989; eff. Sept. 27, 1989.

Repealed: New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 15, 1995; eff. Jun. 4, 1995.

Repealed: New Rule entitled "Continuing Education Hours" adopted. F. May 7, 2012; eff. May 27, 2012.

Amended: F. Sep. 4, 2015; eff. Sep. 24, 2015

Amended: F. Mar. 1, 2017; eff. Mar. 21, 2017

Executive Session Minutes – January 22, 2021 Executive Session Board Zoom Meeting Minutes

Dr. La Russa motioned, Ms. Sanders seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the January 22, 2021 executive session Board zoom meeting minutes as presented.

Adjournment With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Adrienne Price, Executive Director

Minutes reviewed and edited by: Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director

Minutes approved on: May 12, 2021

LEONARD LA RUSSA
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR