



---

***Dr. Mark A. Bechtel Named to Medical Board***

---

On January 3, 2017, Gov. John R. Kasich appointed Mark A. Bechtel, MD, of Columbus to the State Medical Board for a term beginning January 3, 2017 and ending March 18, 2021. Dr. Bechtel is the Director of the Division of Dermatology at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Dr. Bechtel had previously served on the Medical Board from January 2012 until December 2014.

---

***Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) Added to Podiatric Scope of Practice***

---

Gov. Kasich signed Sub. H.B. 216 on January 4, 2017. This legislation amends Revised Code Section 4731.51 (the podiatric scope of practice) to allow podiatrists to order and supervise hyperbaric oxygen therapy for the treatment of ailments within the recognized podiatric scope of practice. The law also adds Revised Code Section 4731.511 which sets the parameters for podiatrists supervising HBOT.

A podiatrist may supervise HBOT if all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The podiatrist has consulted with a physician authorized to perform HBOT by the facility in which the hyperbaric oxygen room or chamber is located.
- (2) The podiatrist orders HBOT only for treatment within the scope of practice of podiatry.
- (3) The podiatrist is certified in advanced cardiovascular life support.
- (4) The podiatrist has completed, at a minimum, a 40-hour introductory course in hyperbaric medicine recognized by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery or by the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society.
- (5) The podiatrist is board-certified or board-qualified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery or the American Board of Podiatric Medicine.

Additionally, when a podiatrist supervises hyperbaric oxygen therapy:

- (1) The podiatrist must be immediately available throughout the performance of the therapy, and
- (2) A physician authorized to perform HBOT by the facility in which the hyperbaric room or chamber is located must be readily available for consultation throughout the performance of the therapy to furnish assistance and direction in the event a complication occurs that is outside the scope of practice of podiatry.



---

### *PA Supervision Agreement Renewal Deadline Update*

---

If your PA supervision agreement is set to expire January 31, 2017, you do **NOT** need to renew it at this time; your agreement is automatically valid until February 1, 2018. Because of the migration of computer systems at the State Medical Board of Ohio, the renewal deadline for Physician Assistant Supervision Agreements will be pushed out one year (January 31, 2018). Rather than asking for paper applications and then asking for re-submission of the information electronically in eLicense, the Board worked with lawmakers to create an extension date for this renewal cycle. Renewal applications will be accepted after August 2017.

---

### *Board Recognized for 100 years of Massage Therapy Regulation*

---



1916 - 2016

The Ohio Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association recently recognized the State Medical Board of Ohio for 100 years of massage therapy licensure and regulation. In 1915 legislation passed requiring a license to practice massage therapy. The first license was issued in 1916. Ohio was the first state in the country to require licensure of this profession. Currently, the Medical Board regulates more than 11,500 massage therapists. The State Medical Board of Ohio recognizes massage therapy as an allied medical branch with therapeutic and health benefits. To find a licensed massage therapist in your area, visit [findamassagetherapist.com](http://findamassagetherapist.com).

---

### *2017 Ohio Workers' Compensation Medical & Health Symposium*

---

The 2017 Ohio Workers' Compensation Medical & Health Symposium is a **free** continuing educational opportunity for health care professionals. The symposium features leading national and state experts focusing on the comprehensive care for an injured worker.

The **two-day annual symposium** offers experts in pain management, physical medicine and rehabilitation, alternative medicine, chiropractic medicine, neuromodulation, radiology, psychology, ergonomics, neurology and orthopedic surgery.

The program will be held March 9 – 10, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 N. High St., Columbus, Ohio. Physicians can earn 12.5 hours of Category 1 CME for attendance at this program.

For more information, visit the [Ohio BWC Symposium website](#).



---

***HealthScene Ohio – Winter 2017 Issue***

---

*HealthScene Ohio*, the Medical Board's quarterly magazine, is now available. The [Winter 2017 issue](#) features articles on sepsis, physician assistants, medical school pipeline programs and anxiety disorders.



---

***Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force Report***

---

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery involving the illegal trade of human beings for the purpose of exploitation for commercial gain, and it is happening here in Ohio.

The number of Ohio human trafficking cases reported to a national hotline has risen sharply, according to a report that says the state is now fourth in call volume. Ohio ranked 11th in calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2012 and jumped to fourth two years ago, according to the most recent call data included in the report from Gov. John Kasich's human trafficking task force. (Read the [full article on WHIO](#))

Health care providers are uniquely positioned to come into contact with and identify those victims. The State Medical Board of Ohio has created two training modules which provide an overview of [human labor trafficking](#) and [human sex trafficking](#) in Ohio. Both provide information on what to do if you suspect trafficking situations.