

OSTEOSCOPE

ISSUE 4 | FALL 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT DENISE PINES, MBA	1
MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT DR. HEMESH PATE	2
NAME AND ADDRESS CHANGES	3
DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?	3
BECOME A BOARD MEMBER	4
ATTEND A BOARD MEETING	4
EXPEDITED LICENSURE	4
JOIN THE OMBC SUBSCRIBER LIST	4
WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS	5
DO STUDENT SPOTLIGHT	6
CME/AUDIT PROCESS	7
OUTREACH EVENTS	8
SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS	9
LICENSING ACTIVITY	9
WHAT IS THE OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN DIVERSION PROGRAM?	10
HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA	11
HOW TO REPORT ARREST & CONVICTION	11
ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS—CITATIONS	12
ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS—DISCIPLINE	13



MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT DENISE PINES, MBA

As we move into a new season of service, I want to share my deep appreciation for the trust Californians place in the Osteopathic Medical Board of California (OMBC). Our mission remains clear and unwavering: to protect the health and safety of patients by licensing, regulating, and supporting the highest standards of osteopathic medical practice across the state.

Over the past year, the Board has strengthened its focus on transparency, accountability, and consumer empowerment. We held an Interested Parties Meeting to hear directly from the public about how we can improve, met with legislators on your behalf to help align policies with public protection, and updated our regulatory guidelines to reflect the current practice environment. We know that navigating healthcare can feel overwhelming, and our goal is to make sure every Californian has access to clear information about their providers, their rights, and the safeguards in place to protect them. Whether through improved online tools, more accessible complaint processes, or expanded public education efforts, we are committed to meeting people where they are.

We are also proud of the continued growth of osteopathic medicine in California. With more than 15,000 active licensed Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs) now practicing statewide, patients have increasing access to physicians trained in whole person, evidence-based care. As this workforce expands, so does our responsibility to make sure every DO practicing in California meets the highest professional and ethical standards.

(Continued on page 2)

Physical Address

Osteopathic Medical Board of California
1300 National Drive, Suite #150
Sacramento, CA 95834-1991

Main Office

Phone: (916) 928-8390
Hearing-Impaired Persons: 711,
or (800) 735-2929 (TTY)
California Relay Service:
(800) 735-2922 (Voice)
Email: osteopathic@dca.ca.gov
Website: www.ombc.ca.gov

— MISSION —

To protect the public by requiring competency, accountability, and integrity in the safe practice of medicine by osteopathic physicians and surgeons.

— VISION —

Our physicians and surgeons give the highest quality of care for all, striving for excellence in public protection.

— VALUES —

Accountability, Consumer Protection, Collaboration, Competency, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Effective Leadership, and Innovation

— JURISDICTION —

The Osteopathic Medical Board of California's (OMBC) jurisdiction includes osteopathic physicians and surgeons. The Board's jurisdiction does not include physicians (MDs), physician assistants (PAs), licensed midwives, polysomnographic trainees, technicians and technologists, and research psychoanalysts and student research psychoanalysts, chiropractors, dentists, health maintenance organizations, hospitals, insurance companies, malpractice actions/civil lawsuits, Medi-Cal, Medicare, nurses (RNs, NPs, FNPs), or optometrists.

The Board also has no authority over a medical provider's attitude, bedside manner, demeanor, office staff, prices charged, or refund disputes with a medical provider unless there is a double payment by the insurance company. The Board cannot assist consumers in obtaining medical care or financial compensation for medical malpractice.

(Continued from page 1)

In the months ahead, the Board will continue advancing initiatives that strengthen consumer protection, modernize regulatory processes, and support safe, high-quality care. We invite patients, families, healthcare partners, and community stakeholders to stay engaged with us. Your feedback, questions, and participation help shape a regulatory environment that truly serves the public.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership. Together, we can ensure that osteopathic medicine in California remains a model of integrity, compassion, and excellence.

Sincerely,
Denise Pines, MBA
President

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT, DR. HEMESH PATEL



Serving on the Osteopathic Medical Board of California has been one of the greatest honors of my career. Since joining the Board in 2020, I have gained a deeper appreciation for the responsibility we hold in protecting the public and supporting the osteopathic profession. As a Huntington Beach native and graduate of the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific, I have always felt closely

connected to California's osteopathic community. I continue that commitment today as a primary care physician with the Southern California Permanente Medical Group.

California's history with osteopathic medicine is both rich and defining. In the early 20th century, the state supported a thriving community of osteopathic physicians and surgeons, bolstered by strong training programs and hospitals. The 1962 merger between the California Osteopathic Association and the California Medical Association—resulting in a temporary halt in the issuance of DO licenses—was a pivotal moment. Thanks to tireless advocacy and the 1974 California Supreme Court decision restoring full licensing rights to DOs, the profession reemerged stronger. Today, more than 15,000 licensed osteopathic physicians and surgeons practice in California, making ours one of the largest DO communities in the nation.

Continuing this legacy of advocacy, the OMBC recently held its first Hill Day in Sacramento, where we met with legislative leaders to protect DO title recognition and ensure that only U.S.-trained osteopathic physicians may represent themselves as such. This work reaffirms our commitment to safeguarding the profession and the public.

Supporting the next generation of DOs is also a central focus. The Board has held listening sessions at Touro University California, California Health Sciences University in Clovis, and Western University of Health Sciences COMP. These visits allow us to answer student questions, discuss licensure, and reinforce the importance of professionalism, wellness, and public protection early in training. Executive Director Erika Calderon and OMBC staff continue outreach through OPSC's 65th Annual Convention and Kern County's Latina Maternal Health Fair.

Our regulatory work extends nationally and internationally through partnerships with the FSMB, ASOMR, and IAMRA. California remains aligned with emerging best practices and global standards through these collaborations.

As healthcare evolves—particularly with advances in artificial intelligence—the OMBC's mission remains essential. We have modernized our systems, including digitizing licensure processes to improve efficiency and accessibility.

Public protection guides everything we do. Every complaint is thoroughly reviewed, and we also serve as a resource for physicians. Wellness and safety are critical to high-quality care, and physicians facing mental health or substance-use challenges can seek support through the Board.

Our meetings are open to the public, and I invite all Californians—students, community members, patients, and physicians—to join us and help shape the future of osteopathic medicine in our state.

Sincerely,
Dr. Hemesh Patel, DO
Board Vice President



NAME AND ADDRESS CHANGES

It is crucial that OMBC has the most current and accurate name and address information on file should OMBC need to contact you. The link for submitting name and address changes is on the [OMBC website](#).

Licensees are required by law to notify the Board within 30 days if they change their name or address of record. It is important so licensees receive timely renewal notices and other important information, and applicants receive messages regarding application status.

There are two ways to get to the Name Change and Address Change request. You can go to your BreEZe account and click on the request form or go to online services on OMBC's website: www.ombc.ca.gov/online_services/index.shtml.



DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Licensees are encouraged to provide OMBC with an email address if the licensee has one. Email is an efficient channel for sharing information between OMBC and its applicants and licensees. OMBC will be able to communicate the status of applications, renewals, and requests for various OMBC services; provide law and regulation updates; and disseminate important OMBC news directly to each applicant and licensee. OMBC hopes this accelerated delivery and exchange of information will decrease processing times in all aspects of OMBC's programs and facilitate licensees keeping apprised of laws, regulations, and OMBC activities.

You can submit or update your email address by logging into your BreEZe account online and going to the address change section to edit or update the fields. OMBC is moving most of its applications and transactions from paper to digital so it is encouraging all licensees to familiarize themselves with the exciting changes on OMBC.ca.gov Online Services.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, LINKEDIN, X, OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE:



facebook.com/OsteoBoardCA/



linkedin.com/company/osteopathic-medical-board-of-california



x.com/OsteoBoardCA



ombc.ca.gov/

BECOME A BOARD MEMBER

OMBC is a nine-member board. All OMBC members collectively work to perform a vital role: providing invaluable oversight and direction. Past and present members of OMBC include both osteopathic physicians and surgeons serving in different specialties, as well as public members wanting to make a difference. The governor appoints two public members and five licensees; the Senate Rules Committee appoints one public member, and the speaker of the house appoints another public member. OMBC members work together to approve regulations and guide licensing, enforcement, public education, and consumer protection activities. Through this structure, OMBC members make essential decisions on agency policies and on disciplinary actions against professionals who violate state consumer protection laws. For more information and how to apply, please refer to DCA's website at www.dca.ca.gov/about_us/board_members/appointment.shtml.

ATTEND A BOARD MEETING

Attending an OMBC meeting is a way to discover how OMBC's administrative and disciplinary processes work. Everybody is encouraged to attend an OMBC meeting. OMBC encourages students to attend, as it is a chance to see OMBC discussions and presentations in real time. It also gives the attendee a glimpse into how decisions are made. Attendees learn not only how OMBC disseminates regulations for DOs, but also how the consumer is protected by these regulations. These processes make up a small part of the work OMBC conducts day in and day out. Please feel free to join! Meetings are held four times a year in locations throughout California. Visit OMBC's website for updates and more information: www.ombc.ca.gov (OMBC Meetings).

2026 MEETING DATES:

Thursday, August 25— Sacramento

Thursday, November 5— Clovis

EXPEDITED LICENSURE

OMBC expedites the application review process for those who meet one of the following criteria:

Honorably discharged military veterans

Active-duty military spouses or partners

Applicants intending to provide services in a medically underserved area or population

Refugees holding immigrant visas

Applicants intending to provide abortion services

Applicants enrolled in the Skill Bridge Program

JOIN THE OMBC SUBSCRIBER LIST

Please join the [OMBC's email subscriber list](#) to receive notices of changes in laws and regulations, enforcement actions taken against licensees, and information related to the practice of osteopathic physicians and surgeons.



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

OMBC welcomes new Board members!



Dr. Faisal Qazi

Dr. Faisal Qazi was appointed to the Osteopathic Medical Board of California by Governor Gavin Newsom in March 2026. He has practiced neurology in eastern Los Angeles County, the greater Inland Empire, and north Orange County since 2006, and is the co-founder of The Neurology Group (TNG). He has served as a commissioner on the State of California's Commission on Aging since 2020.

Dr. Qazi was a national delegate representing the Bernie Sanders for President campaign in 2020 and was a candidate in the City of Fullerton City Council race that same year. He currently serves as a board member for the Initiative on Islam and Medicine, an organization focused on Islamic bioethics and improving cultural competency in the care of Muslim patients.

He is the co-founder and former president of MiNDS (Medical Network Devoted to Service), a charitable organization dedicated to expanding specialty healthcare services for underserved families in Southern California. Dr. Qazi also previously served as president of the American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP), a national public health organization where he helped establish AMHP's early health policy initiatives in 2009.

In December 2015, he led an effort to raise funds on behalf of the Muslim community for the families of the San Bernardino County mass shooting victims, collecting more than \$200,000, one of the largest single contributions from a single group.

Dr. Qazi is an associate professor of neurology at Western University of Health Sciences and the University of California, Riverside. His work has been featured in the Los Angeles Times, CNN, NPR, Voice of America, PBS, and the Orange County Register. He has been recognized among the Best Doctors in the Inland Empire in the late 2000s and received the Values in Justice Award from St. Jude (Providence) Medical Center in 2016.



Negeen Mirreghabie, Esq.

Negeen Mirreghabie, Esq. of La Jolla, has been appointed to the OMBC. Mirreghabie has been a law professor at University of San Diego School of Law since 2017 and an attorney and mediator at Mirreghabie Law Group since 2011. She was a law professor at California Western School of Law and The Colleges of Law in 2025. She was a law professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law from 2011 to 2012. Mirreghabie was assistant director of Deposition, Expert Deposition, and Trial Advocacy programs at National Institute for Trial Advocacy from 2009 to 2011. She is an arbitrator and law school council officer for the State Bar of California. Mirreghabie earned a Juris Doctor from University of California, San Diego School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in political science from University of California, San Diego.

DO STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

In this issue of Osteoscope, we want to shine a spotlight on student Alice Avetyan, who recently attended our Board meeting. Alice rose to the moment by answering questions from our Board members about what it's like to be a student in the healthcare field today.

We reached out to Alice to commend her for the fantastic job she did and to learn more about her passions so we could share her story with our readers.

Alice, if you're reading this, we're rooting for you!



What is your educational background and career pathway?

I received my BS in biological sciences with a minor in medical humanities from University of California, Irvine in 2023. After college, I spent two years working in pain management as a medical assistant and surgical technician, where I gained a lot of firsthand exposure to patient care and multidisciplinary medicine. I worked

closely with physicians, nurses, and patients in both clinical and procedural settings, giving me a deeper understanding of the importance of communication, adaptability, and patient advocacy in healthcare. Those experiences further solidified my decision to pursue medicine. I am now at the end of my first year at Western University College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific and I couldn't be happier!

What motivated you to pursue a career in health care?

Growing up in an immigrant household, I often noticed hesitation and mistrust toward the healthcare system among family members and others in my community. Language barriers, lack of representation, and difficulty understanding medical information made many people feel disconnected from their care. Seeing that from a young age motivated me to pursue a career where I could help bridge those gaps. Alongside my interest in science and experiences volunteering at local hospitals and clinics, I found medicine to be the right path for me.

What are some things you enjoy doing when you're not focused on school?

Outside of school, I really enjoy spending time with friends and family, especially cooking meals together and trying new restaurants. Staying active is also a big part of my routine, whether that's weight training, Lagree classes, or just finding ways to stay moving during busy weeks of school. I also

enjoy volunteering at community clinics and outreach events because it gives me an opportunity to stay connected to the reasons I pursued medicine in the first place. Beyond that, I love music, traveling, and finding small ways to maintain balance and creativity outside of academics.

What do you consider to be most important in health care?

To me, one of the most important aspects of healthcare is the ability to build trust and communicate effectively with patients. Medicine is not only about diagnosing and treating, but also about making patients feel heard, respected, and involved in their care. I think compassion and empathy are just as important as clinical knowledge because they shape how patients experience the healthcare system. I also view the education that we receive as medical students as an absolute privilege. With that comes the responsibility of empowering our future patients with knowledge to help them feel more confident and engaged in their health.

What are some challenges you face, and what improvements would be helpful?

One of the biggest challenges we face as medical students is the financial burden. We all expected the curriculum and academic difficulty—it's rigorous, but that's not a surprise. What many of us weren't fully prepared for is the amount of debt we're taking on. The financial aspect is definitely one of the most difficult parts. There are some available scholarships, which help, but more support would make a meaningful difference.

Another topic my classmates and I have discussed is access to government assistance programs, particularly EBT. Some of us were able to receive EBT benefits during college, but because we are now attending a private institution, it seems we no longer qualify. This type of support would be extremely helpful. We understand that EBT eligibility requires working a certain number of hours — around 20 per week — but even with on-campus roles such as TA positions for our clinical reasoning or OM courses, we don't meet that requirement. We're not sure whether there's a way to advocate for improved access to assistance for students in our situation, but it's something many of us are thinking about.

How much debt do you anticipate graduating with?

I expect to graduate with roughly \$400,000 in debt, and once interest is factored in, it will likely be closer to \$500,000.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

How accepted or concerning is AI in your current class? How is it helping, and how do you feel it affects learning?

Most of my classmates, including myself, use some form of AI to help break down difficult lecture material. In terms of classroom integration, our Clinical Medicine and Reasoning (CMR) course has discussed introducing an AI tool to assist with SOAP note writing. It hasn't been implemented yet, but it's expected to roll out next year.

As for concerns, the biggest drawback is how quickly AI provides information. It can sometimes take away from the critical-thinking process and the depth of the learning experience. However, when it comes to accessing complex information and learning it more efficiently, AI has been very helpful. So, while it has clear benefits, there are definitely trade-offs.

The perception many of us had was that the Board was “out to get you.” If you made a mistake, the Board would immediately come after you. But that's not really what the Board does. In my experience, the Board is remorseful and genuinely aims to rehabilitate individuals who have made mistakes. What's your perception of the Board now? Is it still what I believed it to be years ago, or has that changed?

I think the perception still stands. Unless students take part in opportunities like this or speak directly with Board members, they may develop a different idea of what the Board does. But as of now, I think it's still viewed similarly.

Can you give us a sense of what types of materials students actually engage with? We've heard many students don't use Facebook or Instagram and often don't have time for newsletters. What can we do to increase student engagement with Board-related information, whether through our website, school outreach, or Q&A sessions with the Board?

To be honest, most students aren't going to read newsletters unless they're mandatory for the curriculum or they already have a personal interest. And it's true, many of us don't use Facebook, and only some use Instagram.

One of the most effective ways to reach students, at least at COMP, would be through Conference Week. I recently learned that not all osteopathic schools have this, but many have something similar. Here, Conference Week takes place right after final assessments, and students are required to attend sessions on professionalism, research opportunities, CV building, and summer planning.

Having the Board offer a session during Conference Week—on Board resources, how the Board supports students, and what students should know—would probably be the best way to reach us. It's mandatory, students are more relaxed after finals, and we're more engaged. If other schools have comparable professionalism or career-development weeks, that might be the ideal format for Board outreach across campuses.

CME/AUDIT PROCESS

What Is Continuing Medical Education (CME)?

Continuing Medical Education (CME) is structured learning activities that help osteopathic physicians maintain and enhance their medical knowledge, clinical skills, and professional competence. California requires physicians to complete 50 hours of CME every two years, with a minimum of 20 hours in AOA Category 1A or 1B. CME activities may include accredited seminars, conferences, teaching, independent study, or reading medical journals. Physicians must also complete at least one hour of training related to addiction or opioid prescribing. CME ensures ongoing professional development and supports safe, high-quality patient care.

CME Audit Process

The OMBC conducts routine CME audits to ensure compliance with state requirements. Licensees are selected randomly and notified directly by the Board. Once selected, physicians must submit documentation in PDF format only, such as their AOA Individual Activity Report or CME certificates. Records must be retained for a minimum of four years. If the Board determines that CME requirements were not met or documentation is insufficient, the physician may receive a citation and fine and must complete any missing hours using current-cycle CME. In some cases, renewal may be delayed until compliance is demonstrated. Preparing accurate, complete records helps ensure a smooth renewal and audit process.

OUTREACH EVENTS

OMBC is committed to expanding its outreach efforts through OsteoScope and beyond. Reaching a wider range of consumers remains a top priority. Recently, Executive Director Erika Calderon, along with Machiko Chong, Licensing Program Manager, and Cristy Livramento, Enforcement Program Manager attended several community events, where our dedicated staff were on hand to answer questions from licensees, students, applicants, and consumers.

We look forward to continuing our outreach throughout the year by participating in community health fairs, resource events, school visits, seminars, and conferences. To stay informed about upcoming appearances and opportunities to connect with us, please visit our website at www.ombc.ca.gov/.

Check out some of the events we attend most recently!



Prescriptions and Patients: Addressing Challenges, Finding Opportunities, - California State University, Sacramento

In late 2025, OMBC participated in a forum addressing the clinical and practical challenges surrounding access to controlled substances, including medications for opioid use disorder and pain management. The forum included other healing arts boards and brought together state and federal agencies, regulators, practitioners, and consumer advocates. . Participants explored current legal and regulatory requirements for prescribing and dispensing controlled substances, with a focus on balancing compliance while ensuring appropriate patient access. Through presentations and interactive discussions, attendees examined the real-world challenges faced by healthcare providers supporting patients with complex pain management and substance use disorder needs.



Fifth Annual Latina Maternal Health Fair- California State University, Bakersfield

Executive Director Erika Calderon took the stage as a featured speaker at the fifth annual Latina Maternal Health Fair, where she shared valuable insights on maternal health and community resources. She told the audience that this was the most meaningful outreach she has participated in.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)



Federation of State Medical Board Annual Meeting- Baltimore

Executive Director Erika Calderon attended the FSMB's annual meeting and took the opportunity to visit our nation's capital and the national archives, including seeing the actual Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the 19th Amendment to end women's suffrage and give them the right to vote.

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

OMBC regularly conducts presentations at schools to provide information and guidance on the initial licensing process. OMBC can also cover topics such as OMBC's history, licensing process (applications and renewals), continuing competency, consumer protection (complaint process and/or probation process), and online services including BreEZe. For more information on outreach or to have OMBC present at your next event, contact Machiko.Chong@dca.ca.gov. If you would like an OMBC representative to present at your school or organization, you can complete the application found at www.ombc.ca.gov/forms_pubs/speakerrequest.pdf. You can also find the application by clicking "Contact Us" on the OMBC homepage. A link to the application is located under "Request a OMBC Speaker."



OPSC's Annual Meeting- Carlsbad

OMBC attended the OPSC 65th annual convention at the Park Hyatt Aviara Resort in Carlsbad, where leaders and practitioners gathered to explore the evolving landscape of well-being in medicine.

LICENSING ACTIVITY

OMBC processes applications in the order they are received. Please allow 30 days to complete initial review of the application before contacting the Board for an update. Here is a summary of initial license applications and renewal of license applications approved from (Month, Day) through (Month, Day, Year).

INITIAL LICENSES APPROVED	LICENSE RENEWALS APPROVED
1022	1536

WHAT IS THE OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN DIVERSION PROGRAM?

The Osteopathic Physician Diversion Program is a confidential, rehabilitative program designed to support the recovery and safe return to practice of California-licensed osteopathic physicians and surgeons whose ability to practice safely has been affected by substance use or mental health challenges. Its primary goal is to protect public safety while providing a structured pathway toward wellness, treatment, and professional stability.

Who Is the Program For?

The program is available to any licensed osteopathic physician or surgeon who is experiencing substance use or mental health difficulties and wishes to seek help voluntarily. Many individuals who struggle with these issues benefit from early support, as these challenges often worsen when left unaddressed. Mental health or substance use concerns can impact a physician's judgment, personal well-being, and long-term career, making timely intervention essential.

Understanding the Need

Substance use and mental health conditions are increasingly recognized across the medical profession. Studies indicate 10% to 15% of physicians will face a substance-related problem during their careers. Research also shows high rates of burnout, depression, and anxiety among osteopathic physicians, with many reporting worsening symptoms during the COVID-19 pandemic, but choosing not to seek treatment. Factors such as occupational stress, long hours, emotional strain, access to controlled substances, and stigma around asking for help contribute to these risks.

A dedicated diversion program provides a critical lifeline by offering structured monitoring, access to treatment, and supportive oversight aimed at rehabilitation not punishment.

How Referrals Work

The program accepts voluntary self-referrals as well as referrals from employers, colleagues, friends, or family members. Physicians who self-refer before entering any disciplinary process will not face licensing discipline solely for enrolling.

Participants complete a confidential clinical evaluation conducted by a licensed professional to determine appropriate treatment recommendations and monitoring plans. All voluntary participation remains confidential and is shared only with the program team, the Diversion Evaluation Committee (DEC), and the contracted testing vendor, unless disclosure is required to prevent harm.

Pathways Into the Program

The OMBC identifies at-risk physicians from its disciplinary proceedings and refers them to this voluntary program. In addition, the program accepts osteopathic physicians who refer themselves or are referred by employers, friends, or family. Those who choose to self-refer prior to becoming involved in any disciplinary processes with their licensing board will not face disciplinary action on their license as a result of enrolling.

How to Obtain Services If you are struggling— or if you live or work with an osteopathic physician who is— call the Diversion Program toll-free at (800) 522-9198, available 24 hours a day.



HOW TO REPORT ARREST & CONVICTION

Did you know that a felony charge or criminal conviction could have an impact on your Osteopathic Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate issued by the OMBC?

All osteopathic physicians and surgeons licensed by the OMBC are required to report a felony charge or criminal conviction to the OMBC within 30 days of the indictment or conviction. This requirement applies to all osteopathic physicians and surgeons who are actively practicing, in delinquent status, in inactive status, and who are in current status and practicing out-of-state. It is the responsibility of the licensee to make the report to the OMBC, and it may be done by completing the Criminal Action Reporting Form. This form can be found on the OMBC's website at www.ombc.ca.gov/forms_pubs/enf_802.pdf. Be sure to complete this form in its entirety.

Business and Professions Code section 802.1. states:

- (a)(1) A physician and surgeon, osteopathic physician and surgeon, a doctor of podiatric medicine, and a physician assistant must to the licensing board either of the following events: The bringing of an indictment or information charging a felony against the licensee.
- The conviction of the licensee, including any verdict of guilty, or plea of guilty or no contest, of any felony or misdemeanor.

(a)(2) The required report must be made in writing within 30 days of:

- The date the indictment or information is brought, or
- The date of the conviction

(b) Failure to report as required is a public offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$5,000.

When the OMBC receives a report of a felony indictment or criminal conviction, the OMBC opens an enforcement case and investigates. As part of the OMBC's investigation, the OMBC obtains a copy of the arrest report and court documents. You may be either asked to provide a written response detailing the events and circumstances leading up to the arrest and conviction, or interviewed by an investigator, or both. During this interview, be honest and proactive. The investigation and interview are your opportunity to provide evidence of rehabilitation to the OMBC.

When evaluating the investigation, the OMBC will consider the type of crime (i.e. conviction involving dishonesty, fraud, violence, substance abuse) and its relevance to the osteopathic profession. The OMBC will also consider the recency of the conviction, any behavior patterns, and/or evidence of rehabilitation.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the OMBC may pursue administrative action, by issuing a citation or seeking disciplinary action, which can include a suspension, probation, or revocation order.

HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

The Osteopathic Medical Board of California (OMBC) has released a video explaining how consumers can file a formal complaint against an osteopathic physician. The guide outlines what the Board investigates, how to submit a complaint, and what to expect during the review process.

What the Board Investigates

OMBC reviews concerns involving quality of care, office practices, prescribing issues, and professional conduct, including impairment, fraud, or unlicensed activity.

How to File

Complaints can be submitted online at www.ombc.ca.gov/consumer_complaint/file_a_complaint.shtml or by mailing completed complaints and medical release forms to the Board. Include provider details, a clear timeline,

supporting documents, and information on any reports made to other agencies.

What to Expect

Investigations typically take two to three years. Depending on the findings, outcomes may range from citations to license revocation, or referral for criminal action. If no violation is found, the case is closed.

OMBC handles cases involving osteopathic physicians only. For complaints against MDs, contact the Medical Board of California at www.mbc.ca.gov.

You can view our [How to File a Complaint with the Osteopathic Medical Board of California video](#) and additional resources by visiting: www.ombc.ca.gov/consumer_complaint/index.shtml

CITATIONS/DISCIPLINE

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS—CITATIONS

An OMBC citation is an administrative action addressing minor violations of the Osteopathic and Medical Practice Act or OMBC's regulations and not warranting discipline to protect the public. Citations ARE NOT disciplinary actions, but are matters of public record. Citations remain on a licensee's file for 10 years and are then purged. By law, payment of a fine is considered satisfactory resolution of all violations contained in the citation.

NAME	LICENSE NUMBER	CITATION DISPOSITION	CITATION EFFECTIVE DATE
NGUYEN, JONATHAN KHOA	16109	Citation Issued	03/17/2026
BENYA, LISA MARIE	7615	Citation Issued	03/13/2025
MOWJOOD, MUHAMMAD RAHMI	8033	Citation Issued	03/30/2026
NGUYEN, TRUNG NAM	16626	Citation Issued	10/07/2025
LIN, RUBIN CHIN	9047	Citation Issued	11/14/2025
SMART, KYLE NELSON	8257	Citation Issued	03/30/2026
PALUMBO, JOSEPH MATTHEW	11755	Citation Issued	07/03/2025
DINH, ANTHONY HAO	7627	Citation Issued	11/24/2025
SALEM, CHRISTOPHER EDWARD	10607	Citation Issued	10/30/2025
CASSIM, HAZMER HANIFFA	10995	Citation Issued	01/16/2025
WINTER, GRETCHEN EILEEN	12705	Citation Issued	10/22/2025
PATEL, NIMISH GIRISH	18257	Citation Issued	10/22/2025
SALAZAR FIELDS, YOSIJEY ALEJANDRO	23320	Citation Issued	05/28/2025
JOHAL, GURPREET	9992	Citation Issued	10/22/2025
NUANES, STEVEN CARL	21067	Citation Issued	12/01/2025



DISCIPLINE

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS—DISCIPLINE

OMBC regulates osteopathic physicians and surgeons through the enforcement of the Osteopathic and Medical Practice Act. The following summary indicates administrative actions taken by OMBC against licensees for violations of the act. Although every effort is made to ensure the following details are correct, before you make any decision based on this information, obtain a copy of the action in its entirety, including terms and conditions. You can download the copy through the DCA license search tool at <https://search.dca.ca.gov/>.

LICENSEE/APPLICANT	LICENSE NUMBER	CITY	STATE	ACTION TYPE	EFFECTIVE DATE
ALMONTE, ANNA	9160	ANTELOPE	CA	Interim Suspension Order - Limited/Restricted	12/18/2024
ALMONTE, ANNA	9160	ANTELOPE	CA	Revocation, Stayed, Probation	10/11/2025
ANDERS, MARIA ADRIANA	12920	LAGUNA BEACH	CA	Revocation	06/20/2025
BERMAN, MICHAEL J.	3728	RANCHO MIRAGE	CA	Surrender	10/22/2024
BIRLEW, NICHOLAS R.	4979	STOCKTON	CA	Surrender	05/08/2024
BRADBURN, CHRISTOPHER T.	7376	EMERYVILLE	CA	Public Letter of Reprimand	11/20/2025
CERNI, JOSEPH SAMUEL	4439	NEWPORT BEACH	CA	Revocation, Stayed, Probation	01/08/2025
DEAN, RONALD DAVID	21871	WHITEFISH	MT	Surrender	02/03/2026
EPSTEIN, ANDREW MICHAEL	16661	TUCSON	AZ	Public Letter of Reprimand	08/22/2025
ESLINGER, ROBERT ANDREW	7826	BOISE	ID	Revocation	10/09/2025
FEINZIMER, BENJAMIN ALAN	17336	CARLSBAD	CA	Public Letter of Reprimand	08/26/2025
FRATERS, MICHAEL GEORGE	10091	CHICO	CA	Revoked, Stayed, Probation	03/14/2025
GARNER, JASON ANDREW	18340	REDDING	CA	Revoked, Stayed, Probation	01/04/2025
GARRISON, DANIEL MOSES	17277	LAWTON	OK	Revocation	08/08/2025
GUHA, ARPITA MONI	10880	SACRAMENTO	CA	Revocation	09/05/2025
GUTKIN, DAVID JON	9571	PASADENA	CA	Public Letter of Reprimand	05/21/2025
HAZEL, ALEXANDER	8379	STOCKTON	CA	Revoked, Stayed, Probation	07/09/2025
HAZEL, ALEXANDER	8379	STOCKTON	CA	Interim Suspension Order - Limited/Restr	12/03/2024
JAINDL, JEFFREY JOSEPH	12065	EDINA	MN	Public Letter of Reprimand	12/06/2024
KHATIBI, NIKAN HOOTAN	11914	LAGUNA NIGUEL	CA	Revoked, Stayed, Probation	06/20/2025

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

LICENSEE/APPLICANT	LICENSE NUMBER	CITY	STATE	ACTION TYPE	EFFECTIVE DATE
KHEMTHONG, APINUNT ANDREW	12675	BAKERSFIELD	CA	Public Letter of Reprimand	04/18/2024
LEW, PO LONG	5380	ROSEMEAD	CA	Revoked, Stayed, Probation	08/23/2024
LEW, PO LONG	5380	ROSEMEAD	CA	Cease Practice Order	02/24/2025
LEWIS, STUART TODD	23424	WARMINSTER	PA	Probationary License Issued	09/16/2024
LU, CHEH SHIUNG	6464	CHERRY HILL	NJ	Surrender	10/22/2024
LUNA, LELAND MATTHEW	7091	SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO	CA	Cease Practice Order	10/30/2024
MCDOWELL, MITCHELL ALBERT	11652	RIVERSIDE	CA	Revocation, Stayed, Probation	07/05/2024
MUQTADEER, JAVERIA ABDUL	18508	GRANADA HILLS	CA	Public Letter of Reprimand	06/25/2025
OLIVER, HOWARD WALLACE	5179	LONG BEACH	CA	Revocation	11/14/2024
PATEL, AMAN KANTI	20385	FORT WORTH	TX	Surrender	03/03/2026
PATEL, AMAN KANTI	20385	FORT WORTH	TX	Automatic Suspension Order	12/03/2025
PLANCE, DONALD WAYNE	5465	SUNLAND	CA	Revoked, Stayed, Suspension & Probation	12/22/2024
PLANCE, DONALD WAYNE	5465	SUNLAND	CA	Surrender	08/20/2025
PROKOP, MICHAEL AARON	12248	SACRAMENTO	CA	Revoked, Stayed, Probation	02/17/2026
QUINCY, CHERI SUE	5137	SANTA ROSA	CA	Surrender	09/04/2025
RITTER, STEVEN FRANK	7435	SAN YSIDRO	CA	Interim Suspension Order - Full Suspension	02/27/2025
RITTER, STEVEN FRANK	7435	SAN YSIDRO	CA	Revocation	05/09/2025
ROHAM, TIMOTHY OMID	8040	SANTA ANA	CA	Cease Practice Order	07/19/2024
ROY, COLTON JEFFREY	21828	VAN NUYS	CA	Public Letter of Reprimand	12/19/2025
RUDERMAN, MICHAEL	18101	OAKLAND	CA	Interim Suspension Order - Full Suspension	01/16/2026
SANDHU, KARAN SINGH	19197	WOODLAND	CA	Revoked, Stayed, Probation	02/28/2025
SHEPPARD, JAMES EZRA	12325	HUNTINGTON BEACH	CA	Revocation, Stayed, Probation	04/15/2024
THOMPSON, DARREN R	13605	CHICO	CA	Revocation, Stayed, Probation	05/29/2024
THOMPSON, TYLER JOSEPH	20365	NESCONSET	NY	Probation	07/21/2025
THOMPSON, TYLER JOSEPH	20365	NESCONSET	NY	Interim Suspension Order - Limited/Restr	11/12/2024
VILLARROEL, MICHAEL LOUIS	9374	RALEIGH	NC	Revocation, Stayed, Probation	04/21/2025
VILLARROEL, MICHAEL LOUIS	9374	RALEIGH	NC	Automatic Suspension Order	06/24/2024
WALKER, IMANI JEHAN	9660	LOS ANGELES	CA	Public Letter of Reprimand	07/17/2024
WILLIAMS, JOHN PHILIP	6027	WILLITS	CA	Revocation, Stayed, Probation	12/04/2024
YU, HANS CHUNGHAN	9689	BAKERSFIELD	CA	Cease Practice Order	12/30/2025
YU, HANS CHUNGHAN	9689	BAKERSFIELD	CA	Revoked, Stayed, Probation	06/23/2025