

CHAPTER 43-17
PHYSICIANS, RESIDENT PHYSICIANS, AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

43-17-01. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

1. "Board" means the North Dakota board of medicine.
2. "Licensee" means a physician, resident physician, or physician assistant licensed to practice in North Dakota.
3. "Physician" includes physician and surgeon (M.D.) and osteopathic physician and surgeon (D.O.).
4. "Physician assistant" means an individual issued a physician assistant license under this chapter.
5. "Practice of medicine" includes the practice of medicine, surgery, and obstetrics. The following persons are regarded as practicing medicine:
 - a. A person that holds out to the public as being engaged within this state in the diagnosis or treatment of diseases or injuries of human beings.
 - b. A person that suggests, recommends, or prescribes any form of treatment for the intended relief or cure of any physical or mental ailment of any individual, with the intention of receiving, directly or indirectly, any fee, gift, or compensation.
 - c. A person that maintains an office for the examination or treatment of individuals afflicted with disease or injury of the body or mind.
 - d. A person that attaches the title M.D., surgeon, doctor, D.O., osteopathic physician and surgeon, or any other similar word or words or abbreviation to the person's name, indicating that the person is engaged in the treatment or diagnosis of the diseases or injuries of human beings shall be held to be engaged in the practice of medicine.
6. "Resident physician" means an individual issued a postgraduate training license under this chapter.
7. "Telemedicine" means the practice of medicine using electronic communication, information technologies, or other means between a licensee in one location and a patient in another location, with or without an intervening health care provider. "Telemedicine" includes direct interactive patient encounters, asynchronous store-and-forward technologies, and remote monitoring.

43-17-02. Persons exempt from the provisions of chapter.

The provisions of this chapter do not apply to the following:

1. The domestic administration of family remedies.
2. Dentists practicing their profession when properly licensed.
3. Optometrists practicing their profession when properly licensed.
4. The practice of christian science or other religious tenets or religious rules or ceremonies as a form of religious worship, devotion, or healing, if the person administering, making use of, assisting in, or prescribing, such religious worship, devotion, or healing does not prescribe or administer drugs or medicines and does not perform surgical or physical operations, and if the person does not hold out to be a physician or surgeon.
5. Commissioned medical officers of the armed forces of the United States, the United States public health service, and medical officers of the veterans administration of the United States, in the discharge of their official duties, and licensed physicians from other states or territories if called in consultation with a person licensed to practice medicine in this state.
6. Doctors of chiropractic duly licensed to practice in this state pursuant to the statutes regulating such profession.
7. Podiatrists practicing their profession when properly licensed.
8. A nurse practicing the nurse's profession when properly licensed by the North Dakota board of nursing.

9. A naturopath duly licensed to practice in this state pursuant to the statutes regulating such profession.
10. An individual duly licensed to practice medical imaging or radiation therapy in this state under chapter 43-62.
11. An acupuncturist duly licensed to practice in this state pursuant to the statutes regulating such profession.

43-17-02.1. Physician assistant - Scope of practice.

1. An individual providing services of a physician assistant as outlined in this chapter to a patient located in the state shall possess an active North Dakota license for physician assistant practice. The board shall adopt rules governing the conduct, licensure, fees, qualifications, and discipline of physician assistants. Physician assistants are not authorized to perform any services that must be performed by individuals licensed pursuant to chapters 43-12.1, 43-13, 43-15, and 43-28 or services otherwise regulated by licensing laws, notwithstanding medical doctors need not be licensed specifically to perform the services contemplated under such chapters or licensing laws.
2. A physician assistant may:
 - a. Provide a legal medical service for which a physician assistant is prepared by education, training, and experience and is competent to perform, including:
 - (1) Obtaining and performing a comprehensive health history and physical examination;
 - (2) Evaluating, diagnosing, managing, and providing medical treatment;
 - (3) Ordering and evaluating a diagnostic study and therapeutic procedure;
 - (4) Performing a diagnostic study or therapeutic procedure not involving the use of medical imaging as defined in section 43-62-01 or radiation therapy as defined in section 43-62-01;
 - (5) Performing limited sonography on a focused imaging target to assess specific and limited information about a patient's medical condition or to provide real-time visual guidance for another procedure;
 - (6) Educating a patient on health promotion and disease prevention;
 - (7) Providing consultation upon request; and
 - (8) Writing a medical order;
 - b. Obtain informed consent;
 - c. Supervise, delegate, and assign therapeutic and diagnostic measures not involving the use of medical imaging as defined in section 43-62-01 or radiation therapy as defined in section 43-62-01 to licensed or unlicensed personnel;
 - d. Certify the health or disability of a patient as required by any local, state, or federal program;
 - e. Authenticate any document with the signature, certification, stamp, verification, affidavit, or endorsement of the physician assistant if the document may be authenticated by the signature, certification, stamp, verification, affidavit, or endorsement of a physician; and
 - f. Pronounce death.
3. A physician assistant shall collaborate with, consult with, or refer to the appropriate member of the health care team as indicated by the condition of the patient, the education, experience, and competence of the physician assistant, and the standard of care. The degree of collaboration must be determined at the practice which may include decisions made by the employer, group, hospital service, and the credentialing and privileging systems of a licensed facility. A physician assistant is responsible for the care provided by that physician assistant and a written agreement relating to the items in this chapter is not required.
4. A physician assistant:
 - a. May prescribe, dispense, administer, and procure drugs and medical devices;
 - b. May plan and initiate a therapeutic regimen that includes ordering and prescribing nonpharmacological interventions, including durable medical equipment, nutrition,

- blood and blood products, and diagnostic support services, including home health care, hospice, and physical and occupational therapy;
- c. May prescribe and dispense schedule II through V substances as designated by the federal drug enforcement agency and all legend drugs;
 - d. May not dispense a drug, unless pharmacy services are not reasonably available, dispensing is in the best interest of the patient, or an emergency exists;
 - e. May request, receive, and sign for a professional sample, and may distribute a professional sample to a patient; and
 - f. If prescribing or dispensing a controlled substance, shall register with the federal drug enforcement administration and shall comply with appropriate state and federal laws.
5. A physician assistant shall practice at a licensed health care facility, facility with a credentialing and privileging system, physician-owned facility or practice, or facility or practice approved by the board.
 6. Notwithstanding subsections 3 and 5, a physician assistant with less than four thousand hours of practice approved by the board under subsection 5 shall execute a written collaborative agreement that:
 - a. Is between a physician and a physician assistant with less than four thousand hours practice;
 - b. Describes how collaboration required under subsection 3 must occur; and
 - c. Is available to the board on request.
 7. A physician assistant shall comply with any privileging and credentialing systems at the facility at which the physician assistant practices.

43-17-02.2. Use of certain words or initials prohibited.

1. An individual not licensed as a physician or resident physician under this chapter is prohibited from using the title of "doctor of medicine", "medical doctor", "doctor of osteopathic medicine", "osteopathic physician", "physician", "M.D.", or "D.O."
2. An individual not licensed as a physician assistant under this chapter is prohibited from using the title of "physician assistant" or "P.A."
3. This section may not be construed as to prohibit a licensed health care professional from using a title incorporating any of the words specified in subsection 1 or 2, or from using a title or designation that is not specifically protected by subsection 1 or 2, if the title or designation used is permitted under the health care professional's practice act.
4. Notwithstanding subsections 1 and 2, an individual who does not hold an active physician, resident physician, or physician assistant license may still use the title conferred by a qualified educational degree recognized under this chapter, but may not practice unless licensed under this chapter.

43-17-02.3. Practice of medicine or osteopathy by holder of permanent, unrestricted license - Exceptions.

The practice of medicine is deemed to occur in the state the patient is located. A practitioner providing medical care to a patient located in this state is subject to the licensing and disciplinary laws of this state and shall possess an active North Dakota license for the practitioner's profession. Notwithstanding anything in this chapter to the contrary, any physician who is the holder of a permanent, unrestricted license to practice medicine or osteopathy in any state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, or a province of Canada may practice medicine or osteopathy in this state without first obtaining a license from the North Dakota board of medicine under one or more of the following circumstances:

1. As a member of an organ harvest team;
2. On board an air ambulance and as a part of its treatment team;
3. To provide one-time consultation on a diagnosis for a patient to a physician licensed in the state, or teaching assistance for a period of not more than seven days;
4. To provide consultation or teaching assistance previously approved by the board for charitable organizations; or
5. Under rules adopted by the board.

43-17-02.4. Licensure exemption for certain physicians.

1. A physician licensed in good standing to practice in another state is exempt from the licensure requirements of this chapter if the physician:
 - a. Has a written or oral agreement with a sports team to provide care to team members and coaching staff traveling with the team for a specific sporting event in this state; or
 - b. Has been invited by a national sport governing body to provide services to team members and coaching staff at a national sport training center in this state or to provide services at an event or competition in this state which is sanctioned by the national sport governing body if:
 - (1) The physician's practice in this state is limited to the practice required by the national sport governing body; and
 - (2) The services provided by the physician are within the physician's scope of practice.
2. A physician exempt under this section may not:
 - a. Provide care or consultation to an individual residing in this state, other than an individual specified in subsection 1; or
 - b. Practice at a licensed health care facility in this state.
3. An exemption under subdivision a of subsection 1 is valid while the physician is traveling with the sports team. This exemption may not exceed ten days for each sporting event. A physician may apply to the board to receive an exemption of twenty additional days per sporting event.
4. The board may enter an agreement with a medical and osteopathic licensing board of another state to implement this section. An agreement may include a procedure for reporting a potential medical license violation.
5. The board may adopt rules to implement this section.

43-17-02.5. Licensure for resident physicians.

Resident physicians of medicine or osteopathy who are continuing their training and performing the duties of a resident in a hospital or institution maintained and operated by the state, an agency of the federal government, or a residency program accredited by the accreditation council on graduate medical education will be required to possess an active North Dakota residency license. The board shall adopt rules relating to the licensure, fees, qualifications, activities, scope of practice, and discipline of such individuals.

43-17-03. North Dakota board of medicine - How appointed - Qualifications.

1. The governor shall appoint a North Dakota board of medicine consisting of fifteen members; ten physicians, nine of whom are doctors of medicine and one of whom is a doctor of osteopathy; two physician assistants; one naturopath; and two public members. If no osteopathic physician is qualified and willing to serve, any qualified physician may be appointed in place of the osteopathic physician.
2. Each physician member must:
 - a. Be a practicing physician of integrity and ability.
 - b. Be a resident of and duly licensed to practice medicine in this state.
 - c. Be a graduate of a medical or osteopathic school of high educational requirements and standing.
 - d. Have been engaged in the active practice of the physician's profession within this state for a period of at least five years.
3. Each public member of the board must:
 - a. Be a resident of this state.
 - b. Be at least twenty-one years of age.
 - c. Not be affiliated with any group or profession that provides or regulates health care in any form.
4. Each physician assistant member of the board must:
 - a. Be a practicing physician assistant of integrity and ability.

- b. Be a resident of and be duly licensed to practice as a physician assistant in this state.
 - c. Have been engaged in the active practice as a physician assistant within this state for a period of at least five years.
5. The naturopath member must:
- a. Be a practicing naturopath of integrity and ability.
 - b. Be a resident of and duly licensed to practice as a naturopath in this state.
 - c. Have been engaged in the active practice as a naturopath within this state for a period of at least five years.
6. An individual appointed to the board shall qualify by taking the oath required of civil officers.

43-17-04. Term of office.

The term of office of each member of the board is four years and until a successor is appointed and qualified. The terms must be so arranged that no more than four terms expire on the thirty-first of July of each year. The governor shall fill all vacancies by appointment but in case of a vacancy before the expiration of a term, the appointment must be for the residue of the term only. The board, at least six months in advance of filling an expired term, shall communicate with the governor's office regarding specialty areas to be filled on the board. The governor's office shall take this information into consideration when filling vacancies. No member of the board may serve thereon for more than two full terms.

43-17-05. Removal of members of North Dakota board of medicine - Re-election.

- 1. The governor for good cause shown and upon the recommendation of three-fourths of the members of the North Dakota board of medicine may remove any member of such board for misconduct, incapacity, or neglect of duty.
- 2. If a member of the board is consistently absent from board or committee meetings, the board may declare a vacancy. Vacancies on the board must be filled by appointment by the governor.

43-17-06. Officers of the board and executive director.

The board shall elect a president and vice president from its own number and employ an executive director to provide administrative services to the board.

43-17-07. Meetings of the board.

The board shall hold at least three meetings in each calendar year and may call such special meetings as may be necessary. The meetings must be held at such places as the board may designate.

43-17-07.1. Powers of the board of medicine.

In addition to any other powers, the board may:

- 1. Employ or contract with one or more organizations or agencies known to provide acceptable examinations for the preparation and scoring of required examinations relating to physician licensure, and employ or contract with one or more organizations or agencies known to provide acceptable examination services for the administration of the required examination.
- 2. Prescribe the time, place, method, manner, scope, and subject of examination.
- 3. Impose sanctions, deny licensure, levy fines, or seek appropriate civil or criminal penalties against anyone who violates or attempts to violate examination security, anyone who obtains or attempts to obtain licensure by fraud or deception, and anyone who knowingly assists in that type of activity.
- 4. Require information on an applicant's or licensee's fitness, qualifications, and previous professional record and performance from recognized data sources, including the federation of state medical boards action data bank, other data repositories, licensing and disciplinary authorities of other jurisdictions, professional education and training

institutions, liability insurers, health care institutions, and law enforcement agencies be reported to the board. The board or its investigative panels may require an applicant for licensure or a licensee who is the subject of a disciplinary investigation to submit to a statewide and nationwide criminal history record check. The nationwide criminal history record check must be conducted in the manner provided by section 12-60-24. All costs associated with the criminal history record check are the responsibility of the licensee or applicant.

5. Require the self-reporting by an applicant or a licensee of any information the board determines may indicate possible deficiencies in practice, performance, fitness, or qualifications.
6. Establish a mechanism for dealing with a licensee who abuses or is dependent upon or addicted to alcohol or other addictive chemical substances, to enter an agreement, at its discretion, with a professional organization whose relevant procedures and techniques it has evaluated and approved for the organization's cooperation or participation.
7. Issue a cease and desist order, obtain a court order, or an injunction to halt unlicensed practice, a violation of this chapter, or a violation of the rules of the board.
8. Issue a conditional, restricted, or otherwise circumscribed license as it determines necessary.
9. Utilize board funds and resources for promotion, education, and outreach services for the professions and students of the professions licensed under this chapter.
10. Adopt rules to implement this chapter.

43-17-07.2. Conflict of interest.

A member of the board, acting in that capacity or as a member of any committee of the board, may not participate in the making of any decision or the taking of any action affecting that member's personal, professional, or pecuniary interest, or that of a known relative or business or professional associate.

43-17-08. Power of board to administer oaths - Summon witnesses - Take testimony.

Repealed by S.L. 1987, ch. 525, § 13.

43-17-09. Subpoena - How to issue - Fees - Service.

Repealed by S.L. 1987, ch. 525, § 13.

43-17-10. Failure to appear or testify - Penalty.

Repealed by S.L. 1987, ch. 525, § 13.

43-17-11. Records of board - License applications - Preservation.

The board shall keep a record of all of its proceedings and applications for license. Failure of an applicant to submit a completed application within one year is grounds to discontinue processing the application, and records will be disposed of unless otherwise approved by the chairman and executive director for good cause.

43-17-12. Biennial report.

The board may submit a biennial report to the governor and the secretary of state in accordance with section 54-06-04.

43-17-13. Board to adopt rules and regulations.

Repealed by S.L. 1987, ch. 525, § 13.

43-17-14. Compensation - Expenses of board and the members thereof.

1. A member of the board shall receive for each day during which the member actually is engaged in the performance of the duties of the member's office such per diem as must be fixed by the board and as provided in sections 44-08-04 and 54-06-09.

2. The executive director of the board shall receive such salary or other compensation, and such allowance for clerical and other expenses of the board as the board shall determine.
3. The board may employ staff to carry out the duties under this chapter.

43-17-15. Fees deposited with state treasurer - Separate fund - Vouchers.

Repealed by S.L. 1971, ch. 510, § 15.

43-17-16. License required.

Repealed by S.L. 1987, ch. 525, § 13.

43-17-17. Application for license.

In order to obtain a license to practice medicine in this state, an application must be made to the board through the executive director. The application must be upon the form adopted by the board and must be made in the manner prescribed by it.

43-17-18. Physician license requirements.

1. General. Every applicant for licensure shall file a written application, on forms provided by the board, showing to the board's satisfaction that the applicant satisfies all of the requirements of this chapter including:
 - a. Successful completion of a medical licensure examination satisfactory to the board;
 - b. Physical, mental, and professional capability for the practice of medicine in a manner acceptable to the board; and
 - c. A history free of any finding by the board, any other state medical licensure board, or any court of competent jurisdiction, of the commission of any act that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under this chapter; the board may modify this restriction for cause.
2. Graduates of United States and Canadian schools.
 - a. An applicant who is a graduate of an approved medical or osteopathic school located in the United States, its possessions, territories, or Canada, shall present evidence, satisfactory to the board, that the applicant has been awarded a degree of doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy from a medical school located in the United States, its possessions, territories, or Canada, approved by the board or by an accrediting body approved by the board at the time the degree was conferred.
 - b. An applicant who is a graduate of an approved medical or osteopathic school located in the United States, its possessions, territories, or Canada, must present evidence, satisfactory to the board, that the applicant has successfully completed one year of postgraduate training in the United States or Canada in a program approved by the board or by an accrediting body approved by the board.
3. Graduates of international schools.
 - a. An applicant who is a graduate of a medical school not located in the United States, its possessions, territories, or Canada, shall present evidence, satisfactory to the board, that the applicant possesses the degree of doctor of medicine or a board-approved equivalent based on satisfactory completion of educational programs acceptable to the board. Graduates of osteopathic schools located outside the United States are not eligible for licensure.
 - b. An applicant who has graduated from a medical school not located in the United States, its possessions, territories, or Canada, must present evidence, satisfactory to the board, that the applicant has successfully completed twenty-four months of postgraduate training in a program located in the United States, its possessions, territories, or Canada, and accredited by a national accrediting organization approved by the board or other graduate training approved in advance by the board as meeting standards similar to those of a national

accrediting organization. However, if such an applicant has not completed thirty months of postgraduate training in a program approved by the board or by an accrediting body approved by the board, but has met all other licensing requirements and has successfully completed one year of postgraduate training in the United States or Canada in a program approved by the board, and if the board finds that the applicant has other professional experience and training that is substantially equivalent to the last eighteen months of postgraduate training, then the applicant may be deemed eligible for licensure. The board is granted broad discretion in determining whether to apply this exception to the normal licensing requirements. An applicant seeking licensure under this exception must present evidence satisfactory to the board that:

- (1) The applicant is certified by a specialty board recognized by the American board of medical specialties or by a specialty board recognized by the royal college of physicians and surgeons of Canada; or
 - (2) The applicant has passed the special purpose examination developed by the federation of state medical boards of the United States.
- c. The applicant shall present evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant has been awarded a certificate by the educational council for foreign medical graduates. The board may adopt rules establishing specific exceptions to this requirement.
 - d. The applicant has a working ability in the English language sufficient to communicate with patients and physicians and to engage in the practice of medicine.
4. Uniquely qualified license. The board may issue a medical license to an applicant who does not meet all the technical eligibility requirements if the board determines the applicant is uniquely qualified through training or experience or will make a unique or special contribution to the practice of medicine not readily available to the citizens of the state. The board shall adopt rules for qualifications and factors to be considered under this subsection.
 5. An applicant may require an interview before the board for such examination into the applicant's qualifications. The board may adopt rules to issue provisional and temporary licenses to be in effect in the interval between board meetings.

43-17-19. License granted without examination upon qualification of applicant.

Repealed by S.L. 1957, ch. 302, § 16.

43-17-20. Examinations - How conducted - Subjects.

Repealed by S.L. 1987, ch. 525, § 13.

43-17-21. License granted without examination to persons licensed in other states.

Repealed by S.L. 2023, ch. 382, § 34.

43-17-22. License - Fees.

Repealed by S.L. 1987, ch. 525, § 13.

43-17-23. Licenses to be recorded.

Repealed by S.L. 1983, ch. 479, § 3.

43-17-24. Physicians licensure with the board.

1. An applicant shall file with the executive director of the board a completed application and shall pay to the executive director the application fee. No person may engage in the practice of medicine in this state without a current license issued by the board.
2. Each licensee shall maintain a permanent electronic mail or mailing address with the board to which all communications from the board to the licensee will be sent. A

licensee who changes the individual's electronic mail or mailing address shall notify the board in writing of the new contact information within sixty days.

3. If a licensee fails to notify the board in writing of the changes as required by this section after sixty days, the board may impose upon the licensee a fee not to exceed one hundred dollars and may initiate disciplinary action against the licensee.

43-17-25. Application fee.

The fee for any individual seeking licensure or renewal in the state must be fixed by regulation of the board. All fees must be paid to and held by the executive director of the board and are subject to disbursement by the board in performing its duties.

43-17-26. Annual license issued - License posted.

Repealed by S.L. 1987, ch. 525, § 13.

43-17-26.1. Physician license renewals - Late fees.

A physician seeking to renew the physician's license who has failed to complete the renewal application within the time specified by the board must be assessed a fee up to three times the normal licensure fee, in addition to such other penalties as are authorized by law, if that physician is found to have been practicing medicine in this state after the physician's license expired. A physician who is not found to have been practicing medicine in this state may renew a license upon payment of the arrearage and meeting the other requirements of the board. However, a physician whose license lapsed more than three years before that physician petitioned the board for reinstatement must submit a new application for licensure, whether or not that physician has practiced medicine in this state since the physician's license was last current.

43-17-27. Board to make rules and regulations as to registration statement - Keep record of persons paying fee.

Repealed by S.L. 1987, ch. 525, § 13.

43-17-27.1. Physician continuing education requirements.

1. The board shall promote a high degree of competence in the practice of medicine by establishing rules requiring every physician licensed in the state to fulfill continuing education requirements. Compliance with these rules must be documented at such times and in such manner as is required by the board. Physicians failing to comply with continuing education requirements in the time and manner specified by rule of the board will be assessed a fee up to three times the licensure fee, in addition to such other penalties as are authorized by law.
2. Before a license may be renewed, the physician shall submit evidence to the board establishing that all continuing education requirements prescribed by the rules adopted by the board have been met.
3. The board may accept current certification, maintenance of certification, or recertification by a member of the American board of medical specialties, the American osteopathic association, or the royal college of physician and surgeons of Canada in lieu of compliance with continuing education requirements.
4. The board may exempt a physician from the requirements of this section in accordance with rules adopted by the board.
5. Notwithstanding subsection 1, if an individual fails to file a timely response, the board may determine whether the individual's failure to file a timely response to an audit constitutes an admission of noncompliance with this section and whether the individual's license should be subject to action by the board. If the board determines that the individual's failure to file a timely response is an admission of noncompliance and that the individual's license should be subject to action by the board, the board shall hold a hearing in accordance with chapter 28-32 to take any appropriate action.

43-17-27.2. Record retention requirements.

1. A licensee shall retain all medical records, unless otherwise appropriately transferred to another licensee or entity, for at least seven years from the last date of service for each patient, except as otherwise required by law.
2. The board may adopt rules to implement record retention and requirements for transfer of medical records for situations in which the licensee sells the licensee's medical practice, departs from the medical practice, or upon licensee death, incapacity, or retirement.

43-17-28. When fee remitted to licensee.

Repealed by S.L. 1987, ch. 525, § 13.

43-17-29. Practitioners not registered prohibited from practicing - Revocation of license.

Repealed by S.L. 1987, ch. 525, § 13.

43-17-30. Payment of delinquent registration fee - Reinstatement.

Repealed by S.L. 2023, ch. 382, § 34.

43-17-30.1. Disciplinary action.

The board is authorized to take disciplinary action against a licensed physician by any one or more of the following means, as it may find appropriate:

1. Revocation of license.
2. Suspension of license.
3. Probation.
4. Imposition of stipulations, limitations, or conditions relating to the practice of medicine.
5. Letter of censure.
6. Require the licensee to provide free public or charitable service for a defined period.
7. Impose fines, not to exceed five thousand dollars for any single disciplinary action. Any fines collected by the North Dakota board of medicine must be deposited in the state general fund.

43-17-31. Grounds for disciplinary action.

1. Disciplinary action may be imposed against a physician upon any of the following grounds:
 - a. The use of any false, fraudulent, or forged statement or document, or the use of any fraudulent, deceitful, dishonest, or immoral practice, in connection with any of the licensing requirements.
 - b. The making of false or misleading statements about the physician's skill or the efficacy of any medicine, treatment, or remedy.
 - c. The conviction of any misdemeanor determined by the board to have a direct bearing upon a person's ability to serve the public as a practitioner of medicine or any felony. A license may not be withheld contrary to the provisions of chapter 12.1-33.
 - d. Use of alcohol or drugs to such a degree as to interfere with the licensee's ability to safely practice medicine.
 - e. Physical or mental disability materially affecting the ability to perform the duties of a physician in a competent manner.
 - f. The performance of any dishonorable, unethical, or unprofessional conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public.
 - g. Obtaining any fee by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.
 - h. Aiding or abetting the practice of medicine by an unlicensed, incompetent, or impaired person.

- i. The violation of any provision of a medical practice act or the rules and regulations of the board, or any action, stipulation, condition, or agreement imposed by the board or its investigative panels.
 - j. The practice of medicine under a false or assumed name.
 - k. The advertising for the practice of medicine in an untrue or deceptive manner.
 - l. The representation to a patient that a manifestly incurable condition, sickness, disease, or injury can be cured.
 - m. The willful or negligent violation of the confidentiality between physician and patient, except as required by law.
 - n. The failure of a doctor of osteopathy to designate that person's school of practice in the professional use of that person's name by such terms as "osteopathic physician and surgeon", "doctor of osteopathy", "D.O.", or similar terms.
 - o. Gross negligence in the practice of medicine.
 - p. Sexual abuse, misconduct, or exploitation related to the licensee's practice of medicine.
 - q. The prescription, sale, administration, distribution, or gift of any drug legally classified as a controlled substance or as an addictive or dangerous drug for other than medically accepted therapeutic purposes.
 - r. The payment or receipt, directly or indirectly, of any fee, commission, rebate, or other compensation for medical services not actually or personally rendered, or for patient referrals; this prohibition does not affect the lawful distributions of professional partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies, or associations.
 - s. The failure to comply with the reporting requirements of section 43-17.1-05.1.
 - t. The failure to transfer medical records to another physician or to supply copies of those records to the patient or to the patient's representative when requested to do so by the patient or the patient's designated representative, except if the disclosure is otherwise limited or prohibited by law. A reasonable charge for record copies may be assessed.
 - u. A continued pattern of inappropriate care as a physician, including unnecessary surgery.
 - v. The use of any false, fraudulent, or deceptive statement in any document connected with the practice of medicine.
 - w. The prescribing, selling, administering, distributing, or giving to oneself or to one's spouse or child any drug legally classified as a controlled substance or recognized as an addictive or dangerous drug.
 - x. The violation of any state or federal statute or regulation relating to controlled substances.
 - y. The imposition by another state or jurisdiction of disciplinary action against a license or other authorization to practice medicine based upon acts or conduct by the physician that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action as set forth in this section. A certified copy of the record of the action taken by the other state or jurisdiction is conclusive evidence of that action.
 - z. The lack of appropriate documentation in medical records for diagnosis, testing, and treatment of patients.
 - aa. The failure to furnish the board or the investigative panel, their investigators, or representatives information legally requested by the board or the investigative panel.
 - bb. Noncompliance with the physician health program established under chapter 43-17.3.
2. The board shall keep a record of all of its proceedings in the matter of suspending, revoking, or refusing licenses together with the evidence offered.

43-17-31.1. Costs of prosecution - Disciplinary proceedings.

In any order or decision issued by the board in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding in which disciplinary action is imposed against a physician or physician assistant, the board may

direct any physician or physician assistant to pay the board a sum not to exceed the reasonable and actual costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred by the board and investigative panels of the board in the investigation and prosecution of the case. If applicable, the physician's or physician assistant's license may be suspended until the costs are paid to the board. A physician or physician assistant may challenge the reasonableness of any cost item in a hearing under chapter 28-32 before an administrative law judge. The administrative law judge may approve, deny, or modify any cost item, and the determination of the judge is final. The hearing must occur before the physician's license or physician assistant's license may be suspended for nonpayment.

43-17-31.2. Limitations on disciplinary actions.

The board may not take disciplinary action against a licensee based solely on the licensee prescribing or dispensing ivermectin for the off-label treatment or prevention of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 identified as SARS-CoV-2, or any mutation or viral fragments of SARS-CoV-2. This section does not limit the board from taking a disciplinary action on another basis, such as unlicensed practice, inappropriate documentation, or substandard care, or any basis that would in the board's determination harm the patient.

43-17-32. Appeal from decision of board refusing, suspending, or revoking a license.

Repealed by S.L. 1987, ch. 525, § 13.

43-17-32.1. Temporary suspension - Appeal.

1. When, based on verified evidence, the board determines by a clear and convincing standard that the evidence presented to the board indicates that the continued practice by the licensee would create a significant risk of serious and ongoing harm to the public while a disciplinary proceeding is pending, and that immediate suspension of the license is required to reasonably protect the public from that risk of harm, the board may order a temporary suspension ex parte. For purposes of this section, "verified evidence" means testimony taken under oath and based on personal knowledge. The board shall give prompt written notice of the suspension to the licensee, which must include a copy of the order and complaint, the date set for a full hearing, and a specific description of the nature of the evidence, including a list of all known witnesses and a description of any documents relied upon by the board in ordering the temporary suspension which, upon request, must be made available to the licensee.
2. An ex parte temporary suspension remains in effect until a final order is issued after a full hearing or appeal under this section or until the suspension is otherwise terminated by the board.
3. The board shall conduct a hearing on the merits of the allegations to determine what disciplinary action, if any, shall be taken against the licensee who is the subject of the ex parte suspension. That hearing must be held not later than thirty days from the issuance of the ex parte temporary suspension order. The licensee is entitled to a continuance of the thirty-day period upon request for a period determined by the hearing officer.
4. The licensee may appeal the ex parte temporary suspension order prior to the full hearing. For purposes of appeal, the district court shall decide whether the board acted reasonably or arbitrarily. The court shall give priority to the appeal for prompt disposition thereof.
5. Any medical record of a patient, or other document containing personal information about a patient, which is obtained by the board is a confidential record as defined in section 44-04-17.1.

43-17-33. Use of fraudulent device in obtaining a license - Fraudulent impersonation of physician - Penalty.

Repealed by S.L. 1987, ch. 525, § 13.

43-17-34. Practicing without a license - Violation of chapter - Penalty.

Any person who practices medicine in this state without complying with the provisions of this chapter, and any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter for which another penalty is not specified is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. In addition to the criminal penalties provided, the civil remedy of injunction is available to restrain and enjoin violations of any provisions of this chapter without proof of actual damages sustained by any person.

43-17-35. Enforcement of chapter - Duty of secretary-treasurer.

Repealed by S.L. 1987, ch. 525, § 13.

43-17-36. Physician practicing medicine while intoxicated.

Repealed by S.L. 1987, ch. 525, § 13.

43-17-37. Emergency treatment by resident licensee.

Any individual licensed under the provisions of this chapter who in good faith renders in this state emergency care at the scene of the emergency is expected to render only such emergency care as in the individual's judgment is at the time indicated.

43-17-38. Emergency treatment by nonresident licensee.

Any individual duly licensed to practice in another state of the United States who renders in this state emergency care at the scene of the emergency may only be held to the degree of care as specified in section 43-17-37, and may not be deemed to be practicing medicine within this state as contemplated by this chapter.

43-17-39. Qualified doctors of osteopathy may be licensed.

Repealed by S.L. 1987, ch. 525, § 13.

43-17-40. Limitation of liability - Legislative intent.

No physician, surgeon, hospital, blood bank, tissue bank, or other person or entity who donates, obtains, prepares, transplants, injects, transfuses, or otherwise transfers, or who assists or participates in obtaining, preparing, transplanting, injecting, transfusing, or transferring any tissue, organ, blood, or component thereof from one or more human beings, living or dead, to another human being, may be liable as the result of any such activity, save and except that each such person or entity remains liable for the person's or entity's own negligence or willful misconduct only.

The availability of scientific knowledge, skills, and materials for the transplantation, injection, transfusion, or transfer of human tissue, organs, blood, and components thereof is important to the health and welfare of the people of this state. The imposition of legal liability without fault upon the persons and organizations engaged in such scientific procedures inhibits the exercise of sound medical judgment and restricts the availability of important scientific knowledge, skills, and materials. It is therefore the public policy of this state to promote the health and welfare of the people by limiting the legal liability arising out of such scientific procedures to instances of negligence or willful misconduct.

43-17-41. Duty of physicians and others to report injury - Penalty.

1. Any physician, physician assistant, naturopath licensed under chapter 43-58, acupuncturist licensed under chapter 43-61, or any individual licensed under chapter 43-12.1 who performs any diagnosis or treatment for any individual suffering from any wound, injury, or other physical trauma:
 - a. Inflicted by the individual's own act or by the act of another by means of a knife, gun, or pistol shall as soon as practicable report the wound, injury, or trauma to a law enforcement agency in the county in which the care was rendered; or
 - b. Which the individual performing diagnosis or treatment has reasonable cause to suspect was inflicted in violation of any criminal law of this state, shall as soon as

- practicable report the wound, injury, or trauma to a law enforcement agency in the county in which the care was rendered.
2. The report under subsection 1 must state the name of the injured individual and the character and extent of the individual's injuries, except when the individual's physical injury is the result of a sexual offense, as defined in chapter 12.1-20, in which case the individual's name, address, and any identifying information may not be included in the report without the individual's written release.
 3. When a report of domestic violence, as defined in section 14-07.1-01, or a report of physical injury resulting from a sexual offense, as defined in chapter 12.1-20, is made to a law enforcement agency as required by this section, the injured individual must be provided with information regarding a domestic violence sexual assault organization as defined in section 14-07.1-01 or other victims' assistance program by the physician, physician assistant, naturopath, acupuncturist licensed under chapter 43-61, or any individual licensed under chapter 43-12.1, unless it is known that the information has previously been provided to the injured individual.
 4. The reports mandated by this section must be made as soon as practicable and may be either oral or in writing. Oral reports must be followed by written reports within forty-eight hours if so requested by the sheriff or state's attorney to whom the oral report is originally made.
 5. Any individual required to report as provided by this section who willfully fails to do so is guilty of an infraction.
 6. Any individual making or not making a report in good faith pursuant to this section is immune from liability for making or not making a report.
 7. Reports made under this section are exempt records as defined by section 44-04-17.1.

43-17-42. Employment of physicians by hospitals, nonprofit entities, and charitable trusts.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a hospital licensed under chapter 23-16, nonprofit entity, or charitable trust may employ directly or indirectly a physician if the employment relationship between the physician and hospital, nonprofit entity, or charitable trust is evidenced by a written contract. The written contract must contain language to the effect the employment relationship with the physician may not affect the exercise of the physician's independent judgment in the practice of medicine, and the physician's independent judgment in the practice of medicine is in fact unaffected by the physician's employment relationship with the hospital, nonprofit entity, or charitable trust. Under this section the hospital, nonprofit entity, or charitable trust is not engaged in the practice of medicine.

43-17-43. Topical fluoride varnish.

A licensee may apply topical fluoride varnish to an individual in accordance with rules adopted by the board.

43-17-44. Standard of care and professional ethics.

A licensee is held to the same standard of care and same ethical standards, whether practicing traditional in-person medicine or telemedicine. The following apply in the context of telemedicine:

1. Professional ethical standards require a practitioner to practice only in areas in which the practitioner has demonstrated competence, based on the practitioner's training, ability, and experience. In assessing a licensee's compliance with this ethical requirement, the board shall give consideration to board certifications and specialty groups' telemedicine standards.
2. A licensee practicing telemedicine shall establish a bona fide relationship with the patient before the diagnosis or treatment of a patient. A licensee practicing telemedicine shall verify the identity of the patient seeking care and shall disclose, and ensure the patient has the ability to verify, the identity and licensure status of any licensee providing medical services to the patient.

3. Before initially diagnosing or treating a patient for a specific illness or condition, an examination or evaluation must be performed. An examination or evaluation may be performed entirely through telemedicine, if the examination or evaluation is equivalent to an in-person examination.
 - a. An examination utilizing secure videoconferencing or store-and-forward technology for appropriate diagnostic testing and use of peripherals that would be deemed necessary in a like in-person examination or evaluation meets this standard, as does an examination conducted with an appropriately licensed intervening health care provider, practicing within the scope of the provider's profession, providing necessary physical findings to the licensee. An examination or evaluation consisting only of a static online questionnaire or an audio conversation does not meet the standard of care.
 - b. Once a licensee conducts an acceptable examination or evaluation, whether in-person or by telemedicine, and establishes a patient-licensee relationship, subsequent followup care may be provided as deemed appropriate by the licensee, or by a provider designated by the licensee to act temporarily in the licensee's absence. In certain types of telemedicine utilizing asynchronous store-and-forward technology or electronic monitoring, such as teleradiology or intensive care unit monitoring, it is not medically necessary for an independent examination of the patient to be performed.
4. A licensee practicing telemedicine is subject to all North Dakota laws governing the adequacy of medical records and the provision of medical records to the patient and other medical providers treating the patient.
5. A licensee must have the ability to make appropriate referrals of patients not amenable to diagnosis or complete treatment through a telemedicine encounter, including a patient in need of emergent care or complementary in-person care.

43-17-45. Prescribing - Controlled substances.

1. A licensee who has performed a telemedicine examination or evaluation meeting the requirements of this chapter may prescribe medications according to the licensee's professional discretion and judgment. Opioids may only be prescribed through telemedicine if prescribed as a federal food and drug administration approved medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorder or to a patient in a hospital or long-term care facility. Opioids may not be prescribed through a telemedicine encounter for any other purpose.
2. A licensee who, pursuant to this chapter, prescribes a controlled substance, as defined by North Dakota law, shall comply with all state and federal laws regarding the prescribing of a controlled substance, and shall participate in the North Dakota prescription drug monitoring program.

43-17-46. Payment of fees under the interstate medical licensure compact.

1. Fees levied under subsection 1 of article XIII of the interstate medical licensure compact by the interstate medical licensure compact commission to the state of North Dakota must be paid by the board through the board's funding mechanism, and the board may not request funds deposited in the general fund for the fee. A physician-granted licensure through the interstate medical licensure compact who fails to complete the addendum questions within the time specified by rule of the board must be assessed a fee up to three times the normal licensure fee, in addition to such other penalties as authorized by law.
2. Notwithstanding subsection 1, if an individual fails to timely submit the addendum questionnaire required by rule of the board, the board may determine whether the individual's failure to file a timely response constitutes an admission of noncompliance with this section and whether the license should be subject to action by the board. If the board determines the individual's failure to file a timely response is an admission of noncompliance and the individual's license should be subject to action by the board,

the board shall hold a hearing in accordance with chapter 28-32 to take any appropriate action.