

GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Guam Board of Medical Examiners Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 08, 2025 at 4:00 pm

194 Hernan Cortez Ave. Terlaje Professional Bldg., Suite 209 Hagatna, GU 96910

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88241264328?pwd=KyiTad3OEhmVn6wc7mCMQVESNQFX32.1>

Meeting ID: 882 4126 4328

Passcode: 587546

MINUTES

Topic	DECISION(S) / ACTION(S) MADE	Responsible Party	Time	Status		
I.	Call to Order	Meeting Chaired by: Dr. Berg		Chair	1611	Called to Order
	A. Roll Call: GBME <u>Virtually Present:</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nathaniel B. Berg, M.D., Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joleen Aguon, M.D., Vice Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Alexander D Wielaard, M.D., Treasurer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luis G. Cruz, M.D., Secretary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ricardo Eusebio, M.D., Member of GMHA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sungwook "Steve" Kim, Podiatry Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ray Tajalle, Physician Assistant Member	<u>Others Present:</u> Baltazar Hattori III, HPLO/EMS <u>Virtually Present:</u> Breanna Sablan, HPLO/EMS Peter John Camacho, DPHSS Chisa Tillman, OAG Gillian Russell, OAG Uriah Aguon, Pacific Daily News Nestor Lincanto		Chair		Quorum Established
	B. Confirmation of Public Notice Dr. Berg reviewed and found it to be in conformance with current laws.			Chair		Confirmed
II.	Adoption of Agenda	Motion to Adopt the Agenda: Dr. Berg.		GBME		Adopted
III.	Review and Approval of Minutes	Draft Minutes dated September 10, 2025 Approved by: Dr. Berg.		GBME		Unanimously Approved
IV.	Treasurer's Report	No report		Dr. Wielaard		No Report
V.	HPLO Administrator's Report	Breanna Sablan reported that the FSMB Foundation approved the GBME request to reallocate funding for the salary of Baltazar "Tré". GBME has until June 2026 to rollout the emergency preparedness project, which is the technical assistant grant that we received. Dr. Berg requested for details and a timeline of what will need to be done.		HPLO		Noted
VI.	Chairperson's Report	A. Licensing Requirements for Military Physicians Prescribing Compounded Medications in Guam During the meeting, Dr. Aguon addressed a question raised by a pharmacist regarding the prescribing of compounded medications by military physicians at the Naval Hospital in Guam, particularly when the medication is compounded at a different hospital. The issue centers around pharmacists who are licensed but not within the Navy's jurisdiction, and military doctors who are not licensed in Guam, raising concerns about the legality of these practices. It was suggested to form a discussion group including Dr. Aguon, Dr. Eusebio, Dr. Wielaard, and		Dr. Berg		Noted

Topic	DECISION(S) / ACTION(S) MADE	Responsible Party	Time	Status
	<p>representatives from the Board of Pharmacy to develop a formal process to address this issue. Additionally, ongoing concerns were highlighted about continuity of care when military patients are transferred to civilian hospitals or vice versa, as military doctors may be restricted from continuing care due to licensing limitations. There was discussion about potentially pursuing legislation to allow military physicians to remain involved in-patient care without violating licensing laws, particularly to ensure continuity.</p> <p>The conversation also covered the topic of medical records retention and the implications of clinic closures. It was noted that there is a need for clearer regulations on how long medical records must be retained and made accessible, with current requirements varying by CMS, HIPAA, and accrediting bodies. Guam currently lacks specific legislation on the duration for which records must be maintained. The group emphasized the importance of ensuring patient access to records when clinics close and discussed exploring model legislation and standards for record custodianship.</p> <p>Attorney Tillman provided legal clarification, confirming that under Guam law (26 GAR 41614), military medical personnel are exempt from certain licensing requirements and are allowed to prescribe, dispense, and administer medications within the scope of their official duties. However, local civilian pharmacies and hospitals are not required to fill these prescriptions but may do so at their discretion. This clarification appears to resolve the legal concerns surrounding compounded medication prescribing by military physicians, though hospital policies will ultimately determine implementation.</p> <p>Lastly, the group was reminded of upcoming recommendations from the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) regarding alternative pathways for licensing international medical graduates (IMGs). Currently, IMGs must complete an ACGME-accredited residency program to obtain a medical license in the United States, except under exceptional circumstances. It was noted that no U.S. states issue unrestricted or restricted medical licenses to IMGs without this training, although some states permit assistant physician roles under certain conditions.</p>			
	<p>B. Ardeshir Ardeshiri, M.D. – Assistant Surgeon/Educational Consulting Surgeon</p> <p>Dr. Berg reported that Dr. Dulebohn from GRMC introduced the topic of potentially issuing a special license for a foreign physician, which prompted discussion among the board members. It was noted that Dr. Eusebio may also have an interest in this matter.</p> <p>Dr. Berg will attend the Guam Board of Medical Nursing meeting to collaborate with the Guam Medical Board on the development of an impaired healthcare provider program. Currently, Guam and CNMI remain the only FSMB member boards without such programs. The proposed model, based on Tennessee’s system, aims to address mental health, substance abuse, and impaired providers—including physicians, physician assistants, and podiatrists. Coordination with the nursing board and legal counsel is ongoing to establish a unified approach designed to support impaired providers and reduce stigma.</p> <p>Dr. Berg also highlighted a legislative gap concerning medical record retention and patient access following clinic closures. While Guam complies with HIPAA’s seven-year retention requirement, the period during which records must remain accessible to patients remains unclear. Dr. Berg will work with Attorney Tillman to review this issue and may propose new legislation or regulations.</p>			Noted

Topic	DECISION(S) / ACTION(S) MADE	Responsible Party	Time	Status
	<p>The board discussed the possibility of holding annual joint sessions with the CNMI medical board to address shared regional issues.</p> <p>Given the board’s small size, Dr. Berg proposed formally sharing insights gained from FSMB meetings on a regular basis—ideally once a year, about six months after the annual FSMB meeting—to supplement informal discussions. All members, including Mr. Tajalle and Dr. Kim, were encouraged to participate in FSMB activities and utilize available online training courses. It was noted that FSMB includes physician assistants as full members with elected officials, highlighting the organization’s inclusiveness.</p> <p>Members were reminded to reserve April 30 to May 2 for the upcoming FSMB meeting in Baltimore, recognized for its valuable sessions, including attorney-focused forums. Funding assistance may be available for legal representatives such as Attorney Tillman. Additionally, a board attorneys meeting scheduled for November 6-7 in Philadelphia was recommended for future attendance despite short notice this year. Dr. Berg noted that the FSMB is well-regarded for its educational programs, especially when compared to organizations like IAMRA.</p> <p>To enhance communication, Dr. Berg emphasized increasing the use of email and WhatsApp among members and legal counsel for sharing information and coordinating events.</p> <p>Finally, Dr. Berg shared that the board is finalizing plans for a visit by FSMB Chairman Dr. George Abraham and President Dr. Hank Chowdhury in early January. Their itinerary will include CNMI, Guam, and Palau, with the objective of encouraging Palau to join FSMB as an affiliate member due to its close alignment with the U.S. Efforts to engage American Samoa continue despite limited interest. Visit expenses are expected to be locally funded.</p>			
VIII	<p>Old Business</p> <p>A. Complaint(s):</p> <p>GBME-CO-20-005 – Received: 09/18/2020 Dr. Berg noted that Attorney C. Tillman from the Attorney General’s office is now handling it and actively reviewing it. The case, assigned to Dr. Cruz, is still under review and may take a long time to resolve, with no response expected within the next month.</p> <p>GBME-CO-2022-010 – Received: 06/21/2022 Dr. Berg noted this case involving GRMC is under legal review and deals with the board’s authority to subpoena medical records. GRMC has raised HIPAA compliance concerns, and both sides are working to resolve them. The board expects a resolution in about a month.</p> <p>GBME-CO-2025-003 – Received: 06/12/2025 Dr. Berg discussed a complaint about a physician who performed physical assessments for the VA in Guam without a Guam medical license at the time. Since federal facilities don’t require local licensing, the board initially lacked jurisdiction. The physician has since obtained a Guam license, making the board responsible moving forward. Dr. Berg will be contacting the complainant to let them know an investigation will be launched and Dr. Berg will consult attorney C. Tillman to go over the case. The discussion focused on balancing public protection with avoiding probing minor pre-licensing matters, with legal advice sought on the best approach.</p>	<p>Dr. Cruz</p> <p>Dr. Aguon</p> <p>Dr. Berg</p>		<p>On-Going</p> <p>On-Going</p> <p>On-Going</p>

Topic	DECISION(S) / ACTION(S) MADE	Responsible Party	Time	Status
	10. Caroline Marie L. Aventura 11. Pei-Chang Liu 12. Lindsey E. Phillips 13. Jerone T. Landstrom 14. Mallori M. Wilson 15. Mariana L.G. Cook-Huynh 16. Azita Mesbah 17. Keith Glenn 18. Howard H. Lee 19. Annette M. David 20. Frank A. Reda III 21. Eric Norman 22. Joel Marc C. Rubio 23. Megan E. Klocek 24. Maria M. Samaniego 25. Florencio T. Lizama 26. Michael LaRoy 27. Christopher A. Tan 28. Garrett W. Britton 29. Patrick R. Smith 30. Deidre C. Anastas 31. Patrick C. Santos 32. Michael Fenton 33. Michael J. Um 34. Gabrielle R. James 35. Norak Chhieng 36. Mark A. Anderson 37. Scott W. Hughes 38. Nita Vivatrat 39. Michael G. Mercado 40. Daniel Taitano 41. Byungsoo Kim 42. Nicole D. Collett 43. Jeffrey S. Nine 44. Bliss Kaneshiro			

Topic	DECISION(S) / ACTION(S) MADE	Responsible Party	Time	Status
	45. Matthew P. Chanin 46. Stephen J. Pomeranz 47. Philip Dauterman 48. Virgilio G. Petero Jr 49. Klaus T. Meinhof 50. Ann Fenton 51. Johnny Kim 52. Andrew Ormond 53. Russel J. Aubin 54. Fernan F. de Guzman 55. John S. Hunt, Jr. 56. Aaron C. Johansen 57. Srinivasareddy Vuyyuru 58. Hung Bryant Nguyen 59. Sherif A. Philips 60. Jasmine Walker 61. Julie Namm 62. Erika M. Alford 63. Leah A. Aragon 64. Rico G. Aragon 65. Luis G. Cruz 66. John A. Fegurgur 67. Milliecor I. Fojas 68. John Marco H. Garrido 69. April Karen V. Marquez 70. Luan P. Nguyen 71. Jeremy S. Raab 72. Kirstin Maree A. Raguindin 73. Denise Taitano-Ritter 74. Ricardo M. Terlaje 75. Tien Trinh 76. Keith L. Wilkens 77. Keng-Chih Su 78. Thomas Shieh 79. Faraz Ouhadi			

Topic		DECISION(S) / ACTION(S) MADE	Responsible Party	Time	Status
		80. Antonio L. Garcia 81. Joleen M. Aguon 82. Jamshid Tamiry 83. Greigh Hirata 84. Kelvin Santos <i>Motion to Approve: Dr. Berg; 2nd: Dr. Cruz.</i>			
IX.	Announcement	Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 4:00 pm.	GBME		Set Date
X.	Adjournment	<i>Motion to Adjourn: Dr. Berg.</i>	GBME	1724	Adjourned

Minutes Drafted by: HPLO Staff

Date Submitted: 10/24/2025

Submitted by the GBME Secretary:

Date:

Approved by the GBME with or without changes:



Date: 11/12/2025

Certified by or Attested by the Chairperson:



Date: 11/12/2025