Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners

- License to practice medicine and surgery on patients in Louisiana, granted as a privilege by the Louisiana State Legislature and administered by the LSBME under the Department of Health and Hospitals,
- Must be renewed annually within 30 days of your birth date,
- As of August 2009, licensees whose birth dates occur in August and September can begin annual renewal of their licenses by the LSBME on-line via the Board’s Website www.lsbme.la.gov. Payment can be made by credit card. There will no other option for renewal starting with October 2009 licensees; all must be accomplished on-line.
- By law, physicians must report changes of addresses of practice or home immediately to the LSBME, and must provide one physical address, mailing address can be different,
- Currently(08/01/2009), a active license fee is $332.00 annually, paid by check or money order,
- All active licensees seeking renewal are required to obtain annually 20 hours of Category I Continuing Medical Education credits. These hours can be obtained in many ways other than the expense of travel and formal course fees i.e. journals and online, just be sure that credits are AMA Category I. Most board-certified physicians are currently required to participate in annual maintenance of certification through their boards and this should satisfy the LSBME requirement if over 20 hours. Only about 10% of licensees are called upon to prove their CME hours, determined by lottery, and if demanded of a licensee, the physician has 90 days to produce the 20 hours credits to the Board,
• Upon renewal, licensee must answer yes and no questions of “if you ever”. These questions must be certified by the physician as answered true and correct. Failure to answer properly or honestly can delay or revoke the license,

• At this time, the LSBME does allow for a Reduced Fee License, to be granted by the LSBME, with continued annually renewal and reporting to the Board. There is currently no retired status category for licensure in the Louisiana Medical Practice Act.

• To obtained a Reduced Fee license, (1) a physician must have an unrestricted Louisiana license and prior to the expiration of that license, (2) shall have attained the age of 70 years, (3) voluntarily surrendered his DEA and LA CDS licenses or (4) ceased to practice medicine as a consequence of physical or mental disability, and (5) made formal request of the LSBME on proper notarized form.

• The fee for such a Reduced Fee license is ½ that of an Active license. Currently (08/01/2009), that fee is $150.00. A physician who has recently paid the full fee for an Active license can request reimbursement of the amount over Reduced Fee, but may be prorated by month.

• A Reduced Fee License if granted, a physician shall not thereafter engage or seek to engage in the active practice of medicine in Louisiana or to prescribe, dispense or administer controlled substances or other prescription medications except upon prior application to and approval by the Board. In considering such a request, the LSBME could at its discretion, as a condition to reinstatement of full licensure, may require that the physician take the
SPEX Examination; and/or provide medical documentation that the physician is physically and mentally capable of practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients,

- Renewal of a Reduced Fee or Active license must be within 30 days of its expiration date (usually by the last day of the month of a licensee’s birthday). Failure to do so will cause your license to lapse and for active practicing physician would mean practicing without a license. Reinstatement of the license will require reapplication to the Board for re-licensure if not renewed within 3 years or exemption by the Board when in session. After 3 years, reapplication for the license will be necessary.

- Once a license to practice medicine has expired or lapsed from failure to pay fees and to renew with the LSBME and 3 years has passed, it will require re-application which by law will require an applicant to answer many questions, furnish many documents, pay application fee, get finger-printed, and take the SPEX Examination administered by the National Board of Medical Examiners, one day long, computerized test on general medicine acumen.

- All questions pertaining to your state medical license should be submitted in writing to: Louisiana State Board of Medial Examiners P.O. Box 54403, New Orleans, LA 70154-4403

- Information and renewal of license maybe secured via the Board’s website at: [http://www.lsbsme.la.gov](http://www.lsbsme.la.gov).

- Phone contacts are at best difficult unless you use a direct number. The main number to the Board is: (504)568-6820
• Physical address is: LSBME, 630 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

REMEMBER: Notify any change of address to the Board. 

Renewal is at time of birth date.

An Active, unrestricted, license (not Reduced Fee license) is required for a DEA and LA CDS licensure and to continue the practice of medicine.

If retired from active practice, the physician must decide if he will maintain an Active License and fulfill all its requirements and fee.

If granted a Reduced Fee license, a physician can not continue to practice medicine in any form, nor prescribe medications to any patients.

Once an Active license is relinquished or changed to Reduced Fee status, it will require many demanding steps to re-instate an active full license to practice in Louisiana. Physician should never allow any license to lapse and not notify the licensing authority of your intention to retire or cancel that particular license as it could imply a problem and prevent or make difficult a future change of mind. Request and save any document of surrender of licensure.
NOTE:

If licensed in other states other than Louisiana, the physician is referred to that licensing authority to inquire about retired status. Some states allow for inactive status which places your ability to practice and prescribe to patients in that particular state on-hold until reactivated. That maybe quite different with a different fee for retired status, but would be easier or less cumbersome to re-instate an active license in that particular state. You must notify all states in which you still have licenses, changes of addresses or practice status. It is always better to communicate than assume or ignore.