



# News Release

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## Medical Board of California Sees Rise in Complaints, Disciplinary Action

(Sacramento, California) – The Medical Board of California (Board) received more complaints and took more disciplinary action against physicians and surgeons in California during the last fiscal year than the two previous years. The Board also issued more licenses to physicians and surgeons during the same timeframe than it has in the past.

The Board highlights these trends and many more in its [2016-2017 Annual Report](#). During fiscal year (FY) 2016-2017, the Board's Enforcement Program received 9,619 complaints against physicians and surgeons and unlicensed individuals, which represents an increase of 940 complaints from [FY 2015-2016](#), and an increase of 1,352 complaints from [FY 2014-2015](#).

In addition, the Board took a total of 466 disciplinary actions, which is an increase from 388 in FY 2015-2016, and from 365 in FY 2014-2015. The Board revoked 57 licenses in FY 2016-2017, up by eight revocations in FY 2015-2016 and 12 in FY 2014-2015, and saw a total of 111 licenses surrendered.

Board Executive Director Kimberly Kirchmeyer credits the Board's focus on outreach to educate consumers on how to use the Board's online resources such as the physician's and surgeon's license checkup page and online complaint forms for the increase in enforcement activity.

"Our outreach efforts are part of an ongoing commitment that the Board has to educate and protect medical consumers of California from doctors who violate the law," Kirchmeyer said. "Our online tools make it easier than ever for consumers to check up on their doctor's license and file a complaint if needed."

The Board's Licensing Program issued a record-high 6,802 new physician's and surgeon's licenses during FY 2016-2017, which is an increase of 485 new licenses from the previous fiscal year. In addition, the Licensing Program experienced an increase in applications received from the previous three fiscal years.

California consumers are encouraged to use the Board's Online License Search webpage to check the licenses of physicians and surgeons and use the Complaint Information page to easily file a complaint.

For more general information on the Board or to access the 2016-2017 Annual Report please visit [mbc.ca.gov](http://mbc.ca.gov).