

Connecticut Medical Examining Board



Among the oldest state medical boards in the U.S., the Connecticut Medical Examining Board came into existence as the Connecticut Medical Society, which was established in 1792 by the state legislature. Petitions to the legislature to establish a body to examine and certify physicians can be traced to as early as 1763. Duties of the society included the appointment of committees to “examine such candidates as may offer themselves for that purpose, and license such as shall be found qualified for the practice of physic or surgery.” In 1800, the legislature amended the charter of the Connecticut Medical Society to include that “no person in the future shall commence or enter upon the practice of physic or surgery in this state, who has not been duly licensed... .”

The current Department of Public Health was established in 1878 as the Connecticut Board of Health. Fifteen years later in 1893, the first Medical Practice Act was enacted, which provided that “no person shall for compensation, gain or reward, received or expected, treat operate or prescribe for any injury, deformity ailment, or disease, actual or imaginary, of another person, nor practice surgery unless issued, upon payment of two dollars, a [certificate of registration](#) by the state board of health.” The Act also provided for the examination of physicians by a committee appointed by the Board of Health. [Examinations](#) at the time covered “Chemistry and Hygiene, Materia Medica and Therapeutics, Surgery, Practice, Pathology and Diagnosis, Anatomy, Midwifery and Diseases of Women, and Physiology” and took approximately 13½ hours.

In 1901, the State Board of Osteopathic Registration and Examination was established. In 1907, the Board of Health to Examine Physicians was named the Connecticut Medical Examining Board. During this period, the State Department of Health distributed an illustrated list of [“Medical Licenses Revoked in Connecticut”](#) to communicate information about disciplined physicians. In 1977, the responsibility for examining candidates for licensure was transferred to the Department of Public Health; disciplinary authority remained with the board. In 1999, legislation was passed which merged the Osteopathic Examining Board with the Connecticut Medical Examining Board and provided that osteopathic physicians be licensed as physicians and surgeons.