

Florida Board of Medicine



The earliest history of medical licensure and regulation begins in 1828 in the Territory of Florida. An act provided for a board to examine prospective physicians yearly for the protection of the public. This act was repealed three years later. In 1845, when Florida became a state, the board was reestablished.

It appears the [Florida Board of Medicine](#) was an entity of its own until 1969, when the Legislature enacted the Governmental Reorganization Act of 1969. At that time the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation was created and provided certain contractual services for the board. In 1979, the Department of Professional Regulation was established and served as the umbrella agency for the board. Also in 1979, Florida board member [George S. Palmer, M.D.](#) was elected FSMB president.

The Florida board was relocated to other departments in the 1990s, eventually transferring to the Florida Department of Health in 1997. Currently, the board is within the Division of Medical Quality Assurance under the Department of Health.

Among the milestones in medical regulation in Florida are being among the first states in the U.S. to adopt, in 1992, guidelines for all levels of office-based surgery and licensing and regulating in 2004 anesthesiologist assistants. The board also has created a rule on telemedicine in response to a rise in Internet prescribing and established a “pause rule” in response to an increase in wrong site surgeries.