

## New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners



THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY

About 10 years after the first electric lighting system employing overhead wires, which was built by Thomas Edison, began service in Roselle, New Jersey, the Medical Practice Act of 1894 authorized the [New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners](#) to regulate the practice of surgery and medicine, including regulation of chiropractic. The board is currently comprised of 12 physicians, one podiatrist, three public members, a certified nurse midwife, a licensed physician assistant, a bioanalytical laboratory director, the Commissioner of Health or his designee and a government liaison member.

Over the past 30 years, the role of the board has expanded to involve greater licensing responsibilities for health providers. For example, the passage of the Professional Medical Conduct Act of 1989, called for expanding identification of problem professionals, creation of a full-time Medical Director, registration of medical residents in training and practicing in New Jersey prior to licensure and authority to require reeducation. The law also created a Medical Practitioner Review Panel to enhance the board's ability to react quickly and effectively to reports of malpractice and adverse privilege actions taken by hospitals. Since 1990, the board has been required to notify pharmacists of physicians who are not permitted to prescribe controlled substances. In the mid 1990s, the board was required to ensure that physicians carry mandatory malpractice insurance and report out-of-state actions against their medical licenses. In 2003, the board was charged with the duty to implement a web-based physician profile accessible to the public via a link on the board's website.

While the legislature increased the board's responsibilities for its licensees, it also removed certain professions once subject to board jurisdiction from its oversight. Regulation of acupuncturists, physical therapists and chiropractic examiners was moved to separate examining boards. Currently the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners is responsible for regulation of physicians, surgeons, podiatrists, certified nurse midwives, athletic trainers, bioanalytical lab directors, physician assistants, electrologists, hearing aid dispensers, perfusionists and to only a limited degree, acupuncturists.