VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION

Uniform Regulatory Oversight and Standard of Practice for Medical Professionals

Adopted November 5, 2016

Whereas, Under the Department of Health, the Vermont Board of Medical Practice (VBMP) licenses physicians,\(^1\) podiatrists,\(^2\) and physician assistants;\(^3\) and

Whereas, Under the Secretary of State’s Office of Professional Regulation (OPR), the Board of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons licenses osteopathic physicians;\(^4\) the Vermont State Board of Nursing (VSBN) licenses advanced practice registered nurses (APRN);\(^5\) and OPR licenses naturopathic physicians;\(^6\) and

Whereas, On February 26, 2014, The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) agreed to a single accreditation system for graduate medical education (GME) programs in the U.S;\(^7\) and

Whereas, The single accreditation system will allow graduates of allopathic and osteopathic medical schools to complete their residency and/or fellowship education in ACGME-accredited programs and demonstrate achievement of common Milestones and competencies; and

Whereas, ACGME CEO Thomas Nasca, MD, stated: "this uniform path of preparation for practice ensures that the evaluation of and accountability for the competency of all resident physicians – MDs and DOs – will be consistent across all programs;” and

Whereas, Under 18 V.S.A. § 4289(a), each professional licensing authority for health care providers shall develop evidence-based standards to guide health care providers in the appropriate prescription of Schedules II, III, and IV controlled substances for treatment of acute pain, chronic pain, and for other medical conditions to be determined by the licensing authority; and

Whereas, The standards developed by the licensing authorities shall be consistent with rules adopted by the Department of Health and the licensing authorities shall submit their standards to the Commissioner of Health, who shall review for consistency across health care providers and notify the applicable licensing authority of any inconsistencies identified; and

Whereas, On January 9, 2008, VBMP sent a letter to the VSBN APRN Work Group urging its consideration of 6 recommendations “To maximize the access of Vermonters to high-quality medical care by APRNs;” and

\(^1\) 26 V.S.A. Chapter 23
\(^2\) 26 V.S.A. Chapter 7
\(^3\) 26 V.S.A. Chapter 31
\(^4\) 26 V.S.A. Chapter 33
\(^5\) 26 V.S.A. Chapter 28
\(^6\) 26 V.S.A. Chapter 81
Whereas, VBMP’s 4th recommendation states: “4) Medical Professionals who are fully licensed to provide primary medical care without supervision should be regulated by the Medical Practice Board or, in the alternative, by a Board made up of primarily of medical professionals with at least the same level of training as the professionals being regulated;” and

Whereas, VBMP’s 4th recommendation further states: “All statutory definitions of unprofessional conduct for physicians should apply to APRNs practicing in an independent setting; and

Whereas, VBMP’s 4th recommendation further states: “If Vermont is going to address the shortage of primary care providers by placing APRNs in the role of independent provider, then it must do so in a manner that does not create a double standard of care and of professional regulation;” now therefore be it

RESOLVED, VMS will urge the Vermont General Assembly to enact legislation ensuring that all professionals engaged in the practice of medicine are subject to the same standard of care and of professional regulation, which may include placing them under the Vermont Board of Medical Practice.