

**QUALITY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (QIP)
THE STATE MEDICAL BOARD OF OHIO'S PRACTICE
REMEDICATION PROGRAM**

Purpose:

The State Medical Board of Ohio's Quality Intervention Program (QIP) is designed to address quality of care complaints that do not appear to warrant formal disciplinary action. QIP focuses on cases in which poor practice patterns are beginning to emerge or the licensee has failed to keep up with changes in practice standards. As long as there is no identifiable impairment issue (e.g., physical or mental illness or chemical abuse), an educational intervention may be all that is needed to bring the licensee up to current standards and practices. With a successful intervention the licensee benefits by improving practice methods; patients and the community benefit from having a better practitioner available to address healthcare needs; and the Medical Board protects the public without an adverse impact on the availability of care in the community.

Method:

The key components of the program are the Quality Intervention Panels, two groups comprised of six physicians and one consumer member who are responsible for assessing the practice of the licensee referred to the program and making recommendations to the Board's Secretary and Supervising Member based upon their peer assessment. Under Ohio law, the Board's Secretary and Supervising Member are responsible for overseeing the Medical Board's investigatory and enforcement processes. Only the Secretary and Supervising Member of the Board have the authority to refer a licensee to the Quality Intervention Program.

The case review and assessment provided by the Quality Intervention Panels is a part of the Medical Board's investigatory process pursuant to Section 4731.22, Ohio Revised Code. Section 4731.22(F)(5), Ohio Revised Code, provides that all information received as part of an investigation is confidential and not subject to discovery in any civil proceeding. Accordingly, records of discussions held by the Panels and recommendations to the Secretary and Supervising Member are confidential investigatory materials and are not subject to public disclosure.

Results:

Between January 2000 and December 2008, the Ohio Medical Board's Quality Intervention Program (QIP) completed review of 908 cases. Of those cases, 161 licensees were directed into focused re-education to address practice deficiencies identified through expert panel review. Courses related to improving medical record keeping practices and prescribing controlled substances were the most frequent referrals suggested by the QIP panels. Section 4731.22(O), Ohio Revised Code, requires licensees participating in an individual education program recommended by the QIP to pay any costs related to that educational program.

Medical Board Contact:

Joan K. Wehrle, CPMSM, Executive Staff Coordinator
Joan.Wehrle@med.state.oh.us
State Medical Board of Ohio
30 E. Broad St. 3rd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6127

(614) 728-3684