



CASE STUDY EXAMPLES
of MA Board of Medicine in Registration Complaints
that may impact your medical license and career

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A physician was the subject of a Board of Registration in Medicine (Board) Complaint for alleged inappropriate prescribing practices. Although the allegations stemmed from treatment that occurred more than 6 years prior to the Complaint such that the Board should not have entertained the Complaint, the physician still had to give a written response to the Complaint. The physician was able to use the MMS Legal Advisory Plan (LAP) coverage for legal counsel to provide a written response to the Complaint which was closed without any discipline.

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A patient who was only seen on one occasion by a physician filed a complaint alleging that the physician failed to appropriately treat him for his condition. The physician had repeatedly contacted the patient to come into the office in follow up to abnormal lab work as well as his failure to show for a procedure. A well-crafted response was drafted on behalf of the physician outlining the treatment recommendations and the repeated attempts to reach the patient. The Complaint was closed without any discipline.

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A former patient filed a Complaint against a physician alleging that the physician was rude and performed an inappropriate exam. Specifically, the patient alleged that the physician made her feel uncomfortable about her medical and social history. She also alleged that the exam caused her excessive bleeding. A response was drafted on behalf of the doctor explaining the examination and the doctor's behavior. The Complaint was closed and no discipline was issued.

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A patient submitted a Complaint to the Board alleging that the physician discriminated against her based on her disability. The patient also filed a companion Complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. The physician received paperwork requesting medical verification of the patient's request for disability. The physician engaged in a discussion with the patient relative to her symptoms and physical limitations. The patient claimed that physician's questioning of her disability claim was discriminatory. The Complaints at both the Board and the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination were dismissed with any discipline or finding of discrimination.

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A Complaint was docketed against a physician for failure to report misconduct by another physician. The Complaint alleged that the physician should have made a report of peer misconduct when he was informed by the minor patient's parent of alleged inappropriate behavior by a consulting physician. Legal counsel represented the physician through the interview process as well as drafting a response to questions posed by the Board. The Complaint was closed and no discipline was issued.

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