



Arizona
CHAPTER

Arizona Chapter of the
American College of Cardiology

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Arizona Medical Board
1740 W. Adams Street
Suite 4000
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Board Members,

We are writing to express our concern about questions on Arizona's physician licensure application pertaining to mental health treatment.

Questions about past mental health treatment on initial and renewal licensure applications ask applicants whether they have been ***"treated within the past five years, for a physical, mental, or emotional condition which currently affects their ability to practice medicine."*** While the application's disclaimer states that treatment alone is not a basis for denial, the current language of the question is unnecessarily intrusive and a deterrent to physicians seeking mental health services.

The Federation of State Medical Boards recommend state boards to use language that asks applicants to disclose ***"a known current condition which impairs their ability to practice"***. While Arizona's application was found to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, a 2018 review by Qualitative Research in Medicine & Healthcare ranked its mental health questions a "Grade C", compared to 23 other states who received "Grade A" or "Grade B".

We join the Arizona Medical Association and physician specialty organizations in urging the Arizona Medical Board to revise the language in physician licensure applications to read ***"Do you currently have a medical condition that impairs your judgment or adversely affects your ability to practice medicine in a competent, ethical, and professional manner?"***

The COVID-19 pandemic has exponentially increased the need for a robust physician workforce of which quality cardiovascular care is a critical component. Making the requested change will not only benefit physicians but their patients as well.

Should you have questions, contact Frank Ryan at the American College of Cardiology, 240-620-9352 or fryan@acc.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kwan Lee, MD, FACC
President

Our Mission: "To transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health for Arizonans."