

SOUTH DAKOTA

BOARD OF MEDICAL
AND OSTEOPATHIC
EXAMINERS

SDBMOE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SDBMOE announces Licensure Disclosure Change

Sioux Falls, SD - Effective May 5, 2020, the South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners is no longer required to ask about mental health diagnoses or treatment as a condition of initial licensure or renewal.

A recent change to SD administrative rules provides clarity and compassion for licensed medical professionals. These changes were championed and supported by licensees, professional associations, healthcare organizations, and the USD School of Medicine, as well as the South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners.

The new rule states: *Are you currently suffering from any condition for which you are not being treated that impairs your ability to practice medicine in a competent, ethical, and professional manner.*

Prior language was ambiguous about reporting requirements as well as unfairly focused on mental health diagnoses. This change will reduce stigma associated with alcohol and drug use as well as mental health diagnoses by focusing reporting on only *current impairment* without regard to cause. This wording also eliminates a barrier to seeking treatment due to a concern about needing to report past diagnoses or treatment that are currently resolved or well-treated.

The SDBMOE is pleased to announce this unanimous change and its continued commitment to patient and clinician health.