



MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

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MEDICAL MISINFORMATION OR DISINFORMATION POLICY

The Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure agrees with the following statement of the Board of Directors of the Federation of State Medical Boards:

Physicians who generate and spread COVID-19 vaccine misinformation or disinformation are risking disciplinary action by state medical boards, including the suspension or revocation of their medical license. Due to their specialized knowledge and training, licensed physicians possess a high degree of public trust and therefore have a powerful platform in society, whether they recognize it or not. They also have an ethical and professional responsibility to practice medicine in the best interests of their patients and must share information that is factual, scientifically grounded and consensus-driven for the betterment of public health. Spreading inaccurate COVID-19 vaccine information contradicts that responsibility, threatens to further erode public trust in the medical profession and puts all patients at risk.

These principles are not limited to COVID-19 vaccine issues. Physicians have an ethical obligation to ensure that medical information they provide in a media environment is accurate, inclusive of known risks and benefits, commensurate with their medical expertise, and based on valid scientific evidence and insight gained from professional experience. Further, it is strongly recommended that in the use of social media, physicians should separate their personal and professional content online. Physicians must understand that actions online and content posted can affect their reputation, have consequences for their medical careers, and undermine public trust in the medical profession.