

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 30, 2001

CONTACT FOR COMMENTS:
Nancy Achin Sullivan,
Executive Director
(617) 727-3086

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE RELEASES ITS 2000 ANNUAL REPORT

BOSTON –The Board of Registration in Medicine today released its 2000 Annual Report. The seven member Board, five of whom are physicians, all appointed by the Governor, was created to protect the public health and safety of consumers by setting standards for the practice of medicine and acupuncture – ensuring that practitioners in the Commonwealth are appropriately qualified and competent. The Board oversees the licensing of approximately 30,000 physicians and acupuncturists in Massachusetts. Along with its licensing function, the Board also investigates complaints and determines sanctions.

Nancy Achin Sullivan, Executive Director, acknowledged that the success of the agency has come during a period of tremendous change in the health care industry. “One year ago, a new management team was put together to begin its work at the Massachusetts Board of Registration,” said Sullivan. “The Board led a massive effort to restore public confidence in the agency by re-engineering key work processes, and reinvigorating the organization,” she added. “As a result, we have been able to resolve over 773 cases – more than in any year of the Board’s history.”

The Board has focused its attention on several programs that are non-existent in most states – Profiles and Patient Care Assessment. The Physician’s Profiles project was developed to help health care consumers gain better insight to make informed decisions. Sullivan noted that since launching the Physician Profiles project in 1996, the agency has seen an increase in the public information services to consumers from 25,771 web site page requests in 1997 to a whopping 7,454,321 to date.

Board Chair Peter N. Madras, M.D. commended the members of the Board and staff for its tremendous work and accomplishment this past year. He extended his gratitude to Arnold Relman, M.D. for his boundless dedication to Patient Care Assessment and to Peter E. Gelhaar, J.D. who played a very important role in providing wise counsel for the Complaint and Licensing Committees. Both Dr. Relman and Attorney Gelhaar’s terms have recently expired. Dr. Madras also acknowledged the contribution of other members of the Board, Rafik Attia, M.D., Mary Anna Sullivan, M.D., Martin Crane, M.D., and Dorothy Keville.

Copies of the Annual Report may be viewed on the web site: www.massmedboard.org.