

Ben,

Wanted to address your response to Mike's letter personally, because I would like to take the high-road, and do not want to embarrass you on the list-serve, at this time.

In any profession, charlatans and profiteers will raise their heads. That is history. Whether rubber-stamping medical certificates or doling out narcotics for pain control, it will happen. With regards to NRCME exams, the FMCSA has built into the Final Rule, disciplinary action they can take, to enforce compliance, or remove examiners from the system... and one would hope that you know that.

Should any examiner, in all five categories of providers, exhibit unscrupulous activity, a simple shout-out to the FMCSA should start the ball rolling on an investigation.

In Lodi, CA, you have a population of 63,000 people and 21 examiners. I know why you are irritated. All of you charge \$80 or so for an FMCSA exam. Sounds like you are irritated your market is being cut. You have 8 MD's and 8 DC's. The offices I called across the board are charging about the same, including yours (\$80 cash and \$85 credit). So it is not the cost you are concerned about, it is your market share that is being eroded. My guess is your narcissism is irritating your drivers and employers.

In a 10 mile radius of Lodi, I selected four NRCME examiners. Your Healthgrades mark is 1.5 out of 5, Kevin Stewart, DC was 5/5, Krystal Allen, DC was 5/5, Kevin Buckman, MD was 4.5/5 and Park Chan, MD was 4.2/5. So it appears your attitude and superiority complex might be affecting your business.

So, you choose to lash out in frustration. I understand this. Years of being beat-down in practice, 63 years old, and looking at retirement. However, your comments regarding Chiropractic are based in no fact, and for someone that in over 100 list-serve posts, is moderately accurate, you revealed an ignorance unbecoming. And aside from Natalie, likely, have most list-serve readers scratching their heads.

When you started practice, indeed, chiropractic was evolving. As time has progressed, the education mandated by the CCE for all colleges has advanced substantially. A simple, quick review of current chiropractic education requirements may have retarded your posting.

New York's issues are being challenged and are also philosophically based from laws that were enacted decades ago. The quality of education and certification levels to include NRCME will change the administrative codes in due process.

My question to you is this: If we as DC's have no business performing these exams, then why was Mike Megehee and myself, summoned to Washington, DC in 2006-

2008 to design the NRCME program along with other forward-thinking MD's, DO's, FNP'S and PA's? Where were you at that table?

Perhaps the FMCSA is a little smarter than you think. Your issue of economics is being veiled under "safety and qualification," which is the common rhetoric when allopath's feel threatened. I am sure if you have or have had an FNP or PA performing NRCME exams for you, there is no issue. However, if California has or were to have a law allowing FNP's or PA's to practice on their own (which is happening across the country) you would be the first to load your cannon. It is economics, plain and simple, and you don't like it.

That aside, just for you, I am preparing a box of used exam gloves from hernia checks I will be happy to send you as evidence. By the way, wonder how many MD's actually check for hernia??

... bon appetite.

Clinton M. Smith, DC