

As required by Act 134 of 2014, the Vermont Board of Medical Practice (“the Board”) issues the following policy statement.

(1) a health care professional licensed by the Board who diagnoses a patient as having Lyme disease, another tick-borne illness, or a related coinfection must document the basis for the diagnosis and the treatment for Lyme disease, other tick-borne illness, or coinfection in the patient’s medical record;

(2) a health care professional licensed by the Board shall provide information to assist patients’ understanding of available Lyme disease tests, the meaning of a diagnostic Lyme disease test result, and any limitations to that test result;

(3) a health care professional licensed by the Board must obtain a patient’s informed consent in writing prior to ordering or administering any proposed long-term treatment for Lyme disease, other tick-borne illness, or coinfection. The Board considers long-term treatment to be a planned course of treatment that is expected to extend for more than 28 days; and

(4) the Board will not pursue disciplinary action against a health care professional licensed by the Board solely for the use of medical care recognized by the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Infectious Diseases Society of America, or International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society for the treatment of a patient’s symptoms when the patient is clinically diagnosed with Lyme disease or other tick-borne illness; however, this does not preclude discipline for errors, omissions, or other unprofessional conduct when practicing within such guidelines.

This policy becomes effective on July 1, 2014.