

North Carolina Medical Board

Quarterly Board Actions Report | February 2016 - April 2016

This report lists public adverse actions of the Board. A complete listing of all public actions, adverse and non-adverse, can be found on the Board's website. Visit www.ncmedboard.org and select "Access recent Board actions" under Topics of Interest (bottom right corner of the home page.)

Name/license #/location	Date of action	Cause of action	Board action
ANNULMENTS			
NONE			
SUMMARY SUSPENSIONS			
LIETZKE, Christiana Marie, MD (201400017) Rutledge, TN	03/18/2016	MD suffers from a medical condition that, left untreated, makes her unfit to practice medicine. Medical professionals have opined that MD is not currently fit to practice.	Summary Suspension of License
REVOCATIONS			
NONE			
SUSPENSIONS			
CHAPMAN, (III), William H. Harrison, MD (009401392) Greenville, NC	03/18/2016	MD inappropriately prescribed controlled substances to a family member and to his girlfriend. MD asked multiple individuals he worked with and supervised to prescribe controlled substances and non-controlled substances to his girlfriend, a family member and to himself, knowing that the prescribing would occur outside of an established and appropriately documented physician-patient relationship.	MD's license is suspended from October 12, 2015, to April 17, 2016. MD has entered into a contract with NCPHP to help him better understand appropriate boundaries to avoid inappropriate prescribing in future.
LIETZKE, Christiana Marie, MD (201400017) Rutledge, TN	04/28/2016	MD is unfit to practice medicine due to symptoms consistent with bipolar disorder, manic phase, which MD declines to control with medication.	Indefinite suspension
MARCHETTI, Louis Joseph, MD (000017224) Vass, NC	04/14/2016	MD wrote prescriptions in the names of three patients who were unaware that these prescriptions were issued, with the understanding that the medication would, in fact, be provided to a member of MD's family.	Indefinite suspension
OUDEH, Ibrahim Naim, MD (000034428) Dunn, NC	03/17/2016	Concerns about quality of care; MD treated a family member and prescribed controlled substances to a family member.	Indefinite suspension, stayed. MD must enter into an agreement to be monitored and mentored by an organization approved by the Board for a period of no less than two years. If the monitoring company opines that MD is practicing below accepted standards, the Board has the right to summarily suspend MD's license. MD is restricted from prescribing controlled substances in Schedules I, II/IIN and III/IIN.
SASS, Maria, LP (100000203) Durham, NC	04/15/2016	In March 2016, LP consumed tramadol, a controlled substance that was not lawfully prescribed for her, in violation of her NCPHP monitoring contract. This followed two prior instances of violating the NCPHP contract, after which no public action was taken.	LP is indefinitely suspended, immediately stayed, except for a period of 30 days.
SHANNON, (Jr.), Walter Daniel, MD (200301170) Kinston, NC	04/29/2016	MD prescribed for and treated psychiatric patients in NC during an extended stay in Hawaii. In some instances, MD prescribed controlled substances in the face of signs that patients were abusing and/or diverting the medications. MD failed to respond in the face of aberrant urine drug screens. MD billed for complex medical visits when the care he provided via telemedicine did not justify it. Documentation of medical visits did not consistently correspond with billing.	MD's license is suspended for 12 months, immediately stayed except for a period of 30 days. MD's active suspension is deemed already served, as he ceased practice for a period of at least 30 days while under investigation by the Board. MD shall pay a \$3,000 fine and complete the ProBe course on ethics within six months of the date of the order. MD must complete CME in medical recordkeeping and comply with other conditions.

BOARD ACTIONS

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SMITH, Bryan Dorsey, MD (200201531) Durham, NC	03/03/2016	Relapse of alcohol use disorder; MD consumed alcohol, amphetamines and benzodiazepines.	Indefinite suspension
WAHBA, Wasseem John, PA (000102441) Cary, NC	04/01/2016	PA video recorded a female patient during a physical examination using his cell phone camera.	Indefinite suspension
WOLICKI-SHANNON, Joanna, MD (200001033) Kinston, NC	04/29/2016	MD prescribed for and treated psychiatric patients in NC during an extended stay in Hawaii. In some instances, MD prescribed controlled substances in the face of signs that patients were abusing and/or diverting the medications. MD billed for complex medical visits when the care she provided via telemedicine did not justify it. Documentation of medical visits did not consistently correspond with billing.	MD's license is suspended for 12 months, immediately stayed except for a period of 30 days to run from May 1, 2016, until May 15, 2016. MD is given credit for a 15 day period during the investigation, during which she did not practice. MD shall pay a \$3,000 fine and complete the ProBe course on ethics within six months of the date of the order. MD shall complete CME in medical recordkeeping and comply with other conditions.
PROBATION/LIMITATIONS/CONDITIONS			
MELINE, Lewis John, MD (201500165) Spokane, WA	02/26/2016	Boundary violation/professional sexual misconduct. While practicing in Washington, MD entered into a sexual relationship with a patient who is a prostitute. MD inappropriately prescribed controlled substances to this patient and also provided between \$50,000 and \$60,000 of financial support to the patient. This conduct led MD to enter into an order with the medical board in Washington, which placed MD's license on probation.	MD is placed on probation; MD must comply with Washington medical board order.
REPRIMANDS			
GARG, Shyam Lal, MD (000026531) Hampstead, NC	04/21/2016	Quality of care; inappropriate prescribing of controlled substances, inadequate documentation.	Reprimand; \$2,000 fine; MD must complete 10 hours of CME in controlled substances prescribing and medical record keeping.
JACOBS, James William, MD (009401420) Cary, NC	03/02/2016	MD did not employ appropriate pharmacovigilance in monitoring a patient whose ADD was being managed with narcotics. Prescribing of narcotics increased in the face of possible drug diversion behavior by the patient, who eventually died of heroin overdose.	Reprimand; MD shall continue changes made in practice to ensure proper pharmacovigilance with patients who are prescribed controlled substances.
KELLY, Timothy Gerald, MD (000033074) Wilmington, NC	04/12/2016	Quality of care; MD failed to treat a patient's intraocular pressure in a timely manner.	Reprimand
LALLINGER, Gunther Josef, MD (000025928) Chapel Hill, NC	03/17/2016	MD failed to timely and appropriately diagnose testicular torsion in a 14 year old male, contributing to the eventual development of necrosis and loss of the testicle.	Reprimand; \$1,000 fine
LITTLE, (Jr.), James Conrad, MD (000015968) Climax, NC	02/12/2016	MD hired a woman he was dating to work as his office manager and as a clinical assistant in his practice. MD occasionally directed this person, who had no prior clinical training or experience, to write prescriptions, which MD signed. An investigation determined that the woman wrote seven prescriptions, all for controlled substances, for herself and two family members without MD's knowledge or consent. MD failed to appropriately supervise and ensure that the employee was assigned duties commensurate with her education, training and experience.	Reprimand
SEITZ, Kent, MD (200900067) Charlotte, NC	03/18/2016	Quality of care, inappropriate prescribing of controlled substances; MD allowed an unlicensed staff member to use undated, unsigned prescription blanks to issue prescriptions, including for Suboxone, when he was unavailable. MD failed to appropriately respond to patients' positive urine drug screens.	Reprimand; \$2,000 fine; MD shall complete a course in appropriate prescribing of Suboxone.
SKEEN, James Thomas, MD (009801061) Greensboro, NC	03/17/2016	MD self-prescribed on two occasions; Medical records were inaccurate and/or insufficient; History of prescribing controlled substances	Reprimand; MD shall attend a proctored medical records course approved by the Board within six months of the date of the order.

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THOMBS, Everett Bernard, MD (000025194) Kings Mountain, NC	04/21/2016	Quality of care; deficiencies in MD's medical record documentation, management of co-morbid conditions and controlled substances prescribing practices.	Reprimand; MD must obtain a practice monitor as specified in the order and complete CME in medical record keeping and controlled substances prescribing. In future, if the Board finds that MD's controlled substances prescribing does not meet accepted standards, the Board reserves the right to summarily suspend MD's controlled substances prescribing privileges.
TOLMAN, Phillip William, PA (000103958) Wilmington, NC	02/12/2016	PA was disciplined by the South Carolina medical board related to allegations that he sexually harassed a female coworker.	PA's NC physician assistant license is reinstated, with a reprimand
DENIALS OF LICENSE/APPROVAL			
ROBERTSON, Valerie Jean, MD (NONE) Tucson, AZ	02/08/2016	MD made false statements and misrepresentations on her NC license application, related to a malpractice payment made on her behalf in January 2014.	Denial of application for NC medical license.
SURRENDERS			
ACOSTA, Daniel, MD (200100499) Washington, NC	04/25/2016		Voluntary Surrender of NC medical license
FITZGERALD, Dwight Melvin, MD (000020792) Taylorsville, NC	03/08/2016	History of disruptive conduct.	License surrendered, via non-Disciplinary Consent Order
HERNANDEZ, Mario Augusto, MD (201000567) Charlotte, NC	02/04/2016		Voluntary surrender of NC medical license
JENNINGS, Christopher Ray, MD (201502283) Anderson, SC	03/31/2016		Voluntary surrender of NC medical license
WATFORD, Douglas Elry, MD (000035546) Kinston, NC	04/19/2016		Voluntary surrender of NC medical license
PUBLIC LETTERS OF CONCERN			
AHMED, Syed Fakruddin Ali, MD (200801321) Rocky Mount, NC	04/15/2016	The Board is concerned MD failed to adequately monitor the potassium level of a patient admitted with sepsis. The patient was admitted with elevated potassium and received treatment that returned potassium levels to a normal range. MD assumed care of the patient and oversaw the patient's treatment for six days, during which the patient's potassium levels dropped. The patient eventually died from cardiac arrhythmia, which may have been caused by potassium deficiency.	Public letter of concern
ALBRIGHT, Elizabeth Rae Bakisac, PA (001004908) Fayetteville, NC	03/07/2016	PA consumed alcohol in violation of NCPHP contract; PA has successfully completed inpatient treatment.	Public letter of concern; PA shall maintain NCPHP contract and abide by all terms.
BERCHUCK, Andrew, MD (000031435) Durham, NC	04/05/2016	MD failed to timely diagnose and treat a patient's uterine cancer. The Board notes that this was a difficult case with a poor prognosis regardless of when the diagnosis was made.	Public letter of concern
BEURSKENS, Maureen Leonie, MD (000035584) Charlotte, NC	02/02/2016	The Board is concerned that MD's treatment of a patient who presented with a fibroid and 1.1 mm endometrial stripe may not have conformed to accepted standards of care. An expert reviewer opined that MD should have ordered a biopsy when the fibroid and endometrial stripe were detected, which might have resulted in a more timely diagnosis of the patient's endometrial cancer.	Public letter of concern
BYRNE, Thomas John, MD (000025001) New York, NY	02/26/2016	Concerns about quality of care and history of Board actions in other states; MD presented evidence that he is currently licensed without restriction in these states.	Public letter of concern
DIXON, Donovan Dave, MD 201001347) Pembroke, NC	02/16/2016	Unprofessional conduct; MD broke the terms of a lease for his medical office space, resulting in a judgment against him for \$64,000.	Public letter of concern
ELLIOTT, John Daniel, DO (201201920) Elizabeth City, NC	02/12/2016	The Board is concerned that DO failed to appropriately diagnose and manage a patient's lower leg arterial insufficiency. The patient ultimately underwent below the knee amputation.	Public letter of concern

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FISHER-BECK, Jason Andrew, PA (001003399) Sacramento, CA	02/16/2016	PA failed to ensure that a patient's surgical wrap was removed in an appropriate and timely manner. PA assisted in the patient's hip surgery; it is typically the responsibility of the OR nurse or the surgical assistant to remove the surgical wrap. The wrap remained in place for six days and the patient developed extremity vascular compromise resulting in foot ulcers. Ultimately, the patient required lower leg amputation.	Public letter of concern
GILLMAN, John Frederick, MD (009300475) Tacoma, WA	02/29/2016	Action taken by Washington medical board; MD engaged in a sexual relationship with a patient.	Public letter of concern
KREITZ, (Jr.), Michael, PA (000100004) High Point, NC	03/31/2016	Professional boundary violation; A patient alleged that PA viewed photos of an intimate and personal nature on her cell phone without her permission.	Via consent order, PA is issued a public letter of concern
LUGO-SANTIAGO, Irving Amilcar, MD (000030835) Greensboro, NC	02/16/2016	MD and his family developed a close social relationship with a patient under MD's care. MD eventually hired the patient to work in his practice and the individual remained in MD's care, receiving prescriptions for controlled substances among other care. Administrative rules prohibit a licensee from prescribing to someone with whom he has a close personal relationship.	Public letter of concern
MCGINN, (Jr.), Joseph Thomas, MD (201600697) Monroe, NC	04/14/2016	The Board is concerned that an independent expert medical reviewer raised concerns about certain aspects of two CABG procedures performed by MD that the Board requested be reviewed. The Board notes that MD provided expert reviews that support his approach to the cases.	MD is issued a NC license, with a public letter of concern
MEEHAN-DE LA CRUZ, Kathleen, MD (009900813) Norwalk, OH	04/19/2016	MD wrote prescriptions to a person she is involved in a romantic relationship with. MD has since completed remediation courses. She is cautioned not to repeat similar conduct in future.	License reinstated, with a public letter of concern
SPOHN, Peter John, MD (201000005) Deridder, LA	03/14/2016	MD placed a left sided trochanteric nail in a patient undergoing surgery to repair a hip fracture, instead of a right sided nail as intended.	Public letter of concern
VAN ZANDT, Stephanie, MD (201401271) Clearwater, FL	04/26/2016	The Board is concerned that MD was insufficiently aware of preeclampsia in a patient who presented in early preterm labor; The Board is concerned that MD's management of the patient failed to meet current accepted standards.	Public letter of concern; Within six months of the date of this letter, MD must complete the ACOG course on Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring and complete the ACOG Task Force Publication on Hypertensive Disorders in Pregnancy Status.
WILLIAMSON, (Jr.), Charles Edward, MD (000039500) Roanoke Rapids, NC	04/05/2016	MD failed to consider a recurrence of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus as a possible cause of a patient's fever, back pain, leg numbness and other symptoms. The patient has been treated three weeks prior by another physician, who drained the patient's axillary abscess, diagnosed methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus and prescribed antibiotics. MD diagnosed the patient with an acute lumbosacral strain and prescribed pain medication. The patient returned to the ER 12 hours later and was ultimately diagnosed with an epidural abscess. The patient underwent decompressive surgery and is now a parapalegic.	Public letter of concern
MISCELLANEOUS ACTIONS			
CARTER, Richard Ford, MD (200800397) Highlands, NC	03/18/2016	History of alcohol use disorder; MD failed to comply with NCPHP monitoring agreement.	MD's license is made inactive
ELSTER, (II), Allen William, MD (201600181) Johnson City, TN	02/08/2016	History of alcohol abuse; history of arrest for indecent exposure (while under the influence of alcohol).	MD is issued a resident training license, must comply with NCPHP contract. MD has successfully completed inpatient treatment and is continuing with outpatient therapy.

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LATTERNER, Kim Marie, PA (001003471) Matthews, NC	03/30/2016	PA has been charged with multiple counts of statutory rape.	Interim Non-Practice Agreement
THOMASSON, Lori Anne, PA (001003333) Norfolk, VA	03/17/2016	Action by another state medical board; PA's Virginia license was summarily suspended in January 2016.	PA enters into a public Non-Practice Agreement
CONSENT ORDERS AMENDED			
SPIVEY, David Lee, MD (000030582) Winston-Salem, NC	02/18/2016	MD is compliant with all aspects of his September 2015 order	Amended Consent Order: the stayed suspension portion of MD's September 11, 2015, order is lifted effective March 1, 2016.
TEMPORARY/DATED LICENSES: ISSUED, EXTENDED, EXPIRED, OR REPLACED BY FULL LICENSES			
THOMPSON, Joel Wesley, PA (000101018) Charlotte, NC	03/29/2016		PA is issued a dated license to expire on 03/29/2017.
COURT APPEALS/STAYS			
NONE			
DISMISSALS			
NONE			

Glossary of Terms

Annulment: Retrospective and prospective cancellation of the practitioner's authorization to practice.

Conditions: A term used to indicate actions or requirements a licensee must complete and/or comply with as a condition of continued licensure.

Consent Order: An order of the Board that states the terms of a negotiated settlement to an enforcement case; A method for resolving a dispute without a formal hearing.

Denial: Decision denying an application for initial licensure or reinstatement, or reconsideration of a Board action.

Dismissal: Board action dismissing a contested case.

Inactive Medical License: Licensees must renew the professional license annually to practice lawfully in the state of NC. The Board may negotiate a provider's agreement to go inactive as part of the resolution of a disciplinary case.

Public Letter of Concern (PubLOC): A letter in the public record expressing the Board's concern about a practitioner's behavior or performance. A public letter of concern is not considered disciplinary in nature; similar to a warning.

Revocation: Cancellation of authorization to practice. Authorization may not be reissued for at least two years.

Stay: Full or partial stopping or halting of a legal action, such as suspension, on certain stipulated grounds.

Summary Suspension: Immediate cancellation of authorization to practice; Ordered when the Board finds the public health, safety, or welfare requires emergency action.

Suspension: Withdrawal of authorization to practice, either indefinitely or for a stipulated period of time.

Temporary/Dated License: License to practice for a specific period of time. Often accompanied by conditions contained in a Consent Order.

Voluntary Surrender: The practitioner's relinquishing of authorization to practice pending or during an investigation. Surrender does not preclude the Board bringing charges against the practitioner.

