

North Carolina Medical Board

Quarterly Board Actions Report | November 2013 - January 2014

The Board actions listed below are published in an abbreviated format. The report does not include non-prejudicial actions such as reentry agreements and non-disciplinary consent orders. Recent Board actions are also available at www.ncmed-board.org. Go to "Professional Resources" to view current disciplinary data or to sign up to receive notification when new actions are posted via the RSS Feed subscription service.

Name/license#/location	Date of action	Cause of action	Board action
ANNULMENTS			
[None]			
SUMMARY SUSPENSIONS			
[None]			
REVOICATIONS			
SHELTON, Delmer Lee, PA (000100250) Efland, NC	01/23/2014	PA admitted to a Board investigator that he had engaged in sexual contact with a patient.	Revocation of NC physician assistant license.
TOBIN, Christopher Gregg, MD (009901625) Chevy Chase, MD	01/16/2014	MD was convicted in United States of America vs. Christopher Tobin, case number 6:08-cr-118-Orl-DDD-DAB, of one (1) count of Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substance and two (2) counts of Distribution of Controlled Substance.	Revocation of NC medical license.
SUSPENSIONS			
CLARKE, Theresa Sharon, PA (000103209) Dunn, NC	11/21/2013	An assessment found that PA's clinical knowledge is inadequate; PA's supervising physician reported to the Board that he found PA's patient care to be below standard. This was supported by independent expert medical reviews.	PA license suspended 12 months, immediately stayed; PA must complete a comprehensive recertification review course within six months; must comply with other conditions.
ROQUE, Susan Lovejoy, MD (009500440) Statesville, NC	12/12/2013	The Board is concerned with the quality of obstetric care provided by MD; MD has a recent history of substance abuse (marijuana). She has completed inpatient treatment.	Indefinite suspension of NC medical license, immediately stayed.
YOST, William Franklin, MD (009601529) Slidell, LA	11/20/2013	Inappropriate prescribing of controlled substance; substandard practice of pain management.	Indefinite suspension of NC medical license.
PROBATIONS			
COOK, David Harry, MD (009400759) Slidell, LA	01/16/2014	Inappropriate prescribing of controlled substances.	MD is placed on probation for a period of 12 months; within four months of the date of the order, MD must complete CME courses in both medical record documentation and in prescribing medications. Within 90 days of the order, MD must secure a practice monitor approved by the Board President. Each month, MD must provide the practice monitor with a list of every patient to whom MD has prescribed controlled substances.
SURRENDERS			
CLARKE, Theresa Sharon, PA (000103209) Dunn, NC	12/12/2013		Voluntary surrender of physician assistant license.
DENIALS OF LICENSE/APPROVAL			
[None]			

BOARD ACTIONS REPORT

Name/license#/location	Date of action	Cause of action	Board action
REPRIMANDS			
GOODWIN, Thomas Carl, MD (000027915) Hendersonville, NC	12/02/2013	History of DWI on June 22, 2013, and on June 6, 2007. MD failed to timely report the 2007 arrest for DWI.	Reprimand. The Board will consider MD's history of substance/alcohol abuse if MD makes application for reinstatement of his NC license. MD is currently inactive.
HOWARD, Chad Daniel, MD (200200125) Monroe, NC	11/04/2013	Inappropriate prescribing of controlled substances, specifically Suboxone, and inadequate management of patients being treated for opioid addiction with that drug.	Reprimand; Must complete CME in medical record keeping and controlled substances prescribing, and comply with other conditions.
LACROIX, Christopher Eric, MD (200501730) Washington, NC	01/02/2014	While working for a locum tenens company, MD agreed to supervise physician assistants also employed by the locums company. MD failed to provide appropriate supervision in accordance with state law and related administrative rules. For example, on numerous occasions MD failed to ensure that a written supervisory agreement was in place. MD also failed to conduct required quality improvement meetings. On several occasions, the locum tenens company added PAs as MD's supervisees without notifying MD. In most instances, MD never met or observed in practice the PAs under his supervision.	Reprimand; \$2,000 fine.
LEFLER, Rodger Wendell, MD (200000252) Gastonia, NC	01/02/2014	From 2009 to May 2013, MD took approximately 30 phentermine tablets every two months from his medical practice's inventory of weight loss drugs and gave them to a family member.	Reprimand; license suspended for four months, immediately stayed; \$3,000 fine.
NIEMEYER, Meindert Albert, MD (000030440) Elon, NC	12/02/2013	Substandard care; inappropriate prescribing of controlled substances; inadequate documentation of care.	Reprimand; Within six months of the date of the order, MD must complete 10 hours of CME in each of the following areas: medical record keeping and controlled substances prescribing. MD must submit charts of patients to whom he has prescribed controlled substances for Board review.
SAX, Linda Jill, PA (000103516) Monroe, NC	11/25/2013	PA failed to renew her NC physician assistant license but continued to practice as a PA; PA also prescribed medications, including controlled substances to two close family members, in conflict with Board policies and accompanying administrative rules.	Reprimand.
PUBLIC LETTERS OF CONCERN			
ARTIS, Karlus Cornelius, MD (000034782) Goldsboro, NC	11/12/2013	MD hired a physician assistant through a locum tenens company to work temporarily for his practice. MD did not ensure that an appropriate supervisory agreement was in place and also did not comply with other expectations for supervision of a midlevel practitioner as outlined in relevant administrative rules.	Public letter of concern.
CANCHOLA, Daniel Ramiro, MD (201100164) Dallas, TX	11/21/2013	MD treated two patients via telemedicine (primarily webcam consultations and secure messaging) and prescribed medications to them. This violates the NCMB's policy on contact with patients before prescribing medication, which requires that an appropriate physical examination be conducted before medication is prescribed. The Board is concerned that an appropriate medical examination was not conducted. MD has inactivated NC medical license.	Public letter of concern; administrative fine.

BULLETIN BOARD

Name/license#/location	Date of action	Cause of action	Board action
PUBLIC LETTERS OF CONCERN			
CARL, Gary Hudson, MD (201000598) Eden, NC	11/21/2013	MD wrote prescriptions for controlled and non-controlled medications to immediate family members and prescriptions for non-controlled substances to himself, in conflict with Board policies and related administrative rules.	Public letter of concern.
FREEMAN, Patrick Scott, MD (201101461) Irving, TX	11/21/2013	MD treated a patient via telemedicine (webcam consultation and secure messaging) and prescribed medication. This violates the NCMB's policy on contact with patients before prescribing medication, which requires that an appropriate physical examination be conducted before medication is prescribed. The Board is concerned that an appropriate medical examination was not conducted. MD has inactivated NC medical license.	Public letter of concern; administrative fine.
HELLAMS, Robert Michael, MD (201302298) Edenton, NC	11/20/2013	MD provided inaccurate and/or incomplete information on his NC medical license application.	Public letter of concern. \$1,000 administrative fine.
MAHAN, Dennis Michael, MD (000025053) Oxford, NC	11/15/2013	The Board is concerned that MD contracted with a locum tenens company to have a PA work with him. MD then failed to ensure that a written supervisory agreement was in place and failed to conduct any of the required quality assurance meetings.	Public letter of concern.
SETSER, Bradley Scott, MD (200700348) Metairie, LA	12/18/2013	The Board is concerned that MD prescribed controlled substances and medications to a person with whom he has a significant emotional relationship, in violation of Board administrative rules.	Public letter of concern.
SHORI, Pardeep Kumar, MD (201100101) Dallas, TX	11/21/2013	MD treated patients via telemedicine (primarily webcam consultations and secure messaging) and prescribed antibiotics for most patients evaluated. This violates the NCMB's policy on contact with patients before prescribing medication, which requires that an appropriate physical examination be conducted before medication is prescribed. The Board is concerned that appropriate medical exams were not conducted. MD has inactivated NC medical license.	Public letter of concern; administrative fine.
TURNBULL, Joseph Taylor, MD (000019660) Marion, NC	11/26/2013	The Board is concerned that MD's care of a patient who presented with complaints of weakness and fatigue failed to conform to accepted standards. The patient, who had a history of coronary artery disease, a pacemaker in place and diabetes, had lab work done and the results indicated possible renal failure and critical hyperkalemia of uncertain cause. Repeat labs were ordered but the patient was sent home after the tests without adequate followup. The patient was later taken to the hospital in cardiac arrest and died. The Board believes the patient should have been instructed to remain at the hospital until the test results were in. The Board believes the failure to provide adequate followup may have contributed to the patient's death.	Public letter of concern.
OKWARA, Benedict Onwukwe, MD (000033878) Monroe, NC	11/12/2013	MD entered into a settlement agreement with the NC Department of Health and Human Services to resolve more than \$1.1 million in overpayments for immunotherapy services and other services provided without sufficient billing support from November 2010 to April 2012.	Public letter of concern.

BULLETIN BOARD

Name/license#/location	Date of action	Cause of action	Board action
MISCELLANEOUS ACTIONS			
[None]			
CONSENT ORDERS AMENDED			
GIHWALA, Ramesh, MD (009300472) Gastonia, NC	12/09/2013		MD's June 2013 Consent Order is amended to reflect that his indefinite probation is lifted with an effective termination date of November 21, 2013. MD shall extend his NCPHP contract. Order specifies that this amendment and conditions contained herein shall not constitute a restriction or limitation on MD's license to practice medicine.

TEMPORARY/DATED LICENSES: ISSUED, EXTENDED, EXPIRED, OR REPLACED BY FULL LICENSES			
DUNN, Lawrence Anthony, MD (000030018) Durham, NC	11/21/2013		Temporary/dated licenses became full and unrestricted.
COURT APPEALS/STAYS			
[None]			
DISMISSALS			
[None]			

FINES

The NCMB issues non-disciplinary administrative fines in certain cases where incorrect and/or incomplete information on a medical licensing application causes Board staff to spend an inordinate amount of time resolving the issue(s).

Date	Reason	Amount
11/21/2013	Quality of care	\$2,000.00
11/21/2013	Quality of care	\$2,000.00
11/21/2013	Quality of care	\$7,000.00
01/02/2014	Quality of care	\$2,000.00
01/02/2014	Unprofessional conduct	\$3,000.00
01/28/2014	Unprofessional conduct	\$500.00

DID YOU KNOW?

Licensees are required by law (NCGS 90-5.2) to notify the Board within 30 days if their home or practice address and/or telephone number changes.

Licensees can update their contact information 24-7 by visiting www.ncmedboard.org and selecting "Update Licensee Info Page" from the green Quick Links box at the right hand side of the home page. Once you have logged in, select Address from the menu to change your information.