

**Adverse Actions Report May 2021 – June 2021**

The digital edition of the *Forum* presents a two-month report of recent adverse actions. This report does not include non-adverse action such as reentry agreements or relief of consent order obligations. To view all public actions, visit [www.ncmedboard.org/BoardActions](http://www.ncmedboard.org/BoardActions).

Name/license #/location	Date of action	Cause of action	Board action
<b>ANNULMENTS</b>			
<b>NONE</b>			
<b>SUMMARY SUSPENSIONS</b>			
<b>NONE</b>			
<b>REVOCATIONS</b>			
<b>JUSTIS</b> , Christopher Morrow, MD (000038991) Burlington, NC	06/28/2021	MD has a history with the Board, including concerns regarding substance abuse. On November 1, 2018, the Board sent MD a private letter of concern based on concerns regarding MD’s pain management and prescribing of controlled substances. On March 20, 2020, the Board received a complaint alleging that MD had engaged in a sexual relationship with a patient he was treating for opioid substance abuse and was verified by MD. During the course of the Board’s investigation, the Board received information that MD may have attempted to engage in an inappropriate relationship with another patient. On June 7, 2020, MD, at the request of the Board, voluntarily surrendered his North Carolina medical license.	Revocation of NC medical license

<b>SUSPENSIONS</b>			
<p><b>HEADEN, Kenneth Jay, MD</b> (009400266) Greensboro, NC</p>	<p>05/10/2021</p>	<p>MD has an ongoing history with the Board of departures from standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice. He has had two previous suspensions of his medical license; one in 2009 and another in 2017. As a condition of his 2017 Consent Order, the Board performed a follow-up chart review of four of MD's patient charts and his care was found to be below standard of practice in each case. MD failed to address aberrant drug screening results. He had poor patient intake, provided inadequate treatments, and engaged in improper prescribing on multiple fronts.</p>	<p>Indefinite suspension</p>
<p><b>KRISHNARAJ, Ramesh Loganathan, MD</b> (009901228) Lenoir, NC</p>	<p>06/03/2021</p>	<p>MD has a history of alcohol use disorder. In July 2020, MD resumed drinking with his last drink on October 22, 2021. On March 3, 2021, MD voluntarily inactivated his license to practice medicine. MD has signed a contract with NCPHP, completed residential treatment, and currently resides in a sober living facility.</p>	<p>Indefinite suspension</p>
<p><b>LAM, Din, MD</b> (201401214) Charlotte, NC</p>	<p>06/03/2021</p>	<p>On July 31, 2019, MD entered into a Consent Order Summarily Suspending General Anesthesia Permit with</p>	<p>Indefinite suspension; stayed. MD shall not administer general anesthesia or sedation or supervise the</p>

		<p>North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners as a result of the death of a patient. NCMB ordered MD to produce the patient's medical records for review by an independent medical expert who opined that MD's overall care fell below the standard of care in North Carolina. Specifically, MD did not document or consult with his patient's treating physicians to request medical clearance for his patient or document any clinically sufficient reason before administrating general anesthesia to him.</p>	<p>administration of general anesthesia or sedation.</p>
<p><b>PLUMMER</b>, Charles Wayne, MD (000024982) Jamestown, NC</p>	<p>05/24/2021</p>	<p>The Board initiated an investigation of MD's practices after appearing on the NC DHHS report of the top 2% of opioid prescribers as measured by morphine milligrams equivalents. The Board initially reviewed the care of four patients and found that MD had all on a high-dose levels of opioids. MD required his patients to have excessive urine drug testing which needlessly increased costs to patients or their third-party payors and may be a conflict of interest because the laboratory testing the urine is owned by the MD. Additionally, MD failed</p>	<p>Two-year suspension; immediately stayed with practice and prescribing limitations</p>

		to address aberrant behavior or aberrant drug test results. This same behavior was found at MD's other pain clinics.	
<b>LIMITATIONS/CONDITIONS</b>			
<b>FUENTES</b> , Edwin Laserna, DO (009701749) Danville, VA	06/07/2021	DO had his NC Medical license revoked on January 10, 2020, as a result of his 2018 guilty plea to two felony offenses: Health Care Fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1347 and Attempt to Evade Tax in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7201. DO has applied for a license to practice medicine in North Carolina.	License issued via non-disciplinary consent order with conditions
<b>REPRIMANDS</b>			
<b>HARRELL</b> , Jeffrey Shannon, PA-C (001006103) Midlothian, VA	05/28/2021	Action based on another medical board action. In September 2020, the Virginia Board of Medicine entered an Order reprimanding PA for prescribing to a patient with whom he had a personal relationship.	Reprimand
<b>MOGABGAB</b> , Edward Roddy, MD (009501609) Charlotte, NC	05/19/2021	The Board had concerns about and investigated the controlled substance prescribing practices of a physician assistant that MD supervised. As a result of the information regarding the physician assistant, the Board had five of MD's patient charts reviewed by an independent medical expert. The independent medical expert opined that MD's record	Reprimand with prescribing and supervision conditions; MD to complete CME on documenting medical records

		keeping, prescribing of controlled substances for and treatment of chronic pain failed to conform to the standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice in North Carolina.	
<b>RAVAL</b> , Raju Bhikhubhai, DO (009700722) Fayetteville, NC	05/27/2021	Boundary violation; DO performed an unscheduled breast examination on a patient by suddenly lifting her shirt without her consent and then did not document the breast examination in her medical record.	Reprimand; DO ordered to treatment program for professionals addressing professional boundary issues
<b>REDDY</b> , Keshavpal Gunna, MD (000038415) Stokesdale, NC	05/25/2021	Action based on another state medical board action. In November 2020, the Virginia Board of Medicine entered an Order reprimanding MD for failing to properly document a patient's complaint of tongue swelling that his patient reported may have been caused by the medication Geodon. In addition, MD failed to document his discussion with the patient about the risks and benefits of discontinuing Geodon and his assessment that her swollen tongue was unrelated to this medication.	Reprimand
<b>VIKRAMAN-SUSHAMA</b> , Deepak, MD (200701038) Chapel Hill, NC	05/14/2021	On November 18, 2020, MD was involved in a single car accident in which the NC State Highway Patrol was called to the scene and subsequently arrested	Reprimand

		and charged MD with a DWI. MD was scheduled to perform surgery that same morning and because of his condition and his intoxicated state, that surgery was postponed. On November 25, 2020, MD voluntarily contacted and was assessed by NCPHP, where he was advised to attend a multi-day intensive evaluation at a facility of his choosing. MD complied with NCPHP's recommendation, and the assessment center opined that MD did not meet the criteria for a substance abuse disorder and further opined that he was able to practice medicine safely. MD voluntarily enrolled in a one-year monitoring contract with NCPHP and has registered to attend the ProBE course at the Board's urging.	
<b>DENIALS OF LICENSE/APPROVAL</b>			
<b>NONE</b>			
<b>SURRENDERS</b>			
<b>NIEMEYER</b> , Meindert Albert, MD (000030440) Elon, NC	06/15/2021		Voluntary surrender of license
<b>PUBLIC LETTERS OF CONCERN</b>			
<b>ALLEN</b> , Jodell Kay, MD (201501512) Mint Hill, NC	05/25/2021	The Board is concerned about an abortion procedure that MD performed on a patient. During the dilation and evacuation procedure MD diagnosed a uterine perforation, stopped the	Public Letter of Concern

		<p>procedure, and called 911 for emergency transportation to the nearest hospital. Upon arrival at the hospital the patient was hemodynamically unstable. The Board had the treatment reviewed by an independent medical expert who noted that the preoperative assessment and decision to perform the patient's abortion in a free-standing clinic, the administration and documentation of physician administered analgesia and anesthesia, and the lack of an emergency preparedness plan for transfer to a hospital were below standard of care.</p>	
<p><b>DUQUE</b>, John Paul, MD (201902691) Pompano Beach, FL</p>	<p>06/16/2021</p>	<p>The Board is concerned that in March 2020, MD entered into a Consent Order with the Idaho Medical Board in which he was publicly reprimanded and assessed a civil fine of \$1,000.00 for failure to establish a physician-patient relationship as required by the Idaho Medical Practice Act. Additionally, MD entered into a Consent Order with the Idaho Board of Pharmacy and was assessed a \$3,000.00 fine for violating the statutes and rules governing the practice of pharmacy and controlled</p>	<p>Public Letter of Concern</p>

		substances in Idaho.	
<b>EL-MOHANDES</b> , Ali, MD (201802459) Hunt Valley, MD	06/21/2021	The Board is concerned that MD entered into the Consent Order with the Maryland State Board of Physicians (Maryland Board) in which MD was reprimanded and assessed a civil fine of \$1,000.00. The Maryland Board Consent Order was based on findings that MD supervised two physician assistants from January 2019 until May 2019 and did not have the requisite written supervising agreements in place with these physician assistants and on file with the Maryland Board.	Public Letter of Concern
<b>LEWIS</b> , Robert Milton, MD (202102201) Richmond, VA	06/24/2021	Action based on another state medical board. On October 29, 2018, the Virginia Board of Medicine reprimanded MD in a public Consent Order that was based on MD's care of a patient who presented to MD in 2014 complaining of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, a strong urine odor, and abdominal pain. While laboratory tests were ordered for urine and hematology, MD failed to access and review the patient's laboratory data and also failed to perform other pertinent examinations. MD diagnosed the patient with viral gastroenteritis and discharged him with a prescription. The	Public Letter of Concern

		patient returned to the ER later that day and was diagnosed with septic shock.	
<b>SHEIKH, Naureen Jaffery, MD</b> (201201742) Arlington, TX	05/25/2021	NCMB is concerned that in October 2020, MD entered into a non-disciplinary Remedial Plan with the Texas Board on August 28, 2020. The Texas Board found that MD prescribed multiple medications, including controlled substances, without appropriate indications or monitoring, and failed to properly terminate the doctor-patient relationship. The Texas Board Remedial Plan requires MD to pay an administrative fee of \$500.00 per year and to complete at least eight hours of CME within one year, including four hours on the topic of prescribing and four hours on the topic of identifying drug seeking behavior.	Public Letter of Concern
<b>TORRES, Rafael Guillermo, MD</b> (009901342) Zebulon, NC	05/24/2021	The Board is concerned that it continued to receive reports from MD's former female patients who allege that he inappropriately examined them during their office visits. The Board notes these examinations occurred prior to MD's February 22, 2019, Consent Order with NCMB in which he agreed to no longer treat female patients.	Public Letter of Concern

		Furthermore, the Board has no evidence indicating MD has violated his Consent Order. Nonetheless, each complaint was individually investigated by the Board, and each presented concerns MD may have failed to maintain appropriate boundaries in much the same manner that resulted in the 2019 Consent Order.	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS ACTIONS</b>			
<b>FLEURY</b> , Robert Andre, MD (000025998) Wilmington, NC	06/10/2021	In September 2020, the Board entered into a Consent Order with MD in which he was ordered to cease prescribing any Schedule II controlled substances effective December 1, 2020. On January 21, 2021, MD requested through counsel that the Board clarify the term of his Consent Order. Specifically, MD requests the provision which prohibits him from prescribing Schedule II controlled substances be clarified not to include Schedule IIN controlled substances.	Clarification of consent order terms
<b>IRUNGU</b> , Thomas Kimani, MD (201500162) Gloucester, VA	06/10/2021	MD has a five-year monitoring agreement with the Virginia Health Practitioners Monitoring Program (HPMP). On November 20, 2019, MD signed a monitoring agreement for his alcohol use disorder with NCPHP. MD relapsed on March 19, 2020, and the	Consent Order; MD shall maintain his agreement with NCPHP and abide by all of its terms

		Board was alerted by NCPHP. MD has since successfully completed both an in-patient and out-patient treatment program and has been advocated for his return to work by both HPMP and NCPHP.	
<b>RIFENBARK, Neil Petree, MD</b> (201702180) Chapel Hill, NC	06/01/2021	MD voluntarily inactivated his license to practice medicine on March 2, 2020, and on August 7, 2020, MD and the Board entered into a Consent Order whereby MD's license was indefinitely suspended. MD has suffered from substance use disorder and has undergone and successfully completed residential treatment for this disorder. MD is a participant in NCPHP, and they advocate for his return to the practice of medicine.	License reinstated; MD to maintain and comply in all respects with his current agreement with NCPHP
<b>CONSENT ORDERS AMENDED</b>			
<b>NONE</b>			
<b>TEMPORARY/DATED LICENSES: ISSUED, EXTENDED, EXPIRED, OR REPLACED BY FULL LICENSES</b>			
<b>NONE</b>			
<b>COURT APPEALS/STAYS</b>			
<b>NONE</b>			
<b>DISMISSALS</b>			
<b>NONE</b>			