

**Adverse Actions Report September-October 2024**

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>FARRAG</b> , Tarik Yahia, MD (202001681) Panama City, FL	10/31/2024	MD was issued a limited emergency license to practice medicine by the Board during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023 the Alabama Board revoked MD's license and issued a fine based on finding that in his application for licensure MD misrepresented that he completed a three-year residency program in otolaryngology and submitted a fraudulent document falsely verified that he had no academic or disciplinary probation. MD was terminated from his residency and failed two academic remediation plans because of professionalism concerns. The AL Board found that MD submitted false documents to a FL hospital where he applied for privileges. . In 2024 the Maryland Board revoked MD's license finding that he had fraudulently or deceptively obtained a Maryland medical license.	Revocation of NC medical license
<b>SUSPENSIONS</b>			
<b>FUENTES</b> , Edwin Laserna, DO (009701749) Danville, VA	9/4/2024	MD has a disciplinary history with the Board based on the actions taken against his	Medical license suspended for 30 days

		license by other state medical boards and his criminal history. Details of his disciplinary history with the Board are described in 2016 and 2020 Consent Orders. MD's license was reinstated with conditions in June 2021. During MD's March 2024 license renewal, he self-reported that he had been criminally charged in Danville, Virginia in September 2023 with practicing medicine without a license since January 2018. MD's Virginia medical license has been suspended and after a criminal investigation he pled guilty to a Class One misdemeanor of practicing medicine without a license and was fined.	
<b>MISHRA</b> , Shashank, MD (200301021) Charlotte, NC	10/18/2024	In 2010, MD was prescribed phentermine by a physician for weight loss. He became addicted to phentermine. MD then began obtaining unauthorized prescription blanks from two NC emergency departments during locum tenens assignments. He wrote unauthorized prescriptions for himself under the names of four physicians. All four physicians stated they did not authorize any of the prescriptions written to MD. MD is under a five-year monitoring contract with NCPHP. He has not practiced medicine since December 2023.	Indefinite Suspension
<b>PAVIOL</b> , Scott Maurice, MD (201302216) Charlotte, NC	10/24/2024	In April 2023, MD was reprimanded for instructing a staff member to order a	Suspension, Stayed with terms and conditions

		<p>non-controlled substance for one of his relatives. He instructed the staff member to issue the prescription in the name of his advanced practice provider (APP). MD acknowledged that he did not ask the APP for permission to prescribe this medication using the APP's name. The APP never saw or examined MD's relative.. MD also acknowledged that he had previously prescribed non-controlled substance medications to this same relative and that none of these prescriptions were documented. MD reported that in February 2024, due to an immediate and unanticipated shortage in numbing cream for patient procedures, he instructed a staff member to order a topical numbing cream for patient procedures in the name of one of his APPs.. MD did not ask the APP for permission to prescribe this medication in her name. MD acted as the supervising physician for this APP. MD could not produce evidence of quality improvement meetings for this APP.</p>	
<p><b>WARONSKY, Roy George PA-C (000102512) Harrisburg, NC</b></p>	<p>9/11/2024</p>	<p>PA has a disciplinary history with the Board for substandard prescribing of controlled substances. In September 2020, PA entered into a Consent Order with the Board in which he was reprimanded and agreed not to prescribe controlled substances for any purpose except</p>	<p>Indefinite suspension; PA shall not reapply for at least 2 years</p>

		<p>buprenorphine for the purpose of treating patients with opioid use disorders. In February 2023, the Board issued Partial Relief of Consent Order Obligations allowing reinstatement of PA's Schedule III, IIIN, IV, and V controlled substances prescribing privileges. PA was prohibited from prescribing Schedule II or IIN controlled substances. PA was terminated from his position with the practice in April 2024 when it was discovered that a patient accompanied PA on a camping trip, and they stayed together in PA's recreational vehicle.</p>	
<b>LIMITATIONS/CONDITIONS</b>			
<p><b>CHO</b>, Alex Han, MD (200500532) Durham, NC</p>	<p>9/5/2024</p>	<p>In July 2024, the Board received a complaint from MD's employer that MD had been terminated from due to alleged sexual misconduct with at least one patient. MD has acknowledged engaging in an inappropriate and prohibited sexual relationship with a female patient. MD has agreed to inactivate his medical license effective September 18, 2024, and is currently winding down another practice. To ensure continuity of care, the Board agreed that MD may practice medicine until 4:00 p.m. on September 18, 2024, subject to conditions and limitations.</p>	<p>Interim Limited Non-Practice Agreement</p>
<p><b>HEADEN</b>, Kenneth Jay, MD (009400266) Greensboro, NC</p>	<p>9/11/2024</p>	<p>MD has a disciplinary history with the Board dating back to 2009, primarily related to</p>	<p>License reinstated with conditions</p>

		<p>substandard care in prescribing controlled substances and other medications. In 2017, the Board restricted MD's supervision of APPs to those within two facilities. As a condition of the 2017 Order, the Board performed a follow-up review of MD's patient charts. Four patients suffered from serious mental health or psychiatric problems. Each received care from MD that did not meet the standard of care. The chart review showed that MD continued to make poor diagnostic decisions because of inadequate documented medical justification. The chart review also revealed substandard care that was the same or similar to the substandard care detailed in the 2009 and 2017 Consent Orders. In 2020, MD voluntarily surrendered his DEA privileges. In 2021, after a hearing, MD's license was indefinitely suspended. The Board's action was based on MD's failure to meet accepted standards of care. MD has not practiced medicine since June 2021.</p>	
<b>REPRIMANDS</b>			
<p><b>BHATE</b>, Oam Anand, MD (RTL201150) Chapel Hill, NC</p>	<p>10/4/2024</p>	<p>The Board received a Change in Staff Privileges report from MD's employer due to allegations of MD violating HIPAA patient privacy laws and providing false information when asked about the violations. The report stated MD accessed the medical</p>	<p>Reprimand; MD shall complete a minimum of six hours CME on HIPAA</p>

		<p>records of two female colleagues over a period of two to four years without medical necessity or purpose. The hospital investigators' findings were that MD intentionally accessed the medical records and disregarded the hospital's Privacy and Code of Conduct Policies. MD resigned from his radiology residency prior to being terminated.</p>	
<p><b>LYNCH, Sean Michael, MD</b> (200200567) Belmont, NC</p>	<p>10/21/2024</p>	<p>The Board received two complaints regarding MD within three days of each other. The complaints alleged that while at a local restaurant/bar, MD had on multiple occasions shared detailed information and photographs about his patients with other patrons. The photographs on MD's cell phone depicted patients on the operating table and were graphic. MD admitted to showing a female patron of the establishment both internet stock photos depicting a prolapsed uterus as well as a photograph from a patient who he treated for that same condition. The picture of the patient on MD's cell phone was taken without the patient's knowledge, was not part of her medical record, was shown to the female patron without the patient's consent and was not taken or shown for a valid medical purpose. MD submitted to a comprehensive examination and signed a five-year</p>	<p>Reprimand; Suspension stayed with conditions</p>

		monitoring contract with NCPHP.	
<b>PALUMBO</b> , Joseph Matthew, DO (202100125) Highland Heights, OH	9/12/2024	In November 2023, DO entered into a Consent Order with the Virginia Board of Medicine and paid a fine. The basis of the Virginia Board’s Order was that in his roles as the medical director of IV vitamin infusion facilities and the owner of a locum tenens agency, DO aided and abetted the unlicensed practice of medicine. Specifically, he allowed staff to perform duties outside of his direction, control and/or supervision. Based on DO’s compliance with the Virginia Board’s Consent Order, in January 2024, the Virginia Board terminated the terms and conditions placed on DO’s Virginia license.	Reprimand
<b>REFVEM</b> , William Eric, MD (009600298) Raleigh, NC	10/25/2024	In September 2023, the Board received information from the National Practitioner Data Bank that MD resigned his hospital privileges while under investigation related to professional competence or conduct. Specifically, MD performed two wrong-site surgeries which prompted the investigation. MD’s employer required him to report to NCPHP for evaluation. He signed a five-year monitoring contract with NCPHP.	Reprimand; Suspension stayed with terms and conditions
<b>DENIALS OF LICENSE/APPROVAL</b>			
<b>NONE</b>			
<b>SURRENDERS</b>			
<b>NONE</b>			

<b>PUBLIC LETTERS OF CONCERN</b>			
<p><b>BAKER, Daniel Mark, MD</b> (201800846) Bothell, WA</p>	<p>9/9/2024</p>	<p>The Board is concerned about MD's care of a 46-year-old female who presented to the emergency department with complaints of numbness and pain in her left arm. The emergency department physician ordered three radiology exams including a left upper extremity (LUE) Arterial Doppler ultrasound. MD sent a report related to Patient's LUE ultrasound as having no abnormality. Six days later, Patient returned to the hospital with the same complaints. Patient was diagnosed with an arterial blockage and as having antiphospholipid syndrome (APS). She underwent a thrombectomy which was initially successful but due to her underlying APS, Patient re-clotted after a second and third thrombectomy. Attempts to salvage her hand and arm were unsuccessful resulting in Patient requiring a left mid-forearm amputation. MD admitted he inadvertently caused the incorrect template report to be sent by striking the "send" key rather than the "save" key. MD has been instructed to delete the auto-populated "Impression" from all template reports when they initially open.</p>	<p>Public Letter of Concern</p>
<p><b>BROOKS-FERNANDEZ, Connie MD</b> (009701262) Fayetteville, NC</p>	<p>9/5/2024</p>	<p>The Board received a complaint from a patient, who had a concern about the treatment performed by</p>	<p>Public Letter of Concern</p>



		a staff member of MD's aesthetics clinic. When the patient posted a negative review online, MD responded inappropriately and unprofessionally to the post and revealed confidential medical information, violating HIPAA privacy laws.	
<b>FOXWORTH, Scott Steven, PA-C</b> (001005045) Corpus Christi, TX	9/18/2024	The Board is concerned that PA was reprimanded and paid a fine when the Maine Board of Licensure found that PA committed misrepresentation in obtaining a license by making untrue statements on his application for license renewal. MD denied that he had practice limitations or investigations; failed to notify the Maine Board within ten days of termination of his employment; and failed to notify the Maine Board within ten days of disciplinary action by the Texas Physician Assistant Board which placed restriction on his license to practice.	Public Letter of Concern
<b>GOLLEHON, Steven Gregory, MD</b> (200000219) Greensboro, NC	10/23/2024	The Board is concerned that from February 2022 to April 2024, MD prescribed controlled substances multiple times to a person with whom he has a close personal relationship. MD failed to keep proper medical records or otherwise document these prescriptions. This conduct violates Board Rules and Position Statement regarding self-treatment and treatment of family	Public Letter of Concern

		members.	
<b>PATEL, Jignesh S., MD</b> 200401558) Raleigh, NC	9/30/2024	The Board is concerned that MD's care of a 74-year-old male with metastatic prostate cancer and history of coronary artery disease may have fallen below the standard of care in NC. Patient was admitted to the hospital with complaints of blood and clots in his urine and painful urination. After a few days Patient's blood pressure became and remained very low. A nurse notified MD of Patient's hypotensive state, but MD did not examine Patient or place any orders to address this. Patient's condition continued to deteriorate, and he died. The Board's reviewing expert criticized MD's failure to examine Patient and diagnose and/or treat the cause of Patient's low blood pressure as soon as MD was made aware. The expert opined that had MD examined Patient, he would have aggressively hydrated Patient, evaluated him for sepsis, and transferred patient to the ICU for closer observation. The expert also noted MD's failure to make any documentation in the record.	Public Letter of Concern
<b>SHIRLEY, James Anderson, MD</b> (202200702) Bloomfield Township, MI	10/17/2024	During a cesarean section, surgical staff left a surgical sponge inside Patient. Postoperatively, Patient complained of bloating, abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting. Two days later MD interpreted an abdominal and pelvic CT scan without contrast and recorded	Public Letter of Concern

		<p>several findings including the possibility of a postoperative ileus, but he did not visualize or detect a foreign body. Patient's abdominal pain symptoms persisted, and she returned to the emergency department. Another CT scan of the abdomen and pelvis revealed a retained surgical sponge in the left mid-abdomen eroding into the surrounding small bowel. Patient had emergency surgery to remove the foreign body, and a partial small bowel resection. The Board's reviewing expert indicated that the CT scan MD interpreted showed a high-density object in the left mid-abdomen, and the density represented the radiodense marker embedded within laparoscopic sponges to make them more radiographically apparent. The reviewing expert criticized MD's failure to diagnose the retained surgical sponge correctly or mention the radiodense object in his report.</p>	
<p><b>WESTER, Trent Wesley, MD</b> (200400174) Wilson, NC</p>	<p>10/28/2024</p>	<p>After a former patient posted a negative review of MD on a public online forum, MD responded directly and published a rebuttal implying that the patient was displaying drug-seeking behavior. While MD did not explicitly state that this was the situation regarding Patient, his response effectively</p>	<p>Public Letter of Conc</p>

		disclosed protected health information because Patient was in fact concurrently obtaining controlled substances from other providers.	
<p><b>WINEGARDNER, Linda Still, MD</b> (009801807) Huntersville, NC</p>	<p>10/23/2024</p>	<p>In November 2018, a fifty-eight-year-old female patient consulted with MD for Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT). A routine pap smear in January 2018 performed by Patient's gynecologist reported no abnormal findings. MD did not have any concerns about Patient's eligibility for HRT and believed she would be an appropriate candidate for the treatment. Patient's labs showed no indications of problems, and MD recommended Patient begin using bio-identical compounded testosterone and estradiol pellets, along with oral progesterone. Approximately two months later Patient reported experiencing bleeding. MD advised Patient that bleeding may happen at first, and that adjustment of her hormones should resolve the problem. However, MD was unable to correct the bleeding through these efforts and in April 2019, an ultrasound revealed abnormal endometrial thickening of Patient's uterus. An endometrial biopsy confirmed endometrial cancer. The Board's reviewing expert criticized MD's delay in changing the treatment plan to address</p>	<p>Public Letter of Concern</p>

		the abnormal nature of Patient's heavy bleeding after starting HRT. MD should have evaluated the endometrium and ruled out uterine pathology.	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS ACTIONS</b>			
<b>DAVIS</b> , James Wayne, MD (200001572) Siler City, NC	10/2/2024	In March 2021, the Board received information that MD was diverting Oxycodone that he prescribed for patients. The Board learned that MD had Opioid Use Disorder. During 2020, MD relapsed, prescribing and diverting Oxycodone medications for at least four of his patients for his own personal use. MD inactivated his NC medical license in March 2021 and the Board indefinitely suspended his license in September 2021. In January 2023 MD pled guilty to one count of Obtaining Controlled Substances by Fraud or Forgery and was sentenced to two years of supervised probation. In April 2024, MD was assessed by NCPHP and diagnosed with Severe Opioid Use Disorder - In Remission. MD is currently in compliance with his five-year monitoring contract and NCPHP supports his return to practice.	License reinstated with terms and conditions
<b>JOHNSTON</b> , James Patrick, DO (201702638) Midland, NC	10/1/2024	The Board received a complaint alleging an inappropriate relationship	License Inactivated effective May 6, 2024

		<p>between DO and a patient whom he began dating while he was her primary care physician. DO and the patient married, and he continued to provide medical care to her. DO submitted to a Board ordered comprehensive examination at Acumen Assessments and submitted to an examination at NCPHP. NCPHP did not support DO as safe to practice and recommended he enter into a monitoring contract with NCPHP, complete a professional longitudinal treatment program and follow all recommendations.</p> <p>Following a DWI arrest, DO began treatment for alcohol use disorder at a residential treatment facility in Tampa, FL and inactivated his NC license at the request of the Board.</p>	
<p><b>MORGAN, Craig Douglas, MD</b> (202403149) Wilmington, DE</p>	<p>10/24/2024</p>	<p>On the application for licensure, MD was asked if he was aware of any complaint, investigation, or inquiry regarding him that has been received or conducted by a hospital or other healthcare organization. MD responded in the negative. It was later determined that MD had agreed to refrain from performing arthroplasty</p>	<p>License issued with restriction- MD shall not perform arthroplasty procedures</p>

		<p>procedures in lieu of submitting to a focused professional practice evaluation. This was a restriction of MD's staff privileges by the Delaware health care organization for whom he worked as an orthopedic surgeon. MD should have answered in the affirmative to both above referenced questions on his NC license application.</p>	
<p><b>PUTCHA, Radha, MD (200601189)</b> Wilmington, NC</p>	<p>10/14/2024</p>	<p>MD's license was made inactive by request in March 2023. MD has not practiced clinical medicine since 2021 and recognizes the need for a reentry plan to assist her back into the practice medicine.</p>	<p>License reinstated with conditions</p>
<p><b>TAYLOR, William Farnham, MD (000039699)</b> Charlotte, NC</p>	<p>9/9/2024</p>	<p>In November 2020 MD received an Interim Letter of Concern regarding pharmacovigilance and his prescribing of controlled substances. A follow-up chart review was performed in late 2023 to assess whether MD had improved his practice since December 2020. The Board's expert reviewed five patient records and found MD's care of Patients A through E failed to meet the standard of care. The reviewing expert expressed concerns about MD's documentation, infrequent drug screening,</p>	<p>License Inactivated</p>

		and prescribing without detailed rationales.	
<b>WILSON</b> , Wayne Vincent, MD (000033444) New Bern, NC	10/24/2024	MD has applied for reinstatement of his license to practice medicine in North Carolina. In August 2015, MD pled guilty to two felony counts of Health Care Fraud. As a result, MD's license to practice medicine was revoked in September 2016. MD recognizes the need for a Reentry Plan. He underwent a competency assessment at the Center for Personalized Education for Professionals (CPEP) in February 2024. CPEP concluded that MD is safe to practice subject to certain recommendations for structured remediation in conjunction with reentering the practice of medicine.	License reinstated with terms and conditions
<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>			