

Texas Medical Board Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TMB disciplines 27 physicians at August meeting, adopts rule changes

At its August 20, 2021 meeting, the Texas Medical Board disciplined 27 licensed physicians.

The disciplinary actions included: seven orders related to quality of care violations, four orders related to unprofessional conduct, one voluntary surrender/revocation, one restriction, two orders related to nontherapeutic prescribing, two orders related to improper prescribing, two orders related to violation of Board rules, one order related to impairment and seven orders related to other states' actions. The Board also ratified five cease and desist orders.

The Board issued 214 physician licenses at the August meeting. The Board issued a total of 5,304 physician licenses in FY 2021, an all-time record of licenses issued in a fiscal year.

RULE CHANGES ADOPTED

CHAPTER 187. PROCEDURAL RULES

The amendments to §§187.2(6), 187.6 and 187.16, relating to Definitions, Appearances Personally or by Representative, and Informal Show Compliance (ISC) Information and Notices, adds a definition of "appear/appearance." The amendments to §187.6 and §187.16 are conforming amendments to incorporate consistent usage of the term "appear" and "appearance."

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

QUALITY OF CARE

Burt, Nancy A., M.D., Lic. No. K8037, San Antonio

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Nancy A. Burt, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order requiring her to within one year complete at least 16 hours of CME, divided as follows: eight hours in managing patients with depression and risk of suicide, four hours in risk management and four hours in patient communications. The Board found Dr. Burt had been treating a patient for Parkinson's disease when he began to express issues with depression. Patient's wife called Dr. Burt's office letting staff know the patient could be vulnerable to self-harm but staff only recommended the patient go to Alamo Health for mental care, rather than urging the patient to seek care at an emergency room.

Cox, Derrick Dione, M.D., Lic. No. P7262, El Paso

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Derrick Dione Cox, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order requiring him to within one year complete at least 16 hours of CME, divided as follows: 15 hours in medical ethics and one hour in communications with patients; and within one year and three attempts pass the Medical Jurisprudence Exam. The Board found Dr. Cox failed to evaluate, treat and document treatment when one patient presented to the emergency room with an emergency surgical condition, and after the patient was admitted to the hospital and after being contacted by hospital staff multiple times while he was on call.

Koch, Eric B., M.D., Lic. No. P5198, El Paso

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Eric B. Koch, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order on Formal Filing publicly reprimanding Dr. Koch and requiring him to within 30 days schedule an assessment with the Texas A&M Health Science Center Knowledge, Skills, Training, Assessment, and Research (KSTAR) program; and within one year complete at least

16 hours of CME, divided as follows: eight hours in operative management of biliary tract disease, four hours in risk management and four hours in liver trauma or surgical complications. The Board found Dr. Koch clipped and cut a structure during a laparoscopic cholecystectomy surgery that led to a significant bleed.

McGonagle, Martin Eugene, M.D., Lic. No. G6563, Granbury

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Martin Eugene McGonagle, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order prohibiting Dr. McGonagle from prescribing Phentermine, Topamax, or any combination of such medications for weight loss management, until the successful completion of at least 32 hours of CME in prescribing medications for weight loss; and within one year complete at least eight hours of CME in risk management. The Board found Dr. McGonagle failed to meet the standard of care by nontherapeutically prescribing Topamax and Phentermine to nine patients without appropriate indications or monitoring.

Ng, Federico Roman, M.D., Lic. No. J6623, Monahans

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Federico Roman Ng, M.D., entered into a Mediated Agreed Order requiring him to within one year complete at least 12 hours of CME, divided as follows: four hours in physician-patient communications, four hours in prescribing to psychiatric patients and four hours in medical recordkeeping; and within 60 days pay an administrative penalty of \$1,500. The Board found Dr. Ng continued to treat a non-compliant psychiatric patient outside of his specialty, even when the patient refused to heed his referral to a psychiatrist; and queried a second patient about her social history in a way which made the patient uncomfortable.

Pelly, Lorenzo, M.D., Lic. No. G2453, Brownsville

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Lorenzo Pelly, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order requiring him to within one year and three attempts pass the Medical Jurisprudence Exam; have his practice monitored by another physician for eight consecutive monitoring cycles; and within one year complete at least 28 hours of CME, divided as follows: eight hours in medical recordkeeping, four hours in professional communication, eight hours in risk management and eight hours in addressing complications in complex patients. The Board found Dr. Pelly failed to adequately and timely evaluate and treat a patient's acute kidney injury; failed to timely assess, order treatment and a gastroenterologist consultation for a second patient; failed to timely assess a third patient after they were admitted to intensive care in critical condition; failed to maintain adequate and complete medical records, and in June 2018 was required by his employer to take a course after inappropriately touching a nurse.

Sonbol, Yassir Ahmed, M.D., Lic. No. P1024, Sugar Land

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Yassir Ahmed Sonbol, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order requiring him to within one year complete at least 20 hours of CME, divided as follows: eight hours in medical recordkeeping, four hours in risk management and eight hours in cardiac testing. The Board found Dr. Sonbol saw a patient for one incident of chest pain but did not document an adequate history of the patient's complaint or order repeat testing.

UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Barba, Carlos Alberto, M.D., Lic. No. P7385, Brownsville

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Carlos Alberto Barba, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order publicly reprimanding Dr. Barba and requiring him to have a chaperone present anytime he performs any examination on a female patient; within one year and three attempts pass the Medical Jurisprudence Exam; within one year complete the professional boundaries course offered by the University of California San Diego Physician Assessment and Clinical Education (PACE) program; within one year complete at least 16 hours of CME, divided as follows: eight hours in ethics and eight hours in risk management; within 90 days pay an administrative penalty of \$10,000; and shall not be permitted to supervise or delegate prescriptive authority to a physician assistant or advanced practice nurse or supervise a surgical assistant. The Board found Dr. Barba engaged in sexual contact with a patient and made false and misleading statements to the Board and Peer Review Committee regarding the encounter. The order resolves a formal complaint filed at the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

De Llanos, Ariel, M.D., Lic. No. N2465, San Antonio

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Ariel De Llanos, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order on Formal Filing publicly reprimanding Dr. De Llanos and requiring him to within six months obtain an independent medical evaluation from a

pre-approved psychiatrist and follow all recommendations made for care and treatment; within one year and three attempts pass the Medical Jurisprudence Exam; and within one year complete the professional boundaries course offered by the University of California San Diego Physician Assessment and Clinical Education (PACE) program. The Board found Dr. De Llanos engaged in unprofessional conduct and a breach of physician-patient boundaries by becoming romantically and financially involved with a patient. The order resolves a formal complaint filed at the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

Iguh, Bernadette Uche, D.O., Lic. No. N0846, Houston

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Bernadette Uche Iguh, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order revoking Dr. Iguh's Texas medical license; however, the revocation is stayed and she is placed on probation for three years under the following terms: comply with all terms of the Judgement entered on or around March 5, 2021; limit her medical practice to a group setting approved in advance; have her billing practice monitored for four consecutive monitoring cycles; within one year complete at least 12 hours of CME, divided as follows: eight hours in ethics and four hours in billing; and shall not be permitted to supervise or delegate prescriptive authority to a physician assistant or advanced practice nurse or supervise a surgical assistant. The Board found that on March 5, 2021, the Court entered a Judgement based on Dr. Iguh's plea of guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud and her subsequent cooperation with federal investigators sentencing her to time served, 15 months of supervised release, and to pay restitution. The order supersedes all prior orders entered by the Board.

Raju, Saagar, M.D., Lic. No. S9978, Riverside, CA

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Saagar Raju, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order requiring him to within one year complete at least eight hours of CME, divided as follows: four hours in ethics and four hours in professionalism; and publicly referring him to the Texas Physician Health Program. The Board found Dr. Raju was untruthful on an application he filed with the Board to obtain licensure when he answered "No," to a question asking if he ever resigned in lieu of further investigation or action, and also answered "No," to a question related to impairment and failed to report to the Board his history of substance use.

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER/REVOCAION

Nguyen, Khanh Quoc, M.D., Lic. No. F4975, Houston

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Khanh Quoc Nguyen, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order of Voluntary Surrender in which Dr. Nguyen agreed to voluntarily surrender his Texas medical license in lieu of further disciplinary proceedings. The Board found Dr. Nguyen voluntarily surrendered his medical license to the Medical Board of California on or about December 10, 2020 due to unprofessional conduct and/or repeated negligent acts on two patients.

RESTRICTION

Crumbliss, Joseph, M.D., Lic. No. F4797, Abilene

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Joseph Crumbliss, M.D., entered into a Modification Order, modifying Dr. Crumbliss' December 2020 Order. The modification requires Dr. Crumbliss to have a chaperone for all patient encounters; restricts him from treating minor patients; requires him to attend psychotherapy treatment every two weeks with quarterly reports and requires him to terminate physician-patient relationships with all patients who made boundary violations allegations against him that were incorporated by the December 2020 Order. The Board found additional modifications to his 2020 Order were warranted based on recommendations from the Independent Medical Evaluation. All other terms of the order remain in full effect until superseded by subsequent order of the Board.

NONTHERAPEUTIC PRESCRIBING

Al-Khadour, Hussamaddin, M.D., Lic. No. L1257, Houston

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Hussamaddin Al-Khadour, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order suspending Dr. Al-Khadour's Texas medical license; however, the suspension is stayed and he is placed on probation for a period of 18 months under the following terms: within seven days request modification of his DEA controlled substances registration

certificate to eliminate Schedule II and shall not reregister without prior Board approval; have his practice monitored by another physician for 12 consecutive months; within one year complete the prescribing course offered by the University of California San Diego Physician Assessment and Clinical Education (PACE) program; within one year and three attempts pass the Medical Jurisprudence Exam; within one year complete at least eight hours of CME, divided as follows: four hours in ethics and four hours in risk management; and shall not be permitted to supervise or delegate prescriptive authority to physician assistants and advanced practice nurses or supervise surgical assistants. The Board found Dr. Al-Khadour failed to meet the standard of care, nontherapeutically prescribed, failed to adhere to the established guidelines and requirements for the treatment of pain for 12 patients, and operated an unregistered pain management clinic. Dr. Al-Khadour also displayed unprofessional conduct when he pled guilty to possession of a controlled substance by his ordering of testosterone cyprionate for office use under his clinic name.

Rosin, Lauren Michelle, M.D., Lic. No. R9849, Sugar Land

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Lauren Michelle Rosin, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order requiring Dr. Rosin to have her practice monitored by another physician for 12 consecutive monitoring cycles; within one year complete the prescribing course offered by the University of California San Diego Physician Assessment and Clinical Education (PACE) program; within one year complete at least 16 hours of CME, divided as follows: eight hours in ethics and eight hours in medical recordkeeping; and within 60 days pay an administrative fee of \$3,000. The Board found Dr. Rosin failed to meet the standard of care by inappropriately prescribing Trinaz when there was no indication for use and failed to establish a proper physician-patient relationship as required Board Rule 174 standards for the provision of Telemedicine Medical Services.

IMPROPER PRESCRIBING

Groff, Geoffrey Allen, M.D., Lic. No. J9694, Houston

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Geoffrey Allen Groff, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order requiring him to within one year complete the prescribing course offered by the University of California San Diego Physician Assessment and Clinical Education (PACE) program; and for a period of one year obtain treatment from a Board-approved therapist and follow recommendations made for care and treatment. The Board found Dr. Groff self-reported that he had surrendered his DEA controlled substances registration certificates. Dr. Groff had been prescribing dangerous drugs and controlled substances including hydrocodone, beyond immediate medical need to three family members without documenting his care or conducting proper histories, examinations or monitoring.

Pena, Francisco Inocente, M.D., Lic. No. D0250, Edinburg

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Francisco Inocente Pena, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order prohibiting Dr. Pena from treating or otherwise serving as a physician for his immediate family; prohibiting him from prescribing, dispensing, administering, or authorizing controlled substances or dangerous drugs to himself or his immediate family; and within one year complete at least 12 hours of CME, divided as follows: eight hours in appropriate prescribing of controlled substances and four hours of risk management. The Board found Dr. Pena prescribed dangerous drugs and/or controlled substances to himself and a close family member and failed to keep medical records for the treatment.

VIOLATION OF BOARD RULES

Carlson, Gregory B., M.D., Lic. No. K0666, Denison

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Gregory B. Carlson, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order requiring him to within one year complete at least 12 hours of CME, divided as follows: eight hours in medical recordkeeping and four hours in evaluation of cardiac patients. The Board found Dr. Carlson violated Board rules related to documentation.

Miller, George Givens, M.D., Lic. No. G8286, Webster

On August 20, 2021, the Board and George Givens Miller, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order publicly reprimanding Dr. Miller and requiring him to within one year and three attempts pass the Medical Jurisprudence Exam; within one year complete the medical recordkeeping course offered by the University of California San Diego Physician Assessment and Clinical Education (PACE) program; within one year complete at least 16 hours of CME, divided as follows: eight hours in ethics and eight hours in informed consent; within 30 days submit to the Board for review and approval all consent

forms for complementary and alternative medicine, including stem cell treatment; and within six months pay an administrative penalty of \$6,000. The Board found Dr. Miller aided and abetted a chiropractor in the unlicensed practice of medicine who advertised and offered 'stem cell' injections to patients, failed to obtain informed consent from the patients, and failed to prescribe or administer the allograft products to the patients in conformity with Board Rule 200.

IMPAIRMENT

Lewis, Robert Quarles, M.D., Lic. No. F1746, Corpus Christi

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Robert Quarles Lewis, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order lifting the suspension of Dr. Lewis' license and publicly referring him to the Texas Physician Health Program. Dr. Lewis had been temporarily suspended due to impairment.

OTHER STATES' ACTIONS

Aronowitz, Joel Alan, M.D., Lic. No. G3118, Los Angeles, CA

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Joel Alan Aronowitz, M.D., entered into a Waiver Order requiring him to complete four hours of CME in ethics/risk management and comply with all terms of the California Board Order dated on or about March 22, 2021. The Board found Dr. Aronowitz was disciplined by the Medical Board of California due to departure of care while performing a medical procedure on a patient.

Burkett, David Scott, M.D., Lic. No. K7675, Monroe, LA

On August 20, 2021, the Board and David Scott Burkett, M.D., entered into an Agreed Order prohibiting him from practicing in Texas until he appears before the Board and provides evidence that he is physically, mentally, and otherwise competent to safely practice; and shall not supervise or delegate prescriptive authority to physician assistants and advanced practice nurses or supervise surgical assistants. The Board found Dr. Burkett engaged in pharmaceutical diversion and Medicaid fraud and had his license suspended by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners for one year and was reinstated under certain terms and lifetime probation.

Doebler, William, M.D., Lic. No. T1048, Bonita Springs, FL

On August 20, 2021, the Board and William Doebler, M.D., entered into a Waiver Order publicly reprimanding him. The Board found Dr. Doebler was reprimanded by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation of the State of Illinois in May 2021.

Higgins, Stanley, M.D., Lic. No. Q3691, Dallas

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Stanley Higgins, M.D., entered into a Waiver Order requiring him to within one year complete at least four hours of CME in ethics or risk management; and comply with the Wisconsin Waiver Order. The Board found Dr. Higgins signed a Waiver Order pursuant to disciplinary action by the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board.

Kieran, Own Robert, D.O., Lic. No. P8148, Poinciana, FL

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Owen Robert Kieran, D.O., entered into a Waiver Order requiring him to within 60 days pay an administrative penalty of \$3,000; and comply with all terms of the Florida Order dated on or about May 11, 2021. The Board found it was alleged Dr. Kieran was disciplined by the State of Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine due to performing a wrong site procedure on a patient.

Reyes, Kurt, M.D., Lic. No. R5927, McKinney

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Kurt Reyes, M.D., entered into a Waiver Order publicly reprimanding Dr. Reyes and requiring him to within one year complete at least eight hours of CME in the topic treatment of obesity; and pay an administrative penalty of \$5,000 per year for the Waiver Order. The Board found it was alleged Dr. Reyes was disciplined by the United States Army Command on June 14, 2019 due to unprofessional conduct to include deleting medical profiles in his obesity practice without consulting treating physicians.

Takeuchi, Sean, M.D., Lic. No. R7910, Plantation, FL

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Sean Takeuchi, M.D., entered into a Waiver Order requiring him to within 60 days pay an administrative penalty of \$1,000. The Board found that it was alleged in December 2019, Dr. Takeuchi was subject to disciplinary action by the Michigan Board of Medicine due to violations of the state's public health code.

CEASE & DESISTS

Castillo, Fabiola, NCR, Dallas

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Fabiola Castillo, NCR, entered into an Agreed Cease and Desist Order prohibiting her from practicing medicine in the state of Texas without a license issued by the Texas Medical Board. The Board found Ms. Castillo engaged in the unlicensed practice of medicine by providing injections to two patients to treat medical conditions without appropriate physician or midlevel supervision onsite and by also directly or indirectly charging for those treatments.

Chappell, Christopher, No License, Mansfield

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Christopher Chappell entered into an Agreed Cease and Desist Order prohibiting him from practicing medicine in the state of Texas without a license issued by the Texas Medical Board. Mr. Chappell is prohibited from using advertising that may mislead the public regarding treatment that can mitigate or prevent COVID-19. The Board found Mr. Chappell's online company was advertising improper COVID-19 treatment claims and was issued a warning from the Federal Trade Commission.

Hajjar, Elie Hanna, No License, Houston

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Elie Hanna Hajjar entered into an Agreed Cease and Desist Order prohibiting him from practicing medicine in the state of Texas without a license issued by the Texas Medical Board. Mr. Hajjar is prohibited from acting as, or holding himself out to be, a licensed physician in the state of Texas. The Board found Mr. Hajjar was employed by Hillcroft Physicians where he posed as a licensed medical professional and examined, diagnosed, treated, referred, and prescribed drugs for patients and maintained patient medical records. On February 23, 2021, Mr. Hajjar was indicted and charged with one count of Conspiracy to Commit Healthcare Fraud and four counts of making false statements related to health care matters.

Hernandez, Linda Jasmine, No License, Addison

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Linda Jasmine Hernandez entered into an Agreed Cease and Desist Order prohibiting her from practicing medicine in the state of Texas without a license issued by the Texas Medical Board. The Board found Ms. Hernandez owns and operates Jasmine Day Spa which regularly advertised a variety of medical/cosmetic services, including Botox and other injections and/or the use of prescription medical devices for cosmetic purposes. Ms. Hernandez failed to provide information regarding any supervision and indicated in her response to the Board that a medical director is not contracted with her spa.

Nguyen, Kelly, No License, San Antonio

On August 20, 2021, the Board and Kelly Nguyen entered into an Agreed Cease and Desist Order prohibiting her from practicing medicine in the state of Texas without a license issued by the Texas Medical Board. Ms. Nguyen is prohibited from acting as, or holding herself out to be, a licensed physician in the state of Texas. The Board found Ms. Nguyen performed facial injections and used prescription medical devices for cosmetic purposes without the proper medical supervision to perform such procedures.

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To view disciplinary orders and Board action history, visit the TMB website, click on "Look Up A License," accept the usage terms, then type in a licensee's name. Click on the name shown in the search results to view the licensee's full profile. Within that profile is a button that says "Current Board Action."

All releases and bulletins are also available on the TMB website under the "Newsroom" heading.