

**Texas Medical Board  
Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Board restricts prescribing practices of Houston physician**

On December 23, 2010, a disciplinary panel of the Texas Medical Board entered an Order of Temporary Restriction against the medical license of Ruth M. Atlas, M.D., Lic. No. G7616, of Houston, barring her from prescribing, administering or refilling controlled substances schedules II, III and IV, until further notice.

The Temporary Restriction (With Notice of Hearing) was based upon the Board's determination that Dr. Atlas poses a continuing threat to the public welfare. The Board found that Dr. Atlas failed to comply with guidelines for the use of pain medicines; failed to meet the standard of care in her treatment of a patient; prescribed in a non-therapeutic manner; and prescribed dangerous drugs or controlled substances without establishing a proper physician-patient relationship.

In August 2008, the Board ordered Dr. Atlas to have another physician monitor charts from her practice. The chart monitor recommended that Dr. Atlas keep detailed patient histories and notes from every visit, but later reported that Dr. Atlas's record-keeping had not improved.

Prescription activity records from the Texas Department of Public Safety for a 12-month period showed that the majority of Dr. Atlas's prescriptions were for opiates and in high doses.

The temporary restriction is in effect until the Board takes further action.

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