

**Texas Medical Board  
Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, December 8, 2010**

Media contact: Public Information Officer Leigh Hopper at leigh.hopper@tmb.state.tx.us or (512) 305-7018. Non-media contact: (512) 305-7030 or (800) 248-4062.

**Medical Board Suspends License, Closes Pain Clinic, of Houston Doctor**

On December 7, 2010, a disciplinary panel of the Texas Medical Board entered an Order of Temporary Suspension or Restriction of Texas Medical License and Temporary Suspension of Pain Management Clinic Certificate (With Notice of Hearing) against David Joseph Shin, M.D., suspending his medical license as well as his certificate for operating a pain management clinic, after determining that Dr. Shin's continuation in the practice of medicine presents a continuing threat to the public welfare.

The action follows a Temporary Suspension (Without Notice of Hearing), on October 21, 2010, authorized by the Board.

The suspensions are effective immediately.

The Board's action was based on the finding that Dr. Shin, Lic. No. F4523, owned and operated the Better Life Pain Clinic in Houston, where he employed unlicensed individuals to pose as physicians, without his supervision or presence, and to meet with patients and provide prescriptions for controlled substances using Dr. Shin's DEA registration number and signature.

A new law, effective September 2010, requires that all pain clinics register with the Texas Medical Board and also gives the Texas Medical Board for the first time authority to inspect pain clinics. The DEA and TMB, in conjunction with local law enforcement, are working together to address the illegal prescribing of pain killers - often Vicodin, Xanax and Soma -- that have contributed to hundreds of overdose deaths in Harris County and elsewhere.

Based upon the evidence obtained by Harris County Sheriff's Department personnel in conjunction with DEA task force members, Dr. Shin and other clinic employees were arrested on October 15, 2010 and charged by the Harris County District Attorney's Office with felony counts of Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity.

On October 26, 2010, the Better Life Pain Clinic resumed operations with a suspended pain management certificate until DEA task force officers executed a search warrant on November 4, 2010. On November 19, 2010, Dr. Shin was indicted in Harris County with a felony count of Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity.

