

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE**  
**(September 1, 2010)**

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medicine took the following action:

**Dean A. Bunting, M.D.**, a 51-year-old physician who practices family medicine in Davenport, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on August 20, 2010. The Board charged Dr. Bunting with violating the standard of practice for the appropriate treatment of chronic pain when he prescribed controlled substances to patients who exhibited drug seeking behavior without: performing and/or documenting appropriate patient evaluations; establishing and/or documenting appropriate treatment plans; obtaining and/or documenting appropriate informed consent; performing and/or documenting appropriate periodic review; considering and/or documenting appropriate consultations or referrals; maintaining appropriate documentation; utilizing and/or documenting appropriate physician-patient agreements; or considering and/or documenting termination of care. Dr. Bunting was placed on probation subject to Board monitoring for a period of three years. He is also required to complete a Board-approved prescribing course and he was issued a public reprimand and ordered to pay a \$2,500 fine.

**Robert S. Cairns, M.D.**, a 70-year-old physician who practices orthopedic surgery in Dubuque Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges filed against him by the Board on August 20, 2010. The Board charged Dr. Cairns with failing to provide appropriate surgical care to several patients when he: inappropriately performed surgery on patients who were at high risk of serious complications; inappropriately performed surgical procedures that were beyond his skill and training; and inappropriately performed complex surgical procedures which took many hours on patients who were at high risk of serious complications. The Board also charged Dr. Cairns with engaging in unprofessional conduct and practice harmful or detrimental to the public when he performed inappropriate physical examinations on a female patient. A hearing has been scheduled on October 27-28, 2010.

**Consumers can submit complaints against physicians through the Board's Website at [www.medicalboard.iowa.gov](http://www.medicalboard.iowa.gov), by calling (515) 281-5847, or by mail at 400 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite C, Des Moines, IA 50309-4686.**