

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE**  
**(August 1, 2012)**

**PUBLIC DOCUMENTS: Please click on the physician's name to access a link to a copy of the public documents for each physician.**

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

[Ruben Altman, M.D.](#), a 76-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices internal medicine in Council Bluffs, Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges filed against him on July 26, 2012. The Board charged Dr. Altman with engaging in a pattern of disruptive behavior in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. The Board alleges that Dr. Altman became angry and yelled at patients, colleagues and nursing staff in a threatening or intimidating manner on numerous occasions between 2002 and the present. On April 19, 2012, the Board ordered Dr. Altman to complete a comprehensive physical, neuropsychological, mental health, unprofessional conduct and/or disruptive behavior evaluation at the Professionals Program in Elmhurst, Illinois. Dr. Altman completed the evaluation on May 8, 2012. After careful consideration, the Board concluded that Dr. Altman is unfit to continue practicing medicine in a hospital setting. A hearing is scheduled on October 12, 2012.

[Harold W. Barkman, II, M.D.](#), a 65 year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices medicine in Kansas City, Kansas, had the conditions placed on his Iowa medical license terminated by the Iowa Board on July 26, 2012. On April 20, 2006, Dr. Barkman was charged with second offense Driving Under the Influence (DUI), Battery and Failure to Remain at the Scene of an Accident following an automobile accident in Westwood, Kansas. On February 19, 2007, Dr. Barkman entered into a Physician Monitoring Contract with the Kansas Medical Advocacy Program. On February 25, 2008, Dr. Barkman entered into a Consent Order with the Kansas Board of Healing Arts and was placed on probation until February 17, 2012. On September 2, 2009, Dr. Barkman entered into a Combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Iowa Board. Dr. Barkman was issued a public reprimand, ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine and required to self-report to the Iowa Physician Health Program (IPHP) prior to practicing medicine under his Iowa medical license. Recently, the Board received information which indicates that Dr. Barkman successfully completed the monitoring requirements established by the Kansas Medical Advocacy Program and the Kansas Board of Healing Arts. On July 26, 2012, the Board terminated the conditions placed on his Iowa medical license.

[Amjad Butt, M.D.](#), a 58-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced internal medicine and cardiology in Clinton, Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges filed against him on July 26, 2012. On September 17, 2008, the Board charged Dr. Butt with engaging in a pattern of unprofessional conduct and/or sexual harassment in the practice of medicine. A hearing was held on July 7, 2011. The Board issued a Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Decision and Order on August 25, 2011. The Board concluded that Dr. Butt engaged in a pattern of unprofessional conduct in Clinton, Iowa, in 2008. The Board was unable to conclude that Dr. Butt engaged in a pattern of sexual harassment. The Board placed Dr. Butt on probation for a period of five years subject to Board monitoring. The Board also issued Dr. Butt a public reprimand and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 fine and complete a Board-approved professional boundaries program. On July 26, 2012, the Board filed new charges against Dr. Butt alleging that he violated the terms of the August 25, 2011, Decision and Order when he: failed to pay the \$5,000 civil penalty in a timely manner; failed to complete a Board-approved professional boundaries program; failed to file sworn quarterly reports with the Board; failed to make appearances before the Board or a Board committee; failed to make payment of his \$100 quarterly monitoring fees; and failed to pay the \$75 disciplinary hearing fee. A hearing is scheduled on November 1, 2012.

**Wendy R. Smoker, M.D.**, a 64-year-old physician who practices diagnostic radiology in Iowa City, Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges filed against her on July 26, 2012. On June 21, 2010, the Board charged Dr. Smoker with the excessive use of alcohol and suffering from a physical, neurological or mental condition which may impair her ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety. A hearing was held on December 21, 2010. On January 24, 2011, the Board issued a Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Decision and Order. The Board concluded that Dr. Smoker engaged in the excessive use of alcohol which may impair her ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety. The Board issued Dr. Smoker a public reprimand and ordered her to pay a \$5,000 fine. The Board also placed Dr. Smoker on probation for a period of five years subject to substance abuse counseling and Board monitoring. Dr. Smoker was prohibited from consuming alcohol. On July 26, 2012, the Board filed new charges against Dr. Smoker alleging that she violated the terms of the January 24, 2011, Decision and Order when she consumed alcohol and when she failed to pay the \$5,000 civil penalty in a timely manner. A hearing is scheduled on November 1, 2012.

**Lafayette J. Twyner, M.D.**, a 63-year-old physician who formerly practiced family medicine in Newton, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board on July 26, 2012. On January 13, 2012, the Board charged Dr. Twyner with professional incompetency, inappropriate prescribing and engaging in unethical or unprofessional conduct. The Board alleged that Dr. Twyner prescribed excessive controlled substances to numerous patients, including patients with known drug abuse histories, for other than a lawful purpose, without establishing an appropriate physician-patient relationship, including appropriate examinations, monitoring and medical records. Under the terms of the July 26, 2012, Settlement Agreement, Dr. Twyner voluntarily surrendered his Iowa medical license. The Board also issued Dr. Twyner a public reprimand and ordered him to pay a \$10,000 fine.

**CONSUMER COMPLAINTS: 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.**