

April 11, 2012
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Summary of March 1-2, 2012, Board Meeting

The following is a summary of March 1-2, 2012, meeting of the Iowa Board of Medicine.

Cases Reviewed: The Board reviewed 167 cases.

New Investigative Cases: The Board reviewed 57 new investigative cases.

Statement of Charges: Upon a determination by the Board that probable cause exists to take formal disciplinary action, the Board may file a Statement of Charges which contains the allegations of the Board.

The Board approved two Statements of Charges.

1. The Board charged a physician who practices orthopedic surgery in Des Moines, Iowa, with engaging in sexual misconduct, unethical or unprofessional conduct and professional incompetency. The Board alleged that the physician performed inappropriate physical examinations on four female patients between September 2008 and March 2010. A hearing is scheduled on May 9, 2012
2. The Board charged a physician who practices clinical cardiac electrophysiology in Davenport, Iowa, with violating a physician health contract that he entered into with the Iowa Physician Health Program (IPHP). The Board alleged that the physician violated the terms of the physician health contract when he failed to stop practicing medicine when requested to do so by the IPHP in August 2009 and when he recently consumed alcohol. A hearing is scheduled on May 10, 2012.

Combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreements: Upon a determination by the Board that probable cause exists to take formal disciplinary action, the Board and the licensee may enter into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement to

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resolve the matter. A combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement contain the allegations of the Board and the sanctions.

The Board approved two Combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreements.

Two Iowa-licensed physicians who practice radiology in Clive, Iowa, entered into combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreements with the Board on March 1, 2012. The Board charged the physicians with engaging in unprofessional conduct when they inappropriately accessed the medical records of an individual who was not under their care in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the Board issued the physicians a public reprimand and ordered them to pay a \$2,500 fine and complete a Board-approved professional ethics program.

Confidential Evaluation Orders: If the Board receives evidence that a physician may suffer from physical, neurological, mental condition or substance abuse, the Board may issue a confidential evaluation order requiring the physician to complete an appropriate evaluation at a Board-approved program. Additionally, if the Board receives evidence that a physician lacks the appropriate knowledge or ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill or safety or that a physician has failed to provide appropriate care to patients, the Board may issue a confidential order requiring the physician to complete a competency evaluation at a Board-approved competency assessment program.

The Board approved two confidential evaluation orders.

1. The Board ordered an Iowa-licensed physician who practices general medicine in Des Moines, Iowa, to complete a Board-approved comprehensive neuropsychological evaluation.
2. The Board ordered an Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced medicine in Omaha, Nebraska, to complete a Board-approved comprehensive clinical competency evaluation.

Confidential Letters of Warning or Education: When the Board determines that probable cause does not exist to take formal disciplinary action the Board may send a confidential, non-disciplinary letter to a licensee expressing concerns and requesting that a licensee take corrective action, including further medical education.

The Board voted to issue 12 confidential Letters of Warning or Education due to the following areas of concern:

1. Engaging in a pattern of disruptive behavior.
2. Failure to pay court-ordered child support in another state.
3. Concerns about prenatal care provided to a patient.
4. Concerns about psychiatric care provided to a patient.
5. Concerns about pain management care provided to a patient.
6. Engaging in a pattern of disruptive behavior.
7. Concerns about surgical care provided to a patient.
8. Concerns about psychiatric care provided to a patient.
9. Concerns about an inadequate physical exam and patient workup.
10. Concerns about psychiatric care provided to a patient.
11. Concerns about a medication error.

12. Concerns about the use of high-dose steroids for the treatment of fibromyalgia.

Board Appearances: The Board may ask a licensee to appear before the Board to discuss concerns when the Board determines that a face-to-face meeting will assist the Board during the investigative process.

Eight physicians appear before the Board.

1. Concerns about psychiatric care provided to a patient.
2. Concerns about pain management provided to a patient.
3. Concerns about a pattern of disruptive behavior.
4. Concerns that the physician had his hospital privileges restricted.
5. Concerns about surgical complications.
6. Concerns about obstetrical care to a patient.
7. Concerns about surgical care provided to a patient.
8. Concerns that the physician violated the terms of an IPHP physician health contract.

Monitoring Committee: The Monitoring Committee monitors licensees who have been disciplined by the Board and require monitoring.

The Monitoring Committee reviewed 14 cases.

Screening Committee: The Screening Committee reviews cases that are lower priority and have not been investigated by the Board to determine whether investigation is warranted.

The Screening Committee reviewed 59 cases.

Licensure Committee: The Licensure Committee is a committee reviews initial license applications, renewals and reinstatements other licensure policies and issues. Most license applications are approved by Board staff without Licensure Committee review. However, some applications raise concerns about an applicant and the Licensure Committee must review the matter to determine whether a license should be granted, renewed or reinstated.

The Licensure Committee meeting was cancelled.

A press release describing public disciplinary action taken by the Board was distributed and posted on the Board's Website on March 8, 2012. If you have questions about this summary or Board's disciplinary action press release, please contact Kent Nebel, Legal Director, at 515-281-7088 or kent.nebel@iowa.gov.