

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
(June 11, 2013)

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 77-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices internal medicine in Council Bluffs, Iowa, had a Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Decision and Order issued by the Board on June 6, 2013. On April 19, 2012, the Board ordered Dr. Altman to complete a comprehensive physical, neuropsychological, mental health, unprofessional conduct and/or disruptive behavior evaluation. Dr. Altman completed the evaluation on May 8, 2012. On July 26, 2012, the Board filed formal disciplinary charges against Dr. Altman alleging that he engaged in a pattern of disruptive behavior in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. The Board alleged 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 2012. A hearing was held before the Board on April 26, 2013, and the Board issued a Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Decision and Order on June 6, 2013. After careful consideration, the Board concluded that Dr. Altman repeatedly engaged in disruptive behavior in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine. Dr. Altman's disruptive behavior has included yelling and raising his voice at nurses and other medical providers, swearing, clenching his fist, and addressing other health care providers in an insulting and intimidating manner. These behaviors interfere with patient care and the effective functioning of health care staff by making other health care providers reluctant to call Dr. Altman and reluctant to work with him in providing patient care. Under the terms of the June 6, 2013, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Decision and Order, Dr. Altman is prohibited from practicing medicine in a hospital setting until further order of the Board. The Board also issued Dr. Altman a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$1,000 civil penalty. The Board also ordered Dr. Altman to complete a Board-approved program for physicians who have behavioral problems in the workplace within ninety (90) days. Finally, the Board placed Dr. Altman on probation for a period of five years subject to Board monitoring.