

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
(September 24, 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 the prohibition from practicing in a hospital setting terminated by the Board on September 17, 2013. On July 26, 2012, the Board charged Dr. Altman with engaging in a pattern of disruptive behavior between 2002 and 2012. A hearing was held on April 26, 2013, and the Board issued a Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Decision and Order on June 6, 2013. 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 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. The Board prohibited Dr. Altman from practicing medicine in a hospital setting until further order of the Board. The Board 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. Finally, the Board placed Dr. Altman on probation for a period of five years subject to Board monitoring. Recently, the Board concluded that Dr. Altman has satisfied the requisite conditions to terminate the hospital practice restriction. On September 17, 2013, the Board issued an Amended Order terminating Dr. Altman's hospital practice restriction.

When appropriate, disciplinary actions are reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, an electronic repository administered by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to track adverse license actions.

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