

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
(April 20, 2015)

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS: Please click on the person's name to access a link to a copy of the public documents for these physicians.

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

[Waqas Ali, M.D.](#), a 43-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced internal medicine in Peoria, Illinois, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on April 3, 2015. Dr. Ali's Iowa medical license has been inactive since December 1, 2011. On May 23, 2013, Dr. Ali was indicted in the United States District Court in Peoria, Illinois, for obtaining controlled substances by fraud and deception. From January 2011 to January 2013, Dr. Ali issued, or caused to be issued, hundreds of fraudulent and deceptive prescriptions for hydrocodone to fictitious patients under his DEA registration. Dr. Ali entered a guilty plea to the criminal charge of obtaining controlled substances by fraud and deception and was sentenced to two years of probation. On January 8, 2014, the Illinois Board summarily suspended Dr. Ali's Illinois medical license after he tested positive for controlled substances. Dr. Ali was subsequently disciplined in Arizona and California. Under the terms of the April 3, 2015, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Iowa Board charged Dr. Ali with being disciplined by the Illinois Board and he voluntarily surrendered his Iowa medical license.

[Luis Lebrede, M.D.](#), a 56-year-old Iowa-licensed surgeon who practices in Sioux City, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on April 8, 2015. The Board alleged that Dr. Lebrede failed to conform to the minimal standard of acceptable and prevailing practice of surgery in Iowa in his treatment of multiple patients in Sioux City, Iowa, between 2006 and 2009. The Board expressed concerns about Dr. Lebrede's: pre-operative evaluations; use of non-operative treatment options; complex surgical procedures; use of subspecialty surgical consultations and/or referrals; documentation; and communication with nursing staff. Dr. Lebrede filed an Answer denying the Board's allegations, however, he agreed to the terms of the order to resolve the matter. On September 3, 2014, Dr. Lebrede completed a comprehensive clinical competency evaluation at the Center for Personalized Education for Physicians (CPEP), in Denver, Colorado. CPEP concluded that Dr. Lebrede demonstrated adequate medical knowledge, appropriate clinical judgment and reasoning, and his communication skills were adequate with room for improvement. CPEP concluded that Dr. Lebrede's documentation was inadequate and that he did not pass a manual skills exam. CPEP recommended direct observation of Dr. Lebrede's abilities in laparoscopic procedures by peer professionals. CPEP also recommended completion of a medical recordkeeping program with follow-up and coaching from a respected colleague regarding his documentation and application of medical knowledge to patient care. Under the terms of the April 3, 2015, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Lebrede a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty and complete a Board-approved medical recordkeeping program with follow-up. Dr. Lebrede also agreed to fully comply with a Board-approved practice monitoring plan for the remediation and monitoring of his surgical practice.

[Winthrop S. Risk, M.D.](#), a 47-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices neurology in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, completed the terms of his probation on April 9, 2015. On August 6, 2009, the Board filed formal disciplinary charges against Dr. Risk alleging that he violated the standards of practice for appropriate pain management when he prescribed excessive controlled substances to numerous patients, including patients with known drug abuse histories who exhibited drug seeking behavior in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of

medicine in Iowa. Dr. Risk filed an Answer denying the allegations. On April 9, 2010, Dr. Risk entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve the pending disciplinary charges. Under the terms of the April 9, 2010, Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Risk a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$10,000 civil penalty. The Board also prohibited Dr. Risk from treating patients for chronic pain and/or prescribing, administering or dispensing controlled substances to patients, unless and until he demonstrates that he is able to do so in a safe manner and he receives prior written approval from the Board. The Board ordered Dr. Risk to complete a comprehensive competency evaluation at the Center for Personalized Educational for Physicians (CPEP) in Denver, Colorado, and fully comply with all recommendations made by CPEP and the Board following the evaluation, including any program of remediation. The Board also placed Dr. Risk on probation for a period of five years subject to Board monitoring, including a Board-approved practice monitoring plan. On May 28, 2013, the Board issued an Amended Order permitting Dr. Risk to prescribe Vimpat, Lyrica and Potiga for the treatment of seizure disorders only. Dr. Risk may not prescribe Vimpat, Lyrica or Potiga for the treatment of any other condition including, but not limited to, pain management. On April 9, 2015, Dr. Risk completed the terms of his probation. However, Dr. Risk is prohibited from treating patients for chronic pain and/or prescribing, administering or dispensing controlled substances to patients, unless and until he demonstrates that he is able to do so in a safe manner and he receives prior written approval from the Board. Dr. Risk may prescribe Vimpat, Lyrica and Potiga for the treatment of seizure disorders only. He may not prescribe Vimpat, Lyrica or Potiga for the treatment of any other condition including, but not limited to, pain management.

Phillip S. Yee, M.D., a 48-year-old Iowa-licensed surgeon who practices in Decorah, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on April 3, 2015. The Board alleged that Dr. Yee performed a surgical procedure at the wrong anatomical site in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. On December 15, 2011, Dr. Yee performed a laparoscopic colostomy on a patient in Decorah, Iowa. Dr. Yee inadvertently performed the colostomy on the distal colon rather than the proximal colon resulting in complications. He recognized the error after he completed the procedure and performed corrective surgery. Under the terms of the April 3, 2015, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Yee a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty and submit a written corrective action plan to the Board for approval. The written corrective action plan describes the steps he has taken to avoid such errors in the future.

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.