

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
(June 26, 2015)

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS: Please click on the person's name to access a link to a copy of the public document for this physician.

The Iowa Board of Medicine (Board) took the following action on June 25, 2015:

[David H. Marcowitz, D.O.](#), a 50-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced general medicine in Moline, Illinois, and currently practices in Chariton, Iowa, was disciplined by the Iowa Board on June 25, 2015. On January 30, 2014, Dr. Marcowitz was disciplined by the Illinois Division of Professional Regulation (Illinois Board) for prescribing multiple controlled substances to a patient in Moline, Illinois, between 2008 and 2011, without properly assessing and/or monitoring the patient for drug abuse or dependence, despite learning that the patient and his pregnant girlfriend were injecting the drugs and that the patient was selling the drugs to local drug users, at least three of whom died; providing Phentermine, a weight loss drug, to members of his office staff without establishing an appropriate physician-patient relationship, including performing physical examinations and maintaining medical records; and failing to produce medical records subpoenaed by the Illinois Board during its investigation. The Illinois Board suspended Dr. Marcowitz' Illinois medical license for a period of thirty (30) days and he agreed to place his Illinois medical license and Illinois controlled substance license on permanent inactive status. The Illinois Board also ordered him to pay a \$3,000 fine.

On February 6, 2015, the Iowa Board filed a Statement of Charges against Dr. Marcowitz for being disciplined by the Illinois Board. A hearing was held on March 28, 2015. On June 25, 2015, the Board issued a Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Decision and Order. The Board determined that Dr. Marcowitz had a license to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery disciplined by the licensing authority of another state in violation of Iowa law. The Board expressed serious concerns that he prescribed multiple controlled substances to a patient in Moline, Illinois, between 2008 and 2011, without properly assessing and/or monitoring the patient for drug abuse or dependence, despite learning that the patient and his pregnant girlfriend were injecting the drugs and that the patient was selling the drugs to local drug users, at least three of whom died; provided Phentermine, a weight loss drug, to members of his office staff without establishing an appropriate physician-patient relationship, including performing physical examinations and maintaining medical records; and failed to produce medical records subpoenaed by the Illinois Board during its investigation. The Board also expressed serious concerns that he maintained an unsecured cabinet for controlled substances and saw between 40 and 55 patients per day at his office in the Quad Cities and most of the patients received pain medication, including early refills. The Board also expressed serious concerns that he owned a building containing a transmission shop and he provided controlled substances to employees of the transmission shop without a prescription and he also wrote prescriptions for individuals who worked at the shop. The Board also had serious concerns that Dr. Marcowitz failed to report the Illinois disciplinary action on renewal applications for his Iowa Controlled Substances Registration on January 22, 2014, and his Iowa medical license on May 30, 2014. The Board expressed serious concerns about his prescribing practices, office practices and medical record keeping practices. The Board also had serious concerns about his professional judgment, professionalism and honesty. The Board also had serious concerns about his lack of candor during the hearing. The Board noted that Dr. Marcowitz' lack of candor and past behavior raise serious concerns about the protection of the public in Iowa.

Under the terms of the June 25, 2015, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Decision and Order, the Board indefinitely suspended Dr. Marcowitz' Iowa medical license and stayed the suspension pending successful completion of a mental health evaluation within 60 days, a comprehensive clinical competency evaluation within 90 days and a professional ethics program within 120 days. The Board also issued him a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$3,000 civil penalty. The Board also prohibited him from prescribing, administering or dispensing controlled substances for the treatment of chronic pain and placed him on probation for a period of five (5) years subject to Board monitoring, including audits of his controlled substance prescribing.

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.