

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
(May 1, 2013)

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

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

[Daniel A. Hepplewhite, D.O.](#), a 60-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices general medicine in Altoona, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement on April 26, 2013. The Board charged Dr. Hepplewhite with violating the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine when he deviated from the standards of practice for appropriate pain management of patients in Altoona, Iowa, between 2001 and 2012. Under the terms of the April 26, 2013, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Hepplewhite a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty. Dr. Hepplewhite also agreed to abstain from prescribing, administering or dispensing controlled substances for the treatment of chronic pain. At the direction of the Board, Dr. Hepplewhite completed a Board-approved prescribing course for the appropriate treatment of chronic pain on March 16, 2013. The Board also placed Dr. Hepplewhite on probation for a period of five years subject to prescribing audits and Board monitoring.

[Steven D. Ringel, M.D.](#), a 39-year-old physician who formerly practiced family medicine was granted a temporary Iowa medical license on April 26, 2013. On December 13, 2004, Dr. Ringel voluntarily surrendered his Kansas medical license following allegations that he wrote prescriptions for over 30,000 dosage units of Hydrocodone for an illegitimate purpose between 2000 and April 2004. On February 23, 2005, Dr. Ringel pleaded guilty of conspiracy to distribute and dispense Hydrocodone outside of the scope of professional practice, a Class D Felony, in the United States District Court, District of Kansas. Dr. Ringel was sentenced to 30 months in prison. He was paroled after 13 months. On April 7, 2005, Dr. Ringel voluntarily surrendered his Iowa medical license following the Kansas disciplinary action and criminal conviction. On March 25, 2010, at the direction of the Iowa Board, Dr. Ringel completed a comprehensive clinical competency evaluation at the Center for Personalized Education for Physicians (CPEP). On April 26, 2013, Dr. Ringel entered into a Consent Agreement with the Iowa Board and he was granted a temporary Iowa medical license. As a condition of licensure, Dr. Ringel must enter into a Physician Health Contract with the Iowa Physician Health Program (IPHP) for substance abuse counseling and monitoring. Additionally, Dr. Ringel may only practice medicine in a Board-approved practice setting. Finally, the Board placed Dr. Ringel on probation for a period of five years subject to a Board-approved educational program, a Board-approved practice monitoring plan and Board monitoring.

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.