



Fields of Opportunities

STATE OF IOWA

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IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE  
MARK BOWDEN, M.P.A., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE**  
**(February 21, 2018)**

**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:

[Ugochukwu E. Akoma, M.D.](#), a 45-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced family medicine in Bloomfield, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on February 15, 2018. The Board alleged that Dr. Akoma engaged in a pattern of sexual misconduct and sexual harassment in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine between 2007 and 2015 when he made unwanted sexual advances toward female co-workers at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Residency Program between August 2007 and April 2008; made unwanted sexual comments and sexual advances toward female co-workers and violated appropriate examination procedures for female patients while practicing medicine at Davis County Hospital in Bloomfield, Iowa, in 2013; made unwanted sexual advances toward female co-workers and performed an inappropriate physical examination on a female patient while practicing medicine at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Chico, California, between April 2014 and April 2015; and had his clinical practice placed in abeyance pending an investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct while practicing medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in November 2015. Under the terms of the February 15, 2018, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Akoma a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty. The Board also ordered Dr. Akoma to provide it written notice and complete a Board-approved professional boundaries program prior to practicing medicine under his Iowa medical license. The Board also ordered Dr. Akoma to have a Board-approved female healthcare professional chaperone continually present when treating female patients or when minor children are only accompanied by a female, while practicing medicine under his Iowa medical license. Finally, the Board placed Dr. Akoma on probation for a period of five years subject to Board monitoring, including polygraph examinations, professional boundaries counseling and a worksite monitor.

[Phillip D. Alscher, M.D.](#), a 55-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced nephrology in Mason City, Iowa, and at outpatient renal dialysis clinics in Algona and Charles City, Iowa, and currently practices in Waterloo, Iowa, had the terms of an order terminated by the Board on February 6, 2018. On February 6, 2015, Dr. Alscher entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board alleged that Dr. Alscher failed to perform, and improperly documented and billed for, numerous face-to-face visits for patients at

outpatient renal dialysis clinics in Algona and Charles City, Iowa, between 2006 and 2012. Under the terms of the February 6, 2015, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Alscher a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$10,000 civil penalty and successfully complete a Board-approved professional ethics program. Dr. Alscher also completed a nephrology coding and billing course. The Board also placed Dr. Alscher on probation for a period of three years subject to Board monitoring. Recently, the Board determined that Dr. Alscher successfully completed the terms of his order. The Board noted that Dr. Alscher paid the \$10,000 civil penalty and successfully completed a Board-approved professional ethics program. The Board also noted that Dr. Alscher has fully complied with the terms of his probation. On February 6, 2018, the Board issued a Termination Order and Dr. Alscher's Iowa medical license was returned to its full privileges, free and clear of all restrictions.

**Alan R. Bollinger, D.O.**, a 57-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced pain management in Des Moines and West Des Moines, Iowa, and currently practices addiction medicine in Des Moines, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on February 15, 2018. The Board alleged that Dr. Bollinger violated the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa when he failed to provide appropriate pain management to multiple patients in Des Moines and West Des Moines, Iowa, between 2011 and 2016. Under the terms of the February 15, 2018, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Bollinger a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty. Dr. Bollinger also agreed that he will not prescribe, administer or dispense controlled substances for the treatment of chronic pain under his Iowa medical license. The Board also ordered Dr. Bollinger to complete a Board-approved medical record keeping course and placed him on probation for a period of three years subject to Board monitoring, including prescribing audits.

**Robert D. Cunard, M.D.**, a 50-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced family medicine in Missouri Valley, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board on February 15, 2018. On May 19, 2017, Dr. Cunard entered into a Stipulated Order: Agreement Not to Prescribe Controlled Substances with the Board. The Board alleged that Dr. Cunard failed to provide appropriate pain management to patients in Missouri Valley, Iowa, and Dr. Cunard agreed not to prescribe controlled substances with the exception of testosterone and for patients in residential hospice and nursing home settings, until this matter is resolved. On July 20, 2017, the Board filed a Statement of Charges against Dr. Cunard alleging that he willfully or repeatedly violated the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa when he failed to provide appropriate medical care and/or pain management to numerous patients in Missouri Valley, Iowa, between 2011 and 2017, resulting in serious harm to patients and the public. Under the terms of the February 15, 2018, Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Cunard a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty. The Board also permanently prohibited Dr. Cunard from prescribing, administering or dispensing controlled substances for the treatment of chronic pain and suspended his Iowa medical license indefinitely. Prior to seeking reinstatement of his Iowa medical license, Dr. Cunard must successfully complete a Board-approved comprehensive clinical competency evaluation, a Board-approved professional ethics program, and a Board-approved medical record keeping course and appear before the Board. Should the Board choose to reinstate Dr. Cunard's Iowa medical license in the future, Dr. Cunard shall be placed on indefinite probation subject to Board monitoring, including prescribing audits, a Board-approved practice monitoring plan and a worksite monitor.

**Brian J. Finley, M.D.**, a 62-year-old physician entered into a Consent Agreement with the Board and was granted a permanent Iowa medical license on February 16, 2018. The Board received information which indicates Dr. Finley's privileges to perform labor and delivery services at Bellevue Medical Center in Bellevue, Nebraska, were permanently revoked on July 31, 2015, due to quality of care concerns. Dr. Finley's family practice privileges were unaffected by this action. Under the terms of the February 16, 2018, Consent Agreement, the Board granted Dr. Finley a permanent Iowa medical license and issued him a Citation and Warning and Dr. Finley agreed that he will not perform labor and delivery services under his Iowa medical license.

**Janice A. Kirsch, M.D.**, a 54-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices family medicine in Mason City, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on February 15, 2018. The Board alleged that Dr. Kirsch violated the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa when she failed to provide appropriate pain management to multiple patients in Mason City, Iowa, between 2010 and 2017. Under the terms of the February 15, 2018, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Kirsch a Citation and Warning and ordered her to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty. The Board also prohibited Dr. Kirsch from prescribing, administering or dispensing controlled substances for the treatment of chronic pain under her Iowa medical license and ordered her to complete a Board-approved medical record keeping course. The Board also placed Dr. Kirsch on probation for a period of three years subject to Board monitoring, including prescribing audits.

**Gregory P. Neyman, M.D.**, a 46-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced family medicine in Marengo, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board on February 15, 2018. On April 4, 2013, Dr. Neyman entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board charged Dr. Neyman with engaging in a pattern of unprofessional conduct, dishonesty and/or disruptive behavior between 2005 and 2013. The Board issued Dr. Neyman a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty. The Board also ordered Dr. Neyman to complete a Board-approved professional ethics program and placed him on probation for a period of five years subject to Board monitoring, including counseling. On February 6, 2015, Dr. Neyman entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board charged Dr. Neyman with engaging in sexual misconduct when he engaged in a consensual sexual relationship with a female patient in Marengo, Iowa, in 2011. The Board issued Dr. Neyman a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$7,500 civil penalty. The Board also ordered Dr. Neyman to have a Board-approved female healthcare provider chaperone continually present when treating female patients and placed him on indefinite probation subject to sexual misconduct counseling; professional ethics training; polygraph examinations and Board monitoring. On December 15, 2017, the Board filed a Statement of Charges against Dr. Neyman alleging that he engaged in sexual misconduct when he sent sexually explicit Facebook messages and text messages to a female patient in Marengo, Iowa, in February 2017. Under the terms of the February 15, 2018, Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Neyman a Citation and Warning and he voluntarily surrendered his Iowa medical license.

**Michael C. Prescher, M.D.**, a 54-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced anesthesiology and pain medicine in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and currently practices in Clinton, Iowa, had the practice requirements on his Iowa medical license terminated by the Board on February 15, 2018. On December 11, 2011, the Board filed a Statement of Charges and Emergency Adjudicative Order immediately suspending Dr. Prescher's Iowa medical license. On January 9, 2012, the Board filed an Amended Statement of Charges. The Board alleged that Dr. Prescher engaged in sexual misconduct, unethical or unprofessional conduct and/or professional incompetency in his treatment of five female patients in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 2009 and 2010. A hearing was held on January 12-13, 2012, and on March 29, 2012, the Board issued a Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Decision and Order. The Board concluded that the allegations of sexual misconduct were not supported by a preponderance of evidence at hearing. However, the Board concluded that Dr. Prescher violated the standard of care by seeing patients under sedation without any staff member present creating a climate in which his patients had no way of knowing what occurred during their treatment; failing to obtain proper written informed consent from patients; failing to monitor and document vital signs during procedures; and allowing two patients to drive home after their procedures, risking their safety and the safety of others on the road. The Board suspended Dr. Prescher's Iowa medical license for a minimum of one year and ordered him to pay a \$10,000 civil penalty and complete a Board-approved professional boundaries program and a medical record keeping course. On January 11, 2013, the Board reinstated Dr. Prescher's Iowa medical license and established the following practice requirements: a Board-approved group practice setting; a Board-approved chaperone for all female patients except when he is practicing in a Board-approved hospital setting; treatment only during regular clinic hours; appropriately trained staff; appropriate levels of sedation; appropriate monitoring during procedures; appropriate transportation following procedures; appropriate written informed consent; appropriate medical records; and appropriate fees for services. The Board also placed Dr. Prescher on probation for a period of five years subject to the following terms and conditions: a Board monitoring program; compliance with the recommendations of the Board-approved professional boundaries program; a Board-approved practice monitoring plan; a worksite monitor; quarterly reports; Board appearances; and payment of a \$100 quarterly monitoring fee. On December 16, 2016, the Board terminated the terms of Dr. Prescher's probation. On February 15, 2018, the Board terminated the practice requirements established by the Board and Respondent's Iowa medical license was returned to its full privileges, free and clear of all restrictions.

**Donald R. Wirtanen, D.O.**, a 59-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices family medicine in Bloomfield, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on February 15, 2018. The Board alleged that Dr. Wirtanen violated the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa when he failed to provide appropriate pain management to multiple patients in Bloomfield, Iowa, between 2001 and 2016. Under the terms of the February 15, 2018, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Wirtanen a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty. The Board also prohibited Dr. Wirtanen from prescribing, administering or dispensing controlled substances for the treatment of chronic pain under his Iowa medical license and ordered him to complete a Board-approved medical record keeping course. The Board also placed Dr. Wirtanen on probation for a period of three years subject to Board monitoring, including prescribing audits.

[LeRoy L. Yates, Jr., M.D.](#), a 62-year-old Iowa-licensed obstetrician and gynecologist who formerly practiced cosmetic surgery in Davenport, Iowa, had an order issued by the Board on February 16, 2018. On July 29, 2016, the Board filed a Statement of Charges against Dr. Yates alleging that he violated the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa when he failed to provide appropriate cosmetic surgical care to multiple patients in Davenport, Iowa, between 2013 and 2015. Dr. Yates subsequently completed a clinical competency evaluation and the evaluation program determined that Dr. Yates demonstrated significant deficiencies in cosmetic surgery and he is not able to remain in independent practice while he remediates his skills. Further, upon additional evaluation, it was determined that Dr. Yates suffered from a medical condition which impairs his ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety. On or about October 6, 2017, the State filed a Motion to Amend Charges and Motion for Emergency Adjudicative Order. The State argued that it received new information regarding Dr. Yates' ability to practice cosmetic surgery with reasonable skill and safety. The State argued that the evaluation program indicated that the deficiencies identified during the clinical competency evaluation are significant enough that Dr. Yates is not able to remain in independent practice while he remediates his skills. Further, the State noted that upon additional evaluation, it was determined that Respondent suffers from a medical condition which impairs his ability to practice medicine independently with reasonable skill and safety. The State argued that Dr. Yates's continued treatment of patients constitutes an immediate danger to the public health, safety, and welfare. On October 27, 2017, the Board issued an Amended Statement of Charges alleging that Dr. Yates suffered from a medical condition which impairs his ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety. The Board also issued an Emergency Adjudicative Order prohibiting Dr. Yates from practicing medicine under his Iowa medical license after determining that his continued practice of cosmetic surgery constitutes an immediate danger to the public health, safety, and welfare. On January 11, 2018, Dr. Yates filed a Petition to Dissolve Emergency Adjudicative Order arguing that further medical testing revealed that Dr. Yates does not have a health condition which impairs his ability to practice medicine and therefore, the Emergency Adjudicative Order should be dissolved. The State filed a Resistance to Petition to Dissolve Emergency Adjudicative Order. The State acknowledges that further medical testing revealed that Dr. Yates does not suffer from a health condition which impairs his ability to practice medicine at this time. However, the State argued that Dr. Yates' Petition ignored the evaluation program's determination that Dr. Yates demonstrated significant deficiencies in cosmetic surgery during the clinical competency evaluation and he is not able to remain in independent practice while he remediates his skills. The State also argued that there continues to be a serious and immediate threat to patient health if Dr. Yates is allowed to practice cosmetic surgery before the Board reaches a final resolution of the pending charges in this matter. Finally, the State argued that the Board should issue an order amending the Emergency Adjudicative Order to allow Dr. Yates to return to the practice of medicine, but continuing the limitation on cosmetic surgery pending resolution of the pending charges. A hearing on the pending charges is scheduled on June 20-22, 2018. On February 16, 2018, the Board issued an order amending the Amended Statement of Charges and the Emergency Adjudicative Order issued on October 27, 2017, removing the allegation that Dr. Yates suffers from a medical condition which impairs his ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety at this time and permitting Dr. Yates to return to the practice of medicine but prohibiting him from engaging in any aspect of the practice of cosmetic surgery, varicose, vein procedures and medically assisted weight loss under his Iowa medical license until the pending charges in this matter are finally resolved.

**Jeffrey T. Zoelle M.D.**, a 56-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced family medicine in Sioux City, and Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on February 15, 2018. The Board alleged that Dr. Zoelle engaged in a pattern of sexual misconduct and sexual harassment in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. The Board alleged that Dr. Zoelle hugged a female patient during office visits, made comments of a sexual nature to the female patient while providing medical care and sent Facebook messages with photographs of a sexual nature to the female patient in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, in 2015. The Board also alleged that Dr. Zoelle frequently rubbed female co-workers on the shoulders, back, and waist while they were working together, sent inappropriate Facebook messages and text messages, including photographs of a sexual nature, to female co-workers and attempted to kiss a female co-worker while practicing medicine in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, between 2011 and January 2016. Under the terms of the February 15, 2018, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Zoelle a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty. The Board also ordered Dr. Zoelle to complete a Board-approved sexual misconduct/sexual harassment evaluation. The Board also ordered Dr. Zoelle to have a Board-approved female chaperone or female health care professional continually present when treating female patients, or minor children who are only accompanied by a female. The Board also prohibited Dr. Zoelle from using social media to contact any patient outside of the physician-patient relationship. The Board also placed Dr. Zoelle on probation for a period of three years subject to Board monitoring, including polygraph examinations, professional boundaries counseling and a worksite monitor.

**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 by clicking [HERE](#), visiting the Board's Website at [www.medicalboard.iowa.gov](http://www.medicalboard.iowa.gov), calling (515) 281-5847, or mail to 400 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite C, Des Moines, IA 50309.**