



April 22, 2021

Summary of the April 15-16, 2021, Board Meeting

Total Cases Reviewed: The Board reviewed 125 cases.

New Investigative Cases: The Board reviewed 98 new investigative cases.

Combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement: If the Board determines that probable cause exists for formal disciplinary action against a licensee, the Board and the licensee may enter into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement to resolve the matter. The combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement contains the Board's allegations and the disciplinary sanctions.

The Board approved 1 Combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement.

1. An Iowa-licensed physician who practices family medicine Pella, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on April 15, 2021. The Board alleged that the physician's pain management care to multiple patients fell below minimum acceptable standards. The Board issued the physician a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty and complete a Board-approved opioid prescribing course and record keeping course. The Board also placed the physician on probation for a period of five years subject to Board monitoring.

Termination Order: If the Board determines that a physician has fully complied with a disciplinary order the Board may issue a Termination Order.

The Board voted to issue 2 Termination Orders.

1. An Iowa-licensed physician who practices internal medicine in West Des Moines, Iowa, had a Termination Order issued by the Board on April 15, 2021. On August 28, 2020, the physician entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board alleged that the physician prescribed controlled substances to his romantic partner and staff in his medical offices without establishing physician-patient relationships or properly charting and documenting his care of the staff. The physician self-reported this misconduct to the Board in early 2020. The Board issued the physician a Citation and Warning and ordered him to complete a Board-

approved professional ethics program and mental health medical management course. On April 15, 2021, the Board determined that the physician successfully completed the terms of his Board order and the terms of the order are terminated and his Iowa medical license is returned to its full privileges, free and clear of all restrictions.

2. An Iowa-licensed physician who practices general medicine in Cedar Falls, Iowa, had a Termination Order issued by the Board on April 15, 2021. On February 17, 2017, the physician entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board alleged that the physician failed to provide appropriate pain management to multiple patients in Cedar Falls, Iowa, between 2011 and 2016. The Board issued the physician a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty and complete a Board-approved record keeping course. The Board also prohibited the physician from prescribing, administering or dispensing controlled substances for the treatment of chronic pain under his Iowa medical license and placed him on probation for a period of five years subject to Board monitoring. On April 15, 2021, the Board determined that the physician has fully complied with the terms of his Board order and the terms of the order are terminated and his Iowa medical license is returned to its full privileges, free and clear of all restrictions.

Confidential Letters of Warning or Education: When the Board determines that probable cause does not exist to take formal disciplinary action against a licensee, the Board may send a confidential, non-disciplinary, letter to the licensee expressing concerns and requesting that the licensee take corrective action, including further education.

The Board voted to issue 10 confidential Letters of Warning or Education due to the following areas of concern:

1. Concerns that a physician may have missed signs of child abuse for a single patient.
2. Concerns that a physician failed to perform thorough examinations and failed to provide appropriate documentation.
3. Concerns that a physician failed to order appropriate testing for a patient.
4. Concerns that a physician failed to provide appropriate follow-up on a radiology report.
5. Concerns that a physician failed to disclose the suspension of his hospital privileges in another state on his application for renewal of his Iowa medical license.
6. Concerns that a physician made inappropriate physical contact with an individual while practicing medicine.
7. Concerns that a physician ordered the wrong CT scan and failed to compare a CT scan with a previous study.
8. Concerns that a physician failed to perform an appropriate workup for the measles and failed to provide appropriate advice to the family regarding the measles.

9. Concerns that a physician failed to perform an appropriate examination on a patient following an automobile accident.
10. Concerns that a physician failed to properly treat a patient with a respiratory syncytial virus.

Licensure Committee: The Licensure Committee reviews initial applications, renewals, and reinstatements and licensure policies. Most applications are approved by staff without committee review. However, some concerns identified during the review process must be reviewed by the committee to determine whether a license should be granted, renewed or reinstated.

The committee reviewed 10 applications for Iowa medical licensure. The committee recommended the following actions:

1. Granted 2 permanent Iowa medical licenses.
2. Offered 1 applicant the opportunity to withdraw their application.
3. Denied 1 applicant's request for a waiver of the licensure requirements.
4. Allowed 1 applicant to transition from a Compact license to a traditional license.
5. Issued 5 confidential letters due to concerns about the applicant.
6. Left 1 case open to obtain further information.

A Press Release describing public disciplinary action taken by the Board was distributed and posted on the Board's website on April 21, 2021. If you have any questions about this summary or the Press Release, please contact Kent M. Nebel, J.D., Executive Director, at (515) 281-7088 or kent.nebel@iowa.gov.