



September 15, 2021

## Summary of the September 9-10, 2021, Board Meeting

**Total Cases Reviewed:** The Board reviewed 89 cases.

**New Investigative Cases:** The Board reviewed 76 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 2 Combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreements.

1. An Iowa licensed physician who practices neurological medicine in Omaha, Nebraska entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on September 9, 2021. The Board alleged that on January 5, 2021, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services issued a Petition for Disciplinary Action against the physician for unprofessional conduct. Specifically, in January 2018, the physician exchanged a series of intimate text messages with a patient that were unrelated to her medical treatment, and which eventually were disruptive to her care. On January 21, 2021, the physician and the Nebraska Board entered into an Agreed Settlement wherein final disciplinary action against the physician was entered resulting in a censure. The physician failed to report this action to the Board within thirty days of the final order. Under the terms of the September 9, 2021, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued the physician a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty.
2. An Iowa licensed physician who practices vascular medicine in Waterloo, Iowa, and the surrounding area entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on September 9, 2021. The Board alleged that the physician performed a right carotid endarterectomy on a patient and used a carotid shunt instead of EEG monitoring. The Board also received information indicating that the physician's privileges to perform peripheral arterial procedures, with the exception of carotid endarterectomies, were summarily suspended at one hospital where he maintained surgical privileges because he allegedly engaged in improper documentation practices with respect to such procedures for eight patients. The physician filed an Answer denying the Board's allegations. Under the terms of the September 9, 2021, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued the physician a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$2,000 civil penalty. The physician also agreed that he shall no longer perform peripheral arterial procedures under his Iowa medical license.

**Termination Order:** If the Board determines that a physician has satisfied the terms of a disciplinary order, the Board may issue a Termination Order.

The Board voted to issue 2 Termination Orders.

1. An Iowa licensed acupuncturist who practices in Ankeny, Iowa, had a Termination Order issued by the Board on September 9, 2021. On June 3, 2021, the acupuncturist entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board alleged that the acupuncturist engaged in an inappropriate relationship with a current patient while acting as an acupuncturist within the scope of her practice and abrogated the boundaries of acceptable conduct in the practice of acupuncture. Under the terms of the June 3, 2021, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued the acupuncturist a Citation and Warning and ordered her to pay a \$1,000 civil penalty. On September 9, 2021, the Board determined that the acupuncturist has satisfied the terms of her Order and voted to issue a Termination Order. Therefore, the terms of the acupuncturist's Order are terminated and her Iowa acupuncture license is returned to its full privileges, free and clear of all restrictions.
2. An Iowa licensed physician who practices obstetrics and gynecology in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, had a Termination Order issued by the Board on September 9, 2021. On June 3, 2021, the physician entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board alleged that that on April 30, 2019, the physician prepared a patient for surgery and placed the patient under anesthesia, and then left to treat another patient at a separate facility who was in labor, leaving the first patient under anesthesia for 23 minutes in the absence of another attending surgeon before returning to begin the surgery. Under the terms of the June 3, 2021, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued the physician a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty. On September 9, 2021, the Board determined that the physician has satisfied the terms of his Order and voted to issue a Termination Order. Therefore, the terms of the physician's 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 5 confidential Letters of Warning or Education due to the following area of concern:

1. Concerns that a physician failed to maintain appropriate medical records.
2. Concerns that a physician failed to maintain appropriate medical records.
3. Concerns that a physician failed to provide appropriate follow-up for a patient with suspected cancer.
4. Concerns that a physician failed to fully comply with the standards of practice for appropriate opioid prescribing for the treatment of chronic pain.
5. Concerns about a physician's weight loss and hormone replacement practices.

**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 3 applications for Iowa medical licensure. The committee took the following action:

1. Granted 1 waiver for a permanent Iowa medical license.
2. Left 2 cases open.

**A Press Release describing public disciplinary action taken by the Board was distributed and posted on the Board's website on September 15, 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](mailto:kent.nebel@iowa.gov).**