



PRESS RELEASE - IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE (April 6, 2022)

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

Emad M. Hasan, M.D., a 49-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced neurological surgery in Iowa City, Iowa, and currently practices in North Carolina, had a Termination Order issued by the Board on March 24, 2022. On February 17, 2022, Dr. Hasan entered into Combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board alleged that Dr. Hasan failed to exercise that degree of care which is ordinarily exercised by the average physician or surgeon in Iowa acting in the same or similar circumstances. The Board alleges that on May 10, 2021, Dr. Hasan was to perform a frontotemporal craniotomy to resect a lesion on the hypothalamus in the center of the brain. The surgery was planned to be an approach from the right side of the patient's head, but Dr. Hasan instead performed the frontotemporal craniotomy approaching from the left side, contrary to plan. Due to the location of the lesion, surgery continued and was ultimately completed without complication. Under the terms of the February 17, 2022, Combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Hasan a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty. Dr. Hasan also submitted a written corrective action plan to the Board describing the steps he has taken to avoid such errors in the future. On March 24, 2022, the Board determined that Dr. Hasan successfully completed the terms of his Board order, the Board voted to issue a Termination Order and the terms of Dr. Hasan's Board order were terminated and his Iowa medical license was returned to its full privileges, free and clear of all restrictions.

Danny Lewis, Jr., M.D., a 31-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices family medicine in Waterloo, Iowa, had a Termination Order issued by the Board on March 25, 2022. On March 26, 2020, Dr. Lewis entered into a Combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board alleged that Dr. Lewis engaged in sexual misconduct when he entered into a sexual relationship with a female patient in September 2019 concurrent with the physician-patient relationship, and continued to treat the patient while engaged in a sexual relationship with her until November 2019. Under the terms of the March 26, 2020, Combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Lewis a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$1,000 civil penalty and complete a Board-approved professional boundaries program. The Board also placed Dr. Lewis on probation for a period of 3-5 years subject to Board monitoring. On March 25, 2022, the Board determined that Dr. Lewis successfully complied with the terms of his Board order, the Board voted to issue a Termination Order and the terms of Dr. Lewis's Board order were terminated and his Iowa medical license was returned to its full privileges, free and clear of all restrictions.

Mark A. Pithan, M.D., a 45-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices neurology in Davenport, Iowa, had a Termination Order issued by the Board on March 24, 2022. On October 30, 2017, Dr. Pithan was granted a permanent Iowa medical license subject to the terms of a Consent Agreement. On May 11, 2015, Dr. Pithan was arrested on suspicion of Driving Under the Influence of Drugs. On September 16, 2015, the Colorado Medical Board required Dr. Pithan to undergo evaluation with the Colorado Physician Health Program (CPHP) and cooperate with CPHP. On October 20, 2016, Dr. Pithan entered into a Stipulation and Final Agency Order with the Colorado Medical Board (Colorado Board) due to substance abuse. Under the terms of the October 30, 2017, Consent Agreement, the Iowa Board issued Dr. Pithan a Citation and Warning and referred him to the Iowa Physician Health Program for substance abuse treatment and monitoring. On March 24, 2022, the Board determined that Dr. Pithan successfully completed the terms of his Board order, the Board voted to issue a Termination Order and the terms of Dr. Pithan's Board order were terminated and his Iowa medical license was returned to its full privileges, free and clear of all restrictions.

Nickesh Shah, M.D., a 54-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced internal medicine in San Francisco, California, had a Termination Order issued by the Board on March 25, 2022. On December 10, 2020, Dr. Shah entered into Combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board alleged that on April 3, 2013, Dr. Shah was ticketed for speeding in excess of 95 mph near Chico, California. Dr. Shah allegedly told the California Highway Patrol officer that he was on his way to a medical emergency when, in fact, he was just late for work. Dr. Shah subsequently submitted a letter to District Attorney's Office for consideration of dismissing the speeding ticket and Dr. Shah's letter allegedly contained fabricated information regarding the reported medical emergency on the day Dr. Shah was ticketed for speeding. On May 9, 2017, Dr. Shah was found guilty of one Count of Offering False Evidence and one Count of Preparing False Documentary Evidence, both felony convictions. On September 28, 2017, Dr. Shah was sentenced to 36 months formal probation with terms and conditions. Dr. Shah has appealed the criminal convictions. Under the terms of the December 10, 2020, Combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Shah a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$10,000 civil penalty and complete a Board-approved professional ethics program. The Board also placed Dr. Shah on probation for a period of 3-5 years subject to Board monitoring. On March 25, 2022, the Board determined that Dr. Shah successfully complied with the terms of his Board order, the Board voted to issue a Termination Order and the terms of Dr. Shah's Board order were terminated and his Iowa medical license was returned to its full privileges, free and clear of all restrictions.

Shafik N. Wassef, M.D., a 38-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced interventional radiology in Iowa City, Iowa, had an Amended Statement of Charges issued by the Board on March 25, 2022, alleging that he violated the laws or rules governing the practice of medicine or acupuncture of this state, another state, the United States, or any country, territory or other jurisdiction. Violation of the laws or rules governing the practice of medicine includes, but is not limited to, willful or repeated violation of the provisions of these rules or the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 147, 148, 148E or 272C or other state or federal laws or rules governing the practice of medicine. A disciplinary hearing will be scheduled in the future.

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 at <https://medicalboard.iowa.gov/consumers/filing-complaint>, by calling (515) 281-5847 or mail to 400 SW 8th Street, Suite C, Des Moines, IA 50309.

To view these actions, please visit our Find a Physician page at the link below:
<https://eservices.iowa.gov/PublicPortal/iowa/IBM/licenseQuery/LicenseQuery.jsp?Profession=Physician>