

Adverse Actions Report May-June 2024

The digital edition of the *Forum* presents a two-month report of recent adverse actions. This report does not include non-adverse action such as reentry agreements or relief of consent order obligations. To view all public actions, visit www.ncmedboard.org/BoardActions.

Name/license #/location	Date of action	Cause of action	Board action
ANNULMENTS			
NONE			
SUMMARY SUSPENSIONS			
NONE			
REVOCATIONS			
POWELL , Steven Wayne, MD (201902131) San Francisco, CA	6/28/2024	MD's felony conviction for Health Care Fraud	Revocation of NC medical license
TATUM , David Arthur, DO (201601751) Charlotte, NC	5/28/2024	DO's felony conviction for Possession, Producing, Transportation and Shipping of Child Pornography.	Revocation of NC medical license
SUSPENSIONS			
NONE			
LIMITATIONS/CONDITIONS			
CIPRIANI , Wendy Georga, MD (200300019) Clayton, NC	5/01/2024	In February 2023, MD pled guilty to one count of Conspiracy to Defraud the United States by Receiving Illegal Kickbacks and was sentenced to five years probation and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$4,330,916.	Suspension; Stayed with conditions
REPRIMANDS			
COX , Lisa Gholston, MD (000036628) Lumberton, NC	5/13/2024	MD violated the Board's position statement "4.1.2 Writing of Prescriptions," when she prescribed alprazolam (Xanax) a Schedule IV controlled substance to a colleague (Physician A), on four occasions. MD admitted to the Board she prescribed alprazolam to treat	Reprimand

		<p>Physician A’s chronic insomnia, prior to having a documented physician-patient relationship and did not perform an examination of Physician A before prescribing. MD admitted she had no knowledge that Physician A should not be taking controlled substance medications and was not aware of Physician A’s specific health care before September 2022. Additionally, MD only documented her prescribing of alprazolam to Physician A on one occasion even though she had previously prescribed it three times.</p>	
<p>JENSEN, Larry Jay, PA-C (000102963) Elizabeth City, NC</p>	<p>6/05/2024</p>	<p>A 10-year-old patient presented with her mother to PA at an Urgent Care practice. Patient was experiencing painful, stinging urination and an urge to urinate. PA obtained a urine sample, which was significant for glucose. PA also performed a fingerstick blood sugar test, showing elevated levels of blood sugar at 398. PA prescribed metformin with instructions to follow up with her primary care provider in a week. Because of Patient’s age, the presence of elevated blood and urine glucose levels, Patient’s body habitus (BMI at 34th percentile), and the fact that immune mediated or type 1 diabetes is the most common type of diabetes diagnosed in youth, onset type 1 diabetes should have been the presumed</p>	<p>Reprimand with terms and conditions</p>

		<p>diagnosis until proven otherwise. PA's prescribed treatment of metformin suggested he inappropriately assumed a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes. PA should have referred Patient to the emergency department for further workup because the appearance of ketones in the urine typically lags behind blood ketones. Delaying the initiation and administration of insulin in a patient with onset type 1 diabetes, especially in the setting of blood sugars over 250, can lead to DKA, which increases the risk for adverse outcomes, including death.</p>	
<p>NWOKO, Okechukwu Emeka, MD (201101107) Raleigh, NC</p>	<p>6/17/2024</p>	<p>The Board's reviewing expert found that MD's care of Patient A, who had undergone an initial and revised placement of a graft to reroute the blood supply around Patient's blocked femoral artery in his right leg, failed to conform to the standard of care. In the care of Patient B, the reviewing expert found that MD performed a wrong, unplanned surgery that was not indicated. MD failed to confirm with Patient B prior to surgery both the surgical site and the procedure to be performed.</p>	<p>Reprimand</p>
<p>DENIALS OF LICENSE/APPROVAL</p>			

NONE			
SURRENDERS			
BREZINSKI , Damian Alexander, MD (000035595) Kure Beach, NC	5/16/2024		Voluntary surrender of medical license
LUGO , Debra Jean, MD (201701939) Durham, NC	6/11/2024	MD has a history of alcohol use disorder, general anxiety disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder. Since 2022, she has been admitted to inpatient and residential treatment centers and has engaged with the North Carolina Professionals Health Program. In October 2023, after a relapse, MD was involved in a motor vehicle accident and pled guilty to Driving While Impaired. Based on MD's violations of her NCPHP monitoring contracts and relapses, NCPHP closed its file on her in November 2023 and informed her that she would need six months of self-documented abstinence before reengaging with NCPHP.	Reprimand; Medical license surrendered
SMITH , Scott William, MD (202004724) Mount Pleasant, SC	5/30/2024		Voluntary surrender of medical license
PUBLIC LETTERS OF CONCERN			
BEEGHLY , Andrew Brian, DO (201100370) Asheville, NC	5/07/2024	The Board is concerned that DO's care of a 61-year-old male may have failed to conform to the standard of care. Patient presented to the emergency department with complaints of worsening right groin pain for the past five days. A CT scan showed a localized infection, as well as an incidental finding described by the radiologist as a lesion	Public Letter of Concern

		<p>in the left kidney. DO did not acknowledge or document this abnormal finding, and Patient was discharged without any instruction about following up with additional imaging. Approximately one year later an MRI revealed that the lesion noted on the CT scan was a cancerous mass in Patient's left kidney. DO did not document any knowledge of this finding in his notes, nor did he inform Patient of the finding or suggest any follow-up imaging.</p>	
<p>BICKET, William John, MD (000039395) Lancaster, SC</p>	<p>5/08/2024</p>	<p>The Board is concerned that MD's care of a 65-year-old female who presented to a wound care clinic for evaluation of a left calf wound may have failed to conform to the standard of care. MD assessed Patient with a traumatic wound, initiated therapy and prescribed various antimicrobials. Over the next four months, the wound continued to worsen, and Patient sought a second opinion from another wound provider. That provider recognized the wound as atypical and started Patient on a different treatment regimen but had concerns that the underlying cause of the wounds may be an autoimmune disorder leading to a chronic,</p>	<p>Public Letter of Concern; MD will complete continuing medical education</p>

		<p>recurrent skin disorder. Patient was referred to a rheumatologist and ultimately diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder.</p>	
<p>EWY, Marvin Franklin, MD (200701839) Miramar, FL</p>	<p>5/22/2024</p>	<p>The Board is concerned that MD's care of an 82-year-old female patient may have fallen below the standard of care. Specifically, the following aspects of care are concerning: MD's failure to properly assess Patient's pressure injuries, failure to evaluate Patient for peripheral arterial disease, failure to establish a reasonable care plan for pressure injuries, and MD's failure to adjust the treatment plan despite ongoing deterioration of the Patient's general condition.</p>	<p>Public Letter of Concern; MD will complete continuing medical education</p>

<p>HARRIS, Harvey Lee, Jr., MD (000038078) Charlotte, NC</p>	<p>5/31/2024</p>	<p>The Board is concerned that MD's care of five Patients may have failed to conform to the standard of care. MD's former employer investigated and terminated him based on concerns about MD's improper prescribing of controlled substances, poor documentation and failure to follow hospital policy. Based on review of the records, the Board is concerned that MD failed to maintain proper documentation, and failed to provide appropriate pharmacovigilance, including not utilizing urine drug screens, concurrent prescribing of controlled substances, and no evidence that he queried the North Carolina Controlled Substances Reporting System.</p>	<p>Public Letter of Concern</p>
<p>JAINDL, Jeffrey Joseph, DO (201200207) Eden Prairie, MN</p>	<p>5/06/2024</p>	<p>In 2018, DO failed to diagnose an epidural abscess on an MRI in the anterior epidural space of the cervical spine. The abscess was detected by the neurologist attending the following morning and due to a series of delays, unrelated to DO's care,</p>	<p>Public Letter of Concern</p>

		<p>Patient’s surgery was not performed in a timely manner and ultimately resulted in quadriplegia. The Virginia Board investigated and issued a reprimand in June 2023. As a result of concerns related to DO's care of the patient, this Board requested, in 2023, that DO complete Category I CME on Interpretation of Cervical Spine MRI Abnormalities. The Board is also concerned that during his 2022 NC license renewal DO failed to report the Virginia Board’s investigation related to his care of this Patient.</p>	
<p>LITTLE, Stacey Danielle, PA-C (001014253) Chula Vista, CA</p>	<p>6/12/2024</p>	<p>The Board is concerned that the Medical Board of California issued a disciplinary Order to PA in 2018 based on charges brought against her for care of five pediatric patients. PA's license was revoked, but stayed, and she was placed on probation for three years with conditions. The Board notes that after reviewing documentation the California Board concluded that conditions of the Order were satisfied, and probation was terminated in February 2021.</p>	<p>License issued with Public Letter of Concern</p>

<p>MAUER, Richard Curtis, MD (202401058) North Las Vegas, NV</p>	<p>5/07/2024</p>	<p>The Board is concerned that MD provided an incorrect response to a question when completing his license application with the Medical Board of California in 2019. He failed to respond accurately to the question about having ever had any medical license subjected to any action. MD responded in the negative. However, he was issued a letter of warning by the Iowa Board of Medicine in 2015 for alleged failure to provide appropriate ophthalmologic care to a patient. After initially denying MD's application, the California Board issued a license with reprimand and a requirement to complete a professionalism program which MD did. This Board is concerned that MD failed to disclose multiple other investigations by the Iowa Board and Iowa Dental Board when applying for his NC license.</p>	<p>License issued with Public Letter of Concern</p>
<p>SMITH, David Nathaniel, MD (200701837) Fort Mill, SC</p>	<p>6/27/2024</p>	<p>The Board is concerned that MD's West Virginia medical license was revoked in</p>	<p>Public Letter of concern</p>

		<p>December 2023, after finding he obtained the West Virginia medical license by fraudulent misrepresentation. Specifically, the West Virginia Board found that MD failed to disclose disciplinary action taken against his North Carolina medical license.</p>	
<p>TURNER, Kelly James, MD (202401391) Oak Hills, CA</p>	<p>6/07/2024</p>	<p>The Board is concerned by MD's disciplinary history with other state medical boards and history of alcohol-related arrests. Specifically, MD entered into an Agreed Order in 2013 with the Texas Medical Board based on prescribing controlled substances to patients without maintaining proper medical records.. As a result of the 2013 Order, MD also agreed to surrender his Colorado medical license in 2015. In 2018, MD was arrested five times for alcohol-related offenses and the Texas Board took additional action. The Board recognizes MD's continued compliance with the orders of the Texas Board, and he was assessed by NCPHP which supports MD's continued practice with no recommendations for further assessment, treatment, or monitoring.</p>	<p>Public Letter of Concern</p>
<p>MISCELLANEOUS ACTIONS</p>			

<p>BREITBART, Eric Adam, MD (201500422) Fayetteville, NC</p>	<p>6/04/2024</p>	<p>MD has not practiced medicine since February 2023. In November 2023, the Board indefinitely suspended his license based on MD's inappropriate prescribing of controlled substances and treating persons without a proper physician-patient relationship. In February 2024, MD applied for reinstatement of his medical license. MD met with a panel of Board members to discuss concerns regarding his need to maintain appropriate boundaries and protect his mental health. MD has remained actively engaged with Acumen Assessments. Acumen deems MD safe to practice medicine and supports the reinstatement of his medical license. In May 2024, MD signed a new five-year monitoring contract with NCPHP. MD remains in compliance with his NCPHP contract, and NCPHP supports the reinstatement of his license to practice medicine in North Carolina.</p>	<p>License reinstated with terms and conditions</p>
<p>PINZON, Elmer Guillermo, MD (009900988) Knoxville, TN</p>	<p>5/21/2024</p>	<p>In November 2023, MD was placed on probation for a period no less than six months by the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners. Tennessee Board's Consent Order was based on</p>	<p>Probation; Stayed upon compliance with Tennessee Board's Consent Order</p>

		<p>allegations of MD displaying unprofessional, dishonorable, or unethical conduct, and disruptive behavior. MD was ordered to obtain further evaluation by the North Carolina Professionals Health Program. NCPHP was comfortable with the recommendations made by Vanderbilt University's Program for Distressed Physicians which included MD entering into a two-year alcohol abstinence agreement and submitting to a repeat neuropsychological evaluation in 12-18 months. NCPHP offered a parallel out-of-state monitoring contract, which he signed in February 2024.</p>	
<p>ROBERTSON, Vida Barnwell, MD (2006-01106) Raleigh, NC</p>	<p>5/14/2024</p>	<p>MD's license was inactivated by request in June 2018. She has not practiced medicine clinically since August 2016 and recognizes the need for a reentry plan to assist her back into the practice of medicine.</p>	<p>License reinstated with reentry agreement</p>
<p>STEFIC, Reina Victoria, PA-C (001008462) Mooresville, NC</p>	<p>6/03/2024</p>	<p>In August 2023 PA's license to practice as a physician assistant was indefinitely suspended. The Board found that from May 2021 to July 2021, PA called in three prescriptions for Phentermine, a Schedule IV</p>	<p>License reinstated with terms and conditions</p>

		Controlled Substance, for an immediate family member using a colleague's name and credentials. The colleague had never seen PA's family member as a patient, did not authorize PA to call in the prescriptions, and was unaware that PA had done so until he was notified by pharmacy staff. A review of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Reporting System revealed that from July 2019 to October 2021, PA prescribed Phentermine 57 times to immediate family members using her name and DEA number. By prescribing to her immediate family members, PA violated Board rules..	
CONSENT ORDERS AMENDED			
NONE			
TEMPORARY/DATED LICENSES: ISSUED, EXTENDED, EXPIRED, OR REPLACED BY FULL LICENSES			
NONE			
COURT APPEALS/STAYS			
NONE			
DISMISSALS			
NONE			