

2005 Press Releases

Friday, April 22, 2005

Medical Board Suspends License of Cantral L. Eargle Jr., M.D., of Irving

A panel of the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners suspended the license of Cantral L. Eargle Jr., M.D., license number G0694, after determining that Dr. Eargle's continuation in the practice of medicine presents a continuing threat to the public welfare.

The temporary suspension hearing took place Thursday under the Board's authority, granted by S.B. 104 of the 78th Legislature, to suspend or restrict a physician's license without notice when it determines the physician's continuation in practice would constitute a continuing threat to the public welfare. The suspension is effective immediately.

The action was based on Dr. Eargle's nontherapeutic prescribing in the treatment of seven patients, two of whom died. The allegations include prescribing large doses of hydrocodone, Soma, Xanax and other drugs without taking an adequate medical history, conducting an adequate physical examination or maintaining appropriate medical records. There was also evidence that medical records had been altered in the case of one patient death.

In the case of one patient who died, records indicate the patient began seeing Dr. Eargle on June 20, 2003, with back pain. Dr. Eargle prescribed 60 hydrocodone/APAP, 60 Soma 350 and 30 Xanax 350 every two weeks. When the patient was last seen on September 16, 2004, she was prescribed 60 Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5/500, 30 Xanax 2 mg. and 60 Soma 350. She died on October 2, 2004. The medical examiner's report found clinical evidence of opiate and benzodiazepine intoxication.

The other patient who died was seen June 30, 2003, and reported chronic neck and back pain. Her initial two-week prescription included 30 Xanax 2 mg., 90 Xenical 120, Estradiol 1 mg. with a one-year refill, 60 Hydrocodone/APAP 10/500, and 60 Soma 350. She was seen every two weeks through May 3, 2004, and progress notes included only symptoms. She was given 15 Dalmane 30 mg., 60 Hydrocodone/APAP 10/500, 60 Soma 350 and 30 Xanax 2 mg. She died on May 20, 2004. The medical examiner stated that this patient's death was caused by a mixed drug ingestion of Xanax and Soma.

The length of a temporary suspension is indefinite and it remains in effect until the board takes further action.

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The Texas State Board of Medical Examiners, the state agency that regulates physicians, physician assistants, surgical assistants and acupuncturists, provides consumer protection through licensure, investigation and disciplinary action. The Board, under President Lee S. Anderson, M.D., and Executive Director Donald W. Patrick, M.D., J.D., and mandated by Senate Bill 104 of the 78th Legislature, is strengthening and accelerating the disciplinary process for licensees who fail to meet the required standards of professional proficiency and behavior.

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