

## **Texas Medical Board Press Release**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 30, 2014

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### **TMB suspends Dallas physician**

On October 24, 2014, a disciplinary panel of the Texas Medical Board temporarily suspended, without notice, the Texas medical license of Theodore Emeka Okechuku M.D., after determining his continuation in the practice of medicine poses a continuing threat to public welfare. The suspension was effective immediately.

The Board panel found Dr. Okechuku on December 3, 2013 was indicted in United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas on one count of Conspiracy to Unlawfully Distribute a Controlled Substance. Dr. Okechuku was granted a pre-trial release with certain conditions, including a condition that he not violate federal or state law.

On August 29, 2014, the Board entered an Agreed Order with certain terms and conditions based on Dr. Okechuku's failure to meet the standard of care in the treatment, prescribing, and recordkeeping related to his care of multiple pain management patients.

On October 6, 2014, the U.S. Attorney filed an Ex-Parte Motion for Arrest and Revocation of Pre-Trial Release against Dr. Okechuku which was granted, finding probable cause that Dr. Okechuku violated a term of his pre-trial release and he was subsequently arrested.

The Board panel found Dr. Okechuku was in violation of his Pre-Trial Release and was engaging in the same conduct alleged in the indictment by continuing to unlawfully prescribe prescriptions for hydrocodone and other controlled substances. The federal government stated in its Motion that Dr. Okechuku is operating a "pill mill."

Dr. Okechuku's violation of the terms of his Pre-Trial Release, in particular his pill mill activities, constitutes a continuing threat to both patients and the public.

A temporary suspension hearing with notice will be held as soon as practicable with 10 days' notice to Dr. Okechuku, unless the hearing is specifically waived by Dr. Okechuku.

The temporary suspension remains in place until the Board takes further action.

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