

Texas Medical Board Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2015

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TMB restricts Houston physician

On June 23, 2015, a disciplinary panel of the Texas Medical Board temporarily restricted, with notice, the Texas medical license of Ronald Alan Charles, M.D., after determining his continuation in the practice of treatment of chronic pain, and supervising midlevel practitioners in the treatment of chronic pain, poses a continuing threat to public welfare. The restriction was effective immediately.

The restriction prohibits Dr. Charles from engaging in the treatment of any chronic pain as defined in Board rules. Dr. Charles shall not prescribe controlled substances except in a freestanding emergency medical care facility, general hospital or a special hospital as defined by Texas Health and Safety Code Section, 241.003, including the emergency department of such hospitals. The prescribing of controlled substances shall be limited to prescriptions written for a patient's immediate need, meaning no more than 72 hours, and only on a one-time basis, with no refills or additional prescriptions for any patient.

Additionally, any practice setting other than a freestanding emergency medical care facility, general hospital or special hospital must be approved in advance by the Board. Dr. Charles is not permitted to delegate prescriptive authority to a physician assistant or advanced practice nurse, nor is he permitted to supervise any midlevel provider, including physician assistants and advanced practice nurses, except in the practice settings permissible under the Order of Temporary Restriction.

The Board panel found that Dr. Charles failed to adequately supervise midlevel practitioners who were engaged in the treatment of four patients with chronic pain.

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

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