

2004 Press Releases

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Medical Board Suspends License of Juan C. Ruffier, M.D.

A panel of the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners temporarily suspended the license of Juan C. Ruffier, M.D., License #G6006, of El Paso, after determining that Dr. Ruffier's continuation in the practice of medicine presents a continuing threat to the public welfare.

The action was based upon allegations that Dr. Ruffier acted unprofessionally or dishonorably by performing unnecessary cardiac procedures and that Dr. Ruffier failed to meet the standard of care in the treatment of certain patients.

The panel took action based on the following conclusions:

- Opinions of a Board consultant that Dr. Ruffier's medical judgments, decisions, and actions endangered the public health and welfare.
- Opinions of a Board consultant that Dr. Ruffier's choice and selection of arterial diagnostics and interventions constituted non-therapeutic treatment.
- Evidence that Dr. Ruffier failed to accurately or properly document findings and outcomes of the treatments he provided patients.
- Evidence that Dr. Ruffier failed to properly monitor and/or maintain proper anticoagulation in patients undergoing arterial catheterization.
- The suspension of Dr. Ruffier's interventional cardiology privileges at Del Sol Medical Center.

The temporary suspension hearing took place Monday 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 length of a temporary suspension order is indefinite but it remains in effect until the board takes further action.

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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