

## 2003 Press Releases

**Wednesday, August 27, 2003**

### **Medical Board Panel Votes to Suspend License of Dr. Eric Scheffey**

**A panel of the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners took action to temporarily suspend the license of Eric H. Scheffey, M.D., License #E6607, of Houston, after a determination that Dr. Scheffey's continuation in the practice of medicine presents a continuing threat to the public welfare.**

The temporary suspension hearing took place Tuesday under the Board's authority to suspend physicians' licenses when it determines there is a threat to the public welfare. The suspension will be effective with the board's issuance of the Temporary Suspension Order.

The panel, composed of two physicians and a public member, reviewed Dr. Scheffey's care and treatment of 10 patients. The panel determined that Dr. Scheffey violated the Medical Practice Act by his failure to treat a patient according to the generally accepted standard of care; nontherapeutic prescribing; failure to maintain adequate medical records; billing for treatment that was improper, unreasonable, or medically or clinically unnecessary; and repeated or recurring meritorious health care liability claims.

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

TMB is the state agency charged with the licensure and regulation of physicians in Texas. Legislation passed by the 78th Legislature provided the agency with greater authority, including stronger temporary suspension and restrictions powers. TMB is using the new authority and disciplinary tools to fill its mission of protecting the public. Since the legislation was passed, the board in June used the new authority to temporarily suspend the license of Dr. Daniel Maynard, a Dallas physician accused of prescribing dangerous drugs and controlled substances to persons he knew or should have known were drug abusers.

In the past two years, TMB has dramatically increased its disciplinary activities. In Fiscal Year 2003, which ends August 31, the board took 276 disciplinary actions, compared to 105 in FY 2001. By the end of FY 2003, the board will have conducted more than 480 informal disciplinary hearings for physicians, compared to 187 in FY 2001.

The Legislature also provided additional funding and resources to the agency, allowing the hiring of nurse/investigators and attorneys to further increase

the agency's rate of disciplinary actions and its ability to remove from practice physicians who do not meet the standard of care. With these additional resources, the agency, under the leadership of board president Lee S. Anderson, M.D., and executive director, Donald Patrick, M.D., J.D., will be even more effective in protecting the public in the coming years.

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