

2005 Press Releases

Wednesday, October 28, 2005

Medical Board Suspends License of Kenneth W. ONeal, M.D., of Abilene

A panel of the Texas Medical Board suspended the license of Kenneth W. ONeal, M.D., license number D6119, after determining that Dr. ONeals continuation in the practice of medicine presents a continuing threat to the public welfare.

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

The action was based on the panels finding that Dr. ONeals treatment of three patients fell below the standard of care, resulting in the patients deaths. On June 2, 2005, Dr. ONeal administered a Meyers cocktail, an intravenous solution of saline and vitamins, to a patient. Shortly thereafter, the patient had difficulty breathing, desaturation of oxygen content in her blood, altered level of consciousness, cyanosis (turning blue) and died. The records from the hospital identified the patients cause of death as acute cardiopulmonary arrest.

Also on June 2, another patient had routine chelation treatment and soon began having burning eyes and tongue, vomiting and diaphoresis (excessive sweating). The patient then developed difficulty breathing and, two hours later, emergency services were summoned. When the emergency services arrived at Abilene Integrative Medicine, they found the patient in respiratory distress. He became unresponsive on the way to Hendrick Medical Center and cardiopulmonary resuscitation was initiated. The patient arrived at Hendrick in cardiopulmonary arrest and attempts to revive him were unsuccessful. The panel found that Dr. ONeals continuing to treat this patient for two hours before transferring him to the emergency room may have contributed to his death.

On August 3, a patient received an infusion of intravenous solutions of saline and vitamins. Within 10 minutes, the patient developed a drop in blood pressure, then irregular respirations and pulse. She was transported to the hospital, where she was seen by a physician whose impression was that she suffered a cardiovascular incident after alternative medicine intervention. Shortly thereafter she was pronounced dead.

The panel found that the IV solutions Dr. ONeal used did not conform to any professional standards or therapies.

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

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The Texas Medical Board, 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 Roberta M. Kalafut, D.O., and Executive Director Donald W. Patrick, M.D., J.D., and mandated by Senate Bill 104 of the 78th Legislature and S.B. 419 of the 79th Legislature, is strengthening and accelerating the disciplinary process for licensees who fail to meet the required standards of professional proficiency and behavior. Information on filing a complaint is on the agency web site at www.tmb.state.tx.us or by calling (800) 201-9353.

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Open records requests for orders may be made to

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