

2002 Press Releases

Tuesday, August 20, 2002

Medical Board Suspends License of Midland Physician

The Texas State Board of Medical Examiners has temporarily suspended the license of Lydia H. Grotti, M.D., (license #J6122) of Midland.

The action was taken Wednesday, August 14, under the Board's authority to temporarily suspend a physician's license when it determines the physician's continuation in practice is a threat to the public welfare. The action against Dr. Grotti, formerly of Fort Worth, was taken based on two incidents that occurred at John Peter Smith Hospital in 2000 and 2001. In one case, Dr. Grotti acknowledged that she occluded a patient's endotracheal tube, an act which, according to the temporary suspension order, "demonstrated callous disregard for the value of the end-of-life process." In the second case, Dr. Grotti ordered an intravenous morphine drip to a diabetic who arrived at the emergency room hypoglycemic but "awake, alert and responsive." After the patient's condition became medically unstable and he was transferred to the intensive care unit under Dr. Grotti's care, she ordered "increasing dosages of morphine until all spontaneous respirations stopped," according to the order. The cause of this patient's death was listed as "Acute Morphine Intoxication, Homicide." The board determined that Dr. Grotti's actions demonstrate that she is a real and present danger to the health of her patients and present a continuing threat to the public welfare.

The length of a temporary suspension order is indefinite and the order remains in effect until the board takes further action. The allegations are to be the subject of a formal disciplinary hearing as soon as practicable pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act and the Medical Practice Act.

The Texas State Board of Medical Examiners is the state agency that regulates physicians, providing 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., is strengthening and accelerating the disciplinary process for physicians who fail to meet the required standards of professional competency and behavior. The agency is seeking new legislation to expand current statutory authority to better fulfill its mission to ensure that medical care is delivered by competent physicians.

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