

## **Texas Medical Board**

### **Press Release**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Thursday, May 17, 2007**

Media contact Public Information Officer Jill Wiggins at [jill.wiggins@tmb.state.tx.us](mailto:jill.wiggins@tmb.state.tx.us) or (512) 305-7018

Non-media contact: (512) 305-7030 or (800) 248-4062

### **Medical Board Suspends License of Ramiro Hernandez, M.D., of Orange**

A panel of the Texas Medical Board suspended the license of Ramiro Hernandez, M.D., license number E6093 after determining that his continuation in the practice of medicine presents a continuing threat to the public welfare.

The temporary suspension hearing took place Wednesday 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 action was based on the following findings: Dr. Hernandez's pattern of practice constitutes non-therapeutic prescribing of narcotics, benzodiazepines and muscle relaxant medications; his records lack adequate documentation, histories and physicals, rationale for treatment, a specific tailored treatment plan, consideration of other treatment modalities, periodic evaluation for effectiveness of the treatment, objective testing or appropriate referrals. Every patient received hydrocodone and Soma and nearly every patient received either Xanax or Valium. In addition to finding Dr. Hernandez's prescribing practice to be a threat to public health and safety, the panel found that Dr. Hernandez lied to a board compliance officer, failed to notify the board of resuming his practice in a new location, and resumed his practice in Orange without a chart monitor, in violation of a previous order.

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

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](http://www.tmb.state.tx.us) or by calling (800) 201-9353.