



## COLORADO

Department of  
Regulatory Agencies

Division of Professions and Occupations

Healthcare Branch  
Colorado Medical Board



### VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

April 20, 2017  
Case No. 2016-665-B

Richard L. Wallingford III, M.D.

Dear. Dr. Wallingford:

Inquiry Panel B ("Panel") of the Colorado Medical Board ("Board") has concluded its inquiry regarding your care and treatment of patient C.H. It was the Panel's decision not to commence with formal proceedings against your license to practice medicine. However, the Panel did vote to administer disciplinary action to you in the form of this letter of admonition.

As you recall, in December 2013, you began treating patient C.H. to address her dependency issues with opiates. The patient had a history of intravenous heroin use and purchasing large amounts of street opiates, after she lost her health insurance. You treated the patient at various times with Suboxone for opiate dependency, citalopram for depression and clonazepam for anxiety. The patient was hospitalized for approximately two weeks in June 2015 for right middle lobe pneumonia with empyema. The patient was hospitalized again in December 2015 for aspiration pneumonia, and her Suboxone and clonazepam were discontinued. You restarted the patient on Suboxone and clonazepam after the patient was discharged from the hospital, stating you were unaware of the hospitalization for aspiration until after you provided the "bridge prescriptions" to the patient.

After a review of all the information in this matter, the Panel found that your care and treatment of patient C.H. fell below the generally accepted standards of practice for a physician, constituting a violation of section 12-36-117 of the Colorado Revised Statutes. Specifically, you failed to coordinate care with the patient's other treatment providers at the hospital, and review the hospital discharge summary prior to restarting the controlled substances. Your communication, coordination of care, and indefinite use of benzodiazepines without a discussion of alternatives or a possible reduction in use is below the standard of care for a Suboxone patient with a long history of addiction to both street and prescription drugs.

By this letter, the Panel hereby admonishes you and cautions you that complaints disclosing any repetition of such practice may lead to the commencement of formal disciplinary proceedings against your license to practice medicine, wherein this letter of admonition may be entered into evidence as aggravation.



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Pursuant to agreement with the Panel, you have agreed to waive the right provided by section 12-36-118(4)(c)(III), C.R.S., to contest this Letter of Admonition.

Sincerely,

FOR THE COLORADO MEDICAL BOARD  
INQUIRY PANEL B

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric R. Groce". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and "G".

Eric R. Groce, D.O.  
Acting Chair

ERG/lej

cc: Lisanne N. Leasure, Esq.