



North Carolina Medical Board

Barbara E. Walker, DO: President | Bryant A. Murphy, MD: President-Elect | Venkata Jonnalagadda, MD: Secretary/Treasurer

April 5, 2019

Brenda Sue Willis, M.D.
Coastal Southeastern United Care
2500 Court Drive, Suite 130
Gastonia, NC 28054

Dear Dr. Willis:

The North Carolina Medical Board (“Board”) has concluded its investigation related to you (a) prescribing a controlled substance to yourself and (b) treating and prescribing a controlled substance to one of your family members. It is the Board’s decision not to commence formal proceedings against your license at this time. However, the Board voted to issue you this public letter of concern. The Board does not consider a public letter of concern to be a disciplinary action or a limitation or restriction on your license.

The Board believes that, except for certain emergency conditions, urgent situations and acute minor illnesses, it is not appropriate for physicians to treat themselves or their family members. Board rule 21 NCAC 32B .1001, in relevant part, prohibits a physician to use their North Carolina medical license to prescribe controlled substances (1) for their own use and (2) for the use of a physician’s immediate family member. The Board’s rule, 21 NCAC 32B .1001, and Position Statement titled, “Self-Treatment of Family Members” are enclosed for your review.

Concern #1 – Self-Prescribing a Controlled Substance

The Board is concerned that in March 2017, you presented to a pharmacy to obtain a refill for a controlled substance that another physician had prescribed for you. You were told by the pharmacy that the prescription was not available. Since it was after your physician’s office had closed, you wrote yourself a prescription for the controlled substance. This violates Rule 21 NCAC 32B .1001 and should not have been done.

Concern #2 – Treating and Prescribing a Controlled Substance to a Family Member

In April 2018, you phoned in a controlled substance cough medicine prescription (with a refill) for a family member who did not have access to their established physician or pharmacy at the time. This violates rule 21 NCAC 32B .1001 and is not the type of situation the Board considers an urgent or emergency situation where treatment of a family member would be permitted.

The Board urges you to take steps to ensure the conduct giving rise to the Board’s concerns does not happen again. Otherwise, the Board may vote to commence formal disciplinary proceedings against your license. If that happens, this letter may be entered into evidence in determining the appropriate discipline.

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This letter is a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and is subject to public inspection and dissemination as required by that law. It will be reported to the Federation of State Medical Boards; however, it will not be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara E. Walker, D.O.", written in black ink.

Barbara E. Walker, D.O.
President

BEW/PFB/wl

Consent and Waiver

I, Brenda Sue Willis, M.D., would like to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings and consent to the Board's issuance of this public letter of concern in resolution of the above matter. I hereby waive any requirement under any law or rule that this public letter of concern be served on me.

Consented to this the ~~26th~~ day of March, 2019.

Brenda Sue Willis, MD
Brenda Sue Willis, M.D.

State of NORTH CAROLINA

County of GASTON

I, SHELBY L. SWAIN, do hereby certify that Brenda Sue Willis, M.D. personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal this the 26 day of MARCH, 2019.

Shelby L. Swain
Notary Public

(Official Seal)

My Commission Expires: 10/08/2023

