



North Carolina Medical Board

Eleanor E. Greene, MD: President | Timothy E. Lietz, MD: President-Elect | Barbara E. Walker, DO: Secretary/Treasurer

March 30, 2017

Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested

Ruben R. Salinas, M.D.
New Bern Professional Health Services, PC
3282 Wellons Blvd.
New Bern, NC 28562

Dear Dr. Salinas:

The North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") has concluded its investigation regarding your prescribing. It is the Board's decision not to commence formal proceedings against your license to practice medicine at this time. However, the Board did vote 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.

After receiving a complaint regarding your prescribing to Patient A, the Board submitted the medical records related to the care you rendered to Patient A for review by an external expert specializing in addiction psychiatry. The reviewing expert opined that your care of Patient A, for whom you prescribed Suboxone and Ritalin, fell below the standard of care. Specifically, the expert criticized your failure to conduct an appropriate initial assessment and a lack of follow-up visits, drug screenings, substance abuse counseling, or review of the North Carolina Controlled Substance Reporting System. In addition, the reviewing expert noted that you have a working relationship with Patient A and that your treatment of Patient A created a potential dual role boundary violation.

The Board is concerned that your care of Patient A may have failed to conform to the standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice in North Carolina and that you did not have authorization by the Drug Enforcement Agency to prescribe Suboxone for the treatment of addiction. 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 to practice medicine. If that happens, this letter may be entered into evidence in determining the appropriate discipline.

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,

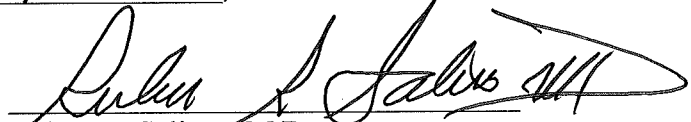
Eleanor E. Greene, M.D.
President

EEG/DTB/coc

Consent and Waiver

I, Ruben R. Salinas, M.D. would like to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings and consent to the Board's issuance of a public letter of concern in resolution of my current matter.

Consented to this the 27 day of March, 2017.


Ruben R. Salinas, M.D.


State of North Carolina

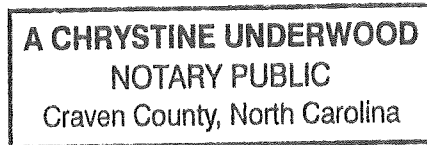
County of Craven

I, A. Chrystine Underwood, a Notary Public for the above named County and State, do hereby certify that Ruben R. Salinas, 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 27th day of March, 2017.


Notary Public



(SEAL)

My Commission Expires: 11/3/2021