



September 22, 2016

Via Attorney of Record

Eric D. Morse, M.D.
Carolina Performance
8300 Health Park, Suite 201
Raleigh, NC 27615

Dear Dr. Morse:

The North Carolina Medical Board (“Board”) has concluded its investigation regarding the complaint filed against you regarding your prescribing practices. 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.

The Board is concerned that you continued to prescribe Suboxone (buprenorphine and naloxone) to Patient A for his opioid addiction after he relocated to West Virginia in October 2012. You treated Patient A face-to-face in NC for three and one-half years. During that time Suboxone was the only controlled substance that you prescribed to Patient A. You regularly performed urine drug screens of Patient A and, while Patient A did have isolated urine drug screens that reflected positive results for cocaine and benzodiazepine, all urine drug screens were negative for opiates. Although you report that you tried to find the patient a Suboxone doctor in West Virginia, you lowered the patient’s dose of Suboxone over time and you requested to see Patient A face-to-face, he only came to your office three times after October 2012. You continued to provide two-week prescriptions of Suboxone after having telephone contact with Patient A that averaged at least twice a month from October 2012 – May 2015.

The Board had your care of Patient A reviewed by an independent medical expert. It is the opinion of the reviewer that continuing to prescribe Suboxone over the telephone may fall below the standard of practice in North Carolina. The reviewing expert was specifically concerned with your limited face-to-face evaluations of Patient A over a two and one-half year period, insufficient ancillary treatment support other than your 30 minute phone appointments, and insufficient monitoring of abuse. The reviewing expert opined that it was insufficient to rely on a local pharmacist to count and collect Patient A’s empty Suboxone wrappers and report the results to you.

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The Board requires that, within thirty (30) days of this letter, you arrange to attend ten (10) hours of on-site Continuing Medical Education (“CME”) in Suboxone prescribing. The CME course must be approved by the Board’s Office of Medical Director and be completed within six (6) months. You are required to notify the Board’s Compliance Coordinator of your completion of the required CME. Failure to timely complete the required CME may result in the Board initiating public disciplinary proceedings against you.

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. 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 as a physician. 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,



Pascal O. Udekwe, M.D.
President

POU/BB/wl

Consent and Waiver

I, Eric D. Morse, 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 26th day of August, 2016.



Eric D. Morse, M.D.

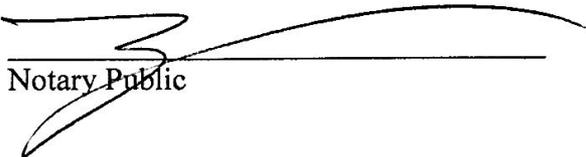
State of NORTH CAROLINA

County of GRANVILLE

I, MARTINA JACEK, a Notary Public for the above named County and State, do hereby certify that Eric D. Morse, M.D. personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of this instrument.

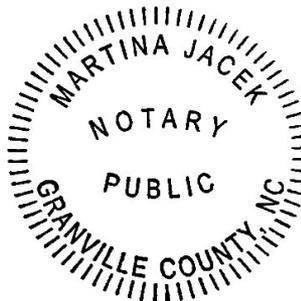
Witness my hand and official seal

this the 26th day of August, 2016.



Notary Public

(SEAL)



My Commission Expires: 12-19-2016