



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Robert A. Nebiker  
Director

## Department of Health Professions

6603 West Broad Street, 5th Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23230-1712

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www.dhp.virginia.gov

TEL (804) 662-9900

FAX (804) 662-9943

TDD (804) 662-7197

Colleen Ann Blanchfield, M.D.  
11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 309  
Reston, Virginia 20190

### CERTIFIED MAIL

7160 3901 9849 4232 8303

RE: License No.: 0101-048338

Dear Dr. Blanchfield:

This letter is official notification that an informal conference of the Virginia Board of Medicine ("Board") will be held on **Tuesday, September 19, 2006, at 9:00 a.m., at the Holiday Inn Select, 2801 Plank Road, Fredericksburg, Virginia.** The conference will be conducted pursuant to Sections 54.1-2400(10), 2.2-4019 and 2.2-4021 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code").

A Special Conference Committee ("Committee") will inquire into allegations that you may have violated certain laws governing the practice of medicine in Virginia. Specifically, you may have violated Section 54.1-2915.A(4) as codified prior to July 1, 2003 for conduct prior to July 1, 2003, 54.1-2915.A(8) [formerly 54.1-2914.A(3)], 54.1-2915.A(13) [formerly 54.1-2914.A(8)] and 54.1-2915.A(16) [formerly 54.1-2914.A(11)] of the Code in your treatment of Patient A, in that:

1. On or about January 9, 2002, you undertook the pain management of Patient A, a 37-year-old male who reported suffering from chronic pain secondary to pancreatitis. Your treatment of Patient A included the prescribing of OxyContin (Schedule II) and later, Dilaudid (Schedule II). Prior to prescribing narcotic medications to Patient A:

- a. you failed to obtain an adequate medical history;
- b. you failed to document that you had corroborated Patient A's medical history and functional reason for pain;
- c. you failed to perform an adequate physical examination;
- d. you failed to obtain an adequate substance abuse history;
- e. you failed to order a pre-treatment urine drug screen; and

- f. you failed to utilize a pain treatment agreement and to document informed consent to treatment with narcotic medications.
2. From approximately January 2002 to February 2003, during the course of treatment of Patient A's pain with narcotic medications:
    - a. you failed to document your rationale for changing Patient A's medication from oxycodone to OxyContin on January 16, 2002;
    - b. you performed only limited physical examinations;
    - c. you failed, despite Patient A's continuous abuse of Dilaudid and alcohol, to address his problems of addiction with appropriate treatment or referral, while continuing to prescribe Dilaudid. You further failed to monitor Patient A's compliance with medication orders through the use of random urine screens, medication counts, or other appropriate means.

Please see Attachment I for the name of the patient referenced above.

After consideration of all information, the Committee may:

1. Exonerate you;
2. Place you on probation with such terms it deems appropriate.
3. Reprimand you;
4. Modify a previous Order; and
5. Impose a monetary penalty pursuant to Section 54.1-2401 of the Code.

Further, the Committee may refer this matter for a formal administrative proceeding when it has failed to dispose of a case by consent pursuant to Section 2.2-4019 of the Code.

You have the right to information that will be relied upon by the Committee in making a decision. Therefore, I enclose a copy of the documents that will be distributed to the Committee for its consideration when discussing the allegations with you and when deliberating upon your case. These documents are enclosed only with the original notice sent by certified mail, and must be claimed at the post office. Further, if you retain counsel, it is your responsibility to provide the enclosed materials to your attorney.

To facilitate this proceeding, you must submit eight (8) copies of any documents you wish for the Committee to consider to Reneé S. Dixon, Discipline Case Manager, Virginia Board of Medicine, 6603 West Broad Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23230-1717, by **August 31, 2006**. Your documents may not be submitted by facsimile or e-mail. Should you or Adjudication Specialist Virginia Scher wish to submit any documents for

