



Fields of Opportunities

STATE OF IOWA

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR  
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IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE  
KENT M. NEBEL, J.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE**  
**(August 15, 2019)**

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medicine took the following action:

**Khaja N. Chisty, M.D.**, a 42-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced psychiatry in Thornton, Colorado, and currently practices in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, had an Amended Order issued by the Iowa Board on August 2, 2019. On November 18, 2016, the Colorado Medical Board (Colorado Board) entered an Order of Suspension, suspending Dr. Chisty's Colorado medical license. The Colorado Board alleged that Dr. Chisty was out of the country and physically absent from his office for extended periods of time between October 2, 2015, and January 12, 2016. The Colorado Board alleged that Dr. Chisty failed to adequately monitor patients who were prescribed certain controlled substances; failed to appropriately transfer or terminate certain patients who were otherwise unable to obtain care from Dr. Chisty's office while he was out of the country; inappropriately conducted appointments remotely through telehealth technologies; and prescribed inappropriate combinations of benzodiazepines, stimulants and Suboxone to certain patients. On April 26, 2018, the Colorado Board entered a Stipulation and Final Agency Order. The Colorado Board prohibited Dr. Chisty from engaging in the use of telehealth technologies to practice medicine and from prescribing, possessing, maintaining, administering or dispensing any controlled substance. The Colorado Board also ordered Dr. Chisty to complete a competence assessment and a prescribing course. The Colorado Board also placed Dr. Chisty on probation for a period of five years and ordered him to have a practice monitor and participate in monitoring through the Colorado Physician Health Program. On April 12, 2019, Dr. Chisty entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Iowa Board and the Board charged him with being disciplined by another licensing Board in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. Under the terms of the April 12, 2019, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Iowa Board issued Dr. Chisty a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty. The Iowa Board also placed Dr. Chisty on probation for a period of five years subject to Board monitoring, prohibited him from engaging in telehealth and from prescribing, possessing, maintaining, administering or dispensing any controlled substance. The Iowa Board also ordered him to complete Board-approved neuropsychological testing. On May 9, 2019, Dr. Chisty requested that the Iowa Board amend the April 12, 2019, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement. On August 2, 2019, the Iowa Board issued an Amended Order terminating the provision prohibiting Dr. Chisty from prescribing, possessing, maintaining, administering, or dispensing any controlled substance.

**Sameer Gupta, M.D.**, a 48-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly operated vein clinics in multiple locations in Minnesota and currently operates a vein clinic in St. Joseph, Missouri, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Iowa Board on August 2, 2019. On June 12, 2017, Dr. Gupta entered into a Stipulation and Order for Voluntary Surrender with the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice (Minnesota Board). The Minnesota Board alleged that Dr. Gupta engaged in unethical and unprofessional conduct in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Minnesota, including improper delegation of patient evaluations and development of treatment plans, performance of procedures without sufficient patient evaluation, performance of excessive or unnecessary procedures, and improper billing practices, including fee splitting. Dr. Gupta agreed to voluntarily surrender his Minnesota medical license to resolve the pending matter. Under the terms of the August 2, 2019, Settlement Agreement, the Iowa Board issued Dr. Gupta a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty and complete a professional ethics program within one year of the date of the Order.

**Venkateswara R. Karuparthi, M.D.**, a 58-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced pain management in Davenport, Iowa, and Rock Island, Illinois, entered into a Stipulated Order – Agreement Not to Practice with the Iowa Board on August 2, 2019. On December 20, 2018, Dr. Karuparthi was charged with criminal sexual abuse in Rock Island County, Illinois. The criminal charges allege that Dr. Karuparthi fondled a female staff member while providing medical care to the female staff member on August 23, 2018. The criminal charges are pending resolution. Under the terms of the Stipulated Order – Agreement Not to Practice, Dr. Karuparthi agreed not to engage in any aspect of the practice of medicine under his Iowa medical license until the pending criminal charges are resolved.

**Janice A. Kirsch, M.D.**, a 56-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices family medicine in Mason City, Iowa, had an Amended Order issued by the Board on August 2, 2019. On February 15, 2018, Dr. Kirsch entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board charged Dr. Kirsch with improper pain management. The Board alleged that Dr. Kirsch violated the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa when she failed to provide appropriate pain management to multiple patients in Mason City, Iowa, between 2010 and 2017. Under the terms of the February 15, 2018, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board prohibited Dr. Kirsch from prescribing, administering or dispensing controlled substances for the treatment of chronic pain under her Iowa medical license. This prohibition did not prohibit Dr. Kirsch from prescribing, administering or dispensing controlled substances for the treatment of acute pain. On June 24, 2019, Dr. Kirsch requested that she be permitted to provide refill prescriptions of Tramadol for patients currently taking Tramadol and be allowed to prescribe controlled substances to patients in nursing homes. Under the terms of the August 2, 2019, Amended Order, the Board permitted Dr. Kirsch to prescribe controlled substances to patients in residential hospice and nursing home settings and refill prescriptions of Tramadol for patients who currently have a prescription for Tramadol.

**Todd A. Leonard, M.D.**, a 51-year-old physician who practices medicine in multiple correctional facilities in Minnesota, and intends to practice in correctional facilities in Iowa, entered into a Consent Agreement with the Iowa Board on August 14, 2019. On May 14, 2011, Dr. Leonard entered into a Stipulation and Order with the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice (Minnesota Board). The Minnesota Board alleged that Dr. Leonard prescribed narcotic pain medications to multiple patients between 2001 and 2006 without providing appropriate assessments, instructions and monitoring, and without maintaining appropriate medical records. The Minnesota Board issued Dr. Leonard a Reprimand and ordered him to pay a \$11,743.30 civil penalty. The Minnesota Board also ordered Dr. Leonard to complete additional medical education in the areas of medical

records management, chronic pain management and professional boundaries. The Minnesota Board also required Dr. Leonard to practice with a Board-approved supervising physician and performed audits of his patient charts. On September 7, 2013, the Minnesota Board issued an Order of Unconditional License removing the conditions placed on Dr. Leonard's Minnesota medical license. Under the terms of the August 14, 2019, Consent Agreement, the Iowa Board granted Dr. Leonard an Iowa medical license and issued him Citation and Warning for being disciplined by the Minnesota Board. The Iowa Board noted that this Consent Agreement is based solely on the Stipulation and Order Dr. Leonard entered into with the Minnesota Board on May 14, 2011.

[Andrew O. Obamwonyi, M.D.](#), a 55-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced emergency medicine in Des Moines, Iowa, and Elkhorn, Nebraska, and currently practices preventative medicine in Storm Lake, Iowa, had a Statement of Charges filed by the Board on August 2, 2019. The Board alleged that Dr. Obamwonyi demonstrated evidence of professional incompetency in the practice of medicine. On April 11, 2018, Dr. Obamwonyi completed a comprehensive clinical competency evaluation at the Center for Personalized Education for Physicians (CPEP) and CPEP concluded that Dr. Obamwonyi demonstrated deficiencies in medical knowledge; clinical judgment and reasoning; patient care documentation; practice-based learning and communication skills. CPEP recommended that Dr. Obamwonyi participate in a structured, individualized education intervention, to address the identified areas of need, which includes a point-of-care experience, an educational preceptor, continuing medical education and self-study and a clinical reassessment. A hearing is scheduled on September 25–26, 2019.

[David B. Robinson, M.D.](#), a 45-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced neurology in Iowa City, Iowa, and who currently resides in Maine, had the terms of a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement terminated by the Board on August 2, 2019. On October 28, 2016, Dr. Robinson entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board alleged that Dr. Robinson engaged in unprofessional conduct and violated appropriate professional boundaries in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. The Board alleged that Dr. Robinson engaged in sexual relations with a female co-worker and later prescribed non-controlled medications to her on multiple occasions between September 2013 and March 2014 without performing appropriate examinations and without maintaining appropriate medical records while practicing medicine in Iowa City, Iowa. Under the terms of the October 28, 2016, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Robinson a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty. The Board also placed Dr. Robinson on probation for a period of five years subject to counseling and Board monitoring. On March 6, 2019, Dr. Robinson requested that the Board terminate the terms of the October 28, 2016 combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement. On August 2, 2019, the Board determined that Dr. Robinson has complied with the terms of the Order to the satisfaction of the Board, and voted to terminate the terms of the October 28, 2016, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement and return his Iowa medical license to its full privileges, free and clear of all restrictions.

**When appropriate, disciplinary actions are reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, an electronic repository administered by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to track adverse license actions.**

**CONSUMER COMPLAINTS: Consumers can submit complaints against physicians by clicking [HERE](#), visiting the Board's Website at [www.medicalboard.iowa.gov](http://www.medicalboard.iowa.gov), calling (515) 281-5847, or mail to 400 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite C, Des Moines, IA 50309.**