

Actions taken against physicians for improper Internet prescribing

According to the Federation of State Medical Boards' *Rx Beat*, the newsletter for the National Clearinghouse on Internet Prescribing, the Drug Enforcement Agency revoked the DEA certificates for Richard Carino, MD, (not an Alabama licensee) for approving controlled substance prescriptions over the Internet while working for iPharmacy.MD.

A decision was recently handed down by the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sentencing retired surgeon Thomas Hanny, MD, (not an Alabama licensee), to 33 months in prison for authorizing Internet drug sales without any examination of patients.

From September through November 2007, the medical boards of California, Florida, Indiana, Rhode Island, Texas and Virginia took actions against physicians for prescribing medicine via the Internet, including probation, suspension, reprimands, fines and a voluntary surrender in lieu of further investigation.

New York physician Ana Maria Santi, MD, (not an Alabama licensee), received a two-year jail sentence plus one year of house confinement and two additional years of supervised probation for issuing thousands of prescriptions for HGH and steroids to clients she never met.

Report of Public Actions of the Medical Licensure Commission and Board of Medical Examiners

Medical Licensure Commission January 2008

◆ On Jan. 23, the Commission entered an Order temporarily suspending the license to practice medicine of **James C. O'Brien, MD**, license number MD.7085, Killen, AL, until such time as the Board's Administrative Complaint shall be heard and a decision rendered thereon.

◆ On Jan. 30, the Commission entered an Order terminating all conditions previously imposed on the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Joel C. Bolen, MD**, license number MD.20157, Montgomery, AL.

◆ On Jan. 30, the Commission entered an Order reinstating the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Richard D. Price, MD**, license number MD.23525, Birmingham, AL.

Board of Medical Examiners January 2008

None.

Medical Licensure Commission February 2008

◆ On Feb. 19, upon the Stipulation of

the parties, the Commission reprimanded the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Edward I. Lammons, MD**, license number MD.5532, Phenix City, AL, and assessed an administrative fine.

Board of Medical Examiners February 2008

None.

Medical Licensure Commission March 2008

◆ On March 3, the Board entered an Order reprimanding the license to practice medicine or osteopathy in Alabama of **Lisa A. Florence, DO**, license number DO.920, Southside, AL, and assessing an administrative fine.

◆ On March 3, the Commission entered an Order revoking the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Lawrence R. Jellinek, MD**, license number MD.23229, Santa Barbara, CA.

◆ On March 26, upon the stipulation of the parties, the Commission entered a Consent Order reprimanding the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Muhammad W.S. Ali, MD**,

license number MD.22219, Jasper, AL, assessing an administrative fine, and prohibiting the performance of echocardiograms and specifying to what facilities patients may be referred.

◆ On March 26, upon the stipulation of the parties, the Commission entered a Consent Order reprimanding the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Russell Dean Ulrich, DO**, license number DO.47, Piedmont, AL, assessing an administrative fine, placing the license on probation and limiting his prescribing authority.

◆ On March 26, the Commission found that the voluntary surrender of the certificate of qualification and license to practice medicine in Alabama of **James C. O'Brien, MD**, license number MD.7085, Florence, AL, signed on Feb. 28, 2008, satisfactorily resolved all pending issues in the Administrative Complaint and therefore ordered that the Administrative Complaint be dismissed.

Board of Medical Examiners March 2008

None.