

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, July 18, 2013

STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE TAKES DISCIPLINARY ACTION

WAKEFIELD: At its meeting yesterday the state Board of Registration in Medicine took disciplinary action against the medical licenses of Harshad Patel, M.D. and Michael T. Forrester, M.D.

The Board found that Dr. Harshad Patel engaged in conduct that both placed into question his competence to practice medicine and undermined the public confidence in the integrity of the medical profession by failing to explain to two patients the underlying reasons why he touched them during the course of warranted examinations. Today the Board indefinitely suspended Dr. Patel's license. Dr. Patel may petition to stay the suspension of his license after completing a neuropsychological evaluation, a clinical skills assessment and a course in physician-patient communication. Dr. Patel has been in a Voluntary Agreement Not to Practice since August 2, 2011. He is a 1981 graduate of N.H.L. Municipal Medical College, Gujarat University in India and was first licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts in 1984. Dr. Patel was previously disciplined by the Board in 1992.

The Board retroactively revoked the limited license of Dr. Michael T. Forrester, finding that he practiced medicine while under the influence of alcohol. He has been in a Voluntary Agreement Not to Practice since January 20, 2012. Dr. Forrester is a 2010 graduate of Duke University School of Medicine. He practiced in Boston and was first issued a limited license in 2010.

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine licenses more than 40,000 physicians, osteopaths and acupuncturists. The Board was created in 1894 to protect the public health and safety by setting standards for the practice of medicine and ensuring that doctors who practice in the Commonwealth are appropriately qualified and competent. The Board investigates complaints, holds hearings and determines sanctions. More information is available at www.mass.gov/massmedboard.