



Arizona Medical Board

9545 East Doubletree Ranch Road • Scottsdale, Arizona 85258

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DRAFT MINUTES FOR EMERGENCY TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Held on Friday, November 8, 2013

9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road, Scottsdale, Arizona 85258

Board Members

Gordi S. Khera, M.D., F.A.C.C., Chair

Jody L. Jenkins, M.D., Vice Chair

Harold Magalnick, M.D., Secretary

Andrea E. Ibáñez, Member At Large

Jodi A. Bain, Esq.

James M. Gillard, M.S., M.D., F.A.C.E.P., F.A.A.E.M.

Ram R. Krishna, M.D.

Douglas D. Lee, M.D.

Richard T. Perry, M.D.

Wanda J. Salter, RN

William J. Thrift, M.D.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Khera called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following Board members participated telephonically: Ms. Bain, Dr. Gillard, Ms. Ibáñez, Dr. Jenkins, Dr. Khera, Dr. Krishna, Dr. Lee, Dr. Magalnick, Dr. Perry, and Dr. Thrift. The following Board member was absent: Ms. Salter.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No individuals addressed the Board during the Call to the Public

TIME SPECIFIC MATTER

NO.	CASE NO.	PHYSICIAN	LIC. #	RESOLUTION
1.	MD-13-0504A	RICK J. GOMEZ, M.D.	33677	Summary Suspension.

Carol Peairs, M.D., Medical Consultant, provided the Board with a brief summary of the cases. Dr. Gomez was restricted from performing spinal injections per the Board's October 24, 2012 Interim Order for Practice Restriction, followed by a final Board Order prohibiting the performance of spinal injections on April 3, 2013. The Board subsequently received notification that Dr. Gomez submitted two dozen claims for billing of spinal injections, all of which were for dates of service after the Board Order for Practice Restriction became effective. The Board's Medical Consultant reviewed 7 of 13 patients' medical records for quality of care purposes. The chart review demonstrated that, despite a Board Order prohibiting spinal injections, Dr. Gomez continued to perform sacroiliac joint injections on multiple patients. The chart review also revealed multiple deviations from the standard of care regarding patient selection and the method of performance of the injections. Dr. Peairs explained to the Board that the deviations identified are similar to the deviations that were previously described in the original investigation, which culminated in the Board Order for Practice Restriction.

Board members discussed that Dr. Gomez previously told the Board that he did not realize that injection of the sacroiliac joint was similar to what he had been prohibited from performing. Dr. Gomez had stated that he did not believe that sacroiliac joint injection constituted a spinal injection. Dr. Peairs reiterated to the Board that Dr. Gomez did not stop performing sacroiliac joint injections after the April 2013 Board Order became effective. In fact, Dr. Peairs reported that Dr. Gomez informed Board staff on the date of his investigational interview in 2013 that he had performed a sacroiliac joint injection that morning. Dr. Lee stated that he, as a reasonable anesthesiologist, considered sacroiliac joint injections as part of spinal injections.

MOTION: Dr. Lee moved to summarily suspend Dr. Gomez's medical license as emergency action is imperatively required to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

SECOND: Ms. Ibáñez

ROLL CALL VOTE: Roll call vote was taken and the following Board members voted in favor of the motion: Ms. Bain, Dr. Gillard, Ms. Ibáñez, Dr. Jenkins, Dr. Khera, Dr. Krishna, Dr. Lee, Dr. Perry, and Dr. Thrift. The following Board member was absent: Ms. Salter. The following Board member did not participate in the vote: Dr. Magalnick.

**VOTE: 9-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 1-absent, 1-non-voting Board member.
MOTION PASSED.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.



Patricia E. McSorley, Interim Acting Executive Director