

**DATE: 02-12-2010**

#### **4 Arizona Physicians Surrender Their Licenses for Unprofessional Conduct**

The Arizona Medical Board accepted the proposed Consent Agreements for Surrender of License from Octavio G. Fernandez, M.D., Thomas E. Cosmas, M.D., Gerald J. Taitague, M.D., and Frederick t. Strand, M.D. All four physicians admitted they committed unprofessional conduct and agreed to the disciplinary action.

Dr. Fernandez, a Yuma anesthesiologist who was first licensed in 1979, admitted to habitual intemperance in the use of alcohol.

Dr. Cosmas, who held an Arizona license for more than 42 years, practiced internal medicine in Lakeside. He admitted that he failed to maintain adequate medical records and that his conduct was or might be harmful or dangerous to patients.

Dr. Taitague had a general practice in Williams. He admitted violating a practice restriction prohibiting him from prescribing, dispensing or administering any controlled substances for ten years.

And Dr. Strand, a Whiteriver emergency medicine doctor, admitted prescribing controlled substances without conducting an appropriate evaluation of patients' problems.

The cases were adjudicated during the Medical Board's meeting on February 10th. The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2010.