



North Carolina Medical Board

Eleanor E. Greene, MD: President | Timothy E. Lietz, MD: President-Elect | Barbara E. Walker, DO: Secretary/Treasurer

June 1, 2017

Via – Attorney of Record

Laurence E. Dahners, M.D.
UNC Dept. of Orthopaedics
3153 Bioinformatics Bldg., CB 7055
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7055

Dear Dr. Dahners:

The North Carolina Medical Board (“Board”) has concluded its investigation regarding the professional liability payment paid on your behalf on June 21, 2016. It is the Board’s decision not to commence formal proceedings against your license to practice medicine at this time. However, the Board did vote to issue you this public letter of concern. The Board does not consider a public letter of concern to be a disciplinary action or a limitation or restriction on your license.

The Board is concerned that you performed a left side sciatic neuroplasty and piriformis tendon release on Patient A when, in fact, Patient A had been scheduled for this procedure to be performed on the patient’s opposite side. You indicated all pre-operative verification procedures and timeouts were conducted, including placing a mark on the intended surgical site. However, in spite of these precautions, everyone in the room failed to recognize that the patient had been turned onto the wrong side. Thus, a “surgical site” error was committed and not recognized until the completion of Patient A’s procedure.

The Board appreciates that you have implemented several further practice improvement policies in response to this event. Also, the Board favorably notes the words of its reviewer who commented that although any wrong site surgery would be considered below the standard of care, the three-step time-out procedure employed by the surgical team was well beyond the norm, and that the error must have been dismaying to a team that he felt certainly took pride in their work and professionalism.

The Board is concerned that your care of Patient A may have failed to conform to the standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice in North Carolina. The Board urges you to continue taking steps to ensure that errors like this do not happen again. Otherwise, the Board may vote to commence formal disciplinary proceedings against your license to practice medicine. If that happens, this letter may be entered into evidence in determining the appropriate discipline.

This letter is a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and is subject to public inspection and dissemination as required by that law. It will be reported to the Federation of State Medical Boards; however, it will not be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

Sincerely,

Eleanor E. Greene, M.D.
President

EEG/MJ/wl

cc: Allyson Lawless

Consent and Waiver

I, Laurence E. Dahners, M.D. would like to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings and consent to the Board's issuance of a public letter of concern in resolution of my current matter.

Consented to this the 26th day of May, 2017.



Laurence E. Dahners, M.D.

State of North Carolina

County of Wake

I, Cheryl A. Cooper, a Notary Public for the above named County and State, do hereby certify that Laurence E. Dahners, M.D. personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal

this the 26th day of May, 2017.

Cheryl A. Cooper

Notary Public



My Commission Expires: March 9, 2021