



North Carolina Medical Board

Barbara E. Walker, DO: President | Bryant A. Murphy, MD: President-Elect | Venkata Jonnalagadda, MD: Secretary/Treasurer

October 8, 2019

Certified – Return Receipt Requested

William Alton Ballance, Jr., M.D.
Greenville Pathology, P.A.
2515 Bowman Gray Drive
Greenville, NC 27834-7215

Dear Dr. Ballance:

The North Carolina Medical Board (“Board”) has concluded its investigation related to a complaint concerning a pathological assessment you provided for Patient A. It is the Board’s decision not to commence formal proceedings against your license at this time. However, the Board voted to issue you this public letter of concern and require that you take a continuing medical education (“CME”) course. The Board does not consider a public letter of concern or the CME requirement to be a disciplinary action or a limitation or restriction on your license.

The Board is concerned that on December 31, 2017, a surgical pathology specimen was submitted to you, following an appendectomy with colostomy performed on Patient A. Within two weeks, you communicated a verbal preliminary report finding a likely adenocarcinoma of the appendix. Your final report was not submitted until more than six months later on July 14, 2018.

The Board had your care of Patient A reviewed by an outside medical expert in pathology. This expert opined that you fell below accepted standards of care by taking over six months to provide your final pathology report. This expert also noted that, once your final report was obtained, diagnostic discrepancies were noted by Patient A’s subsequent treating health care providers. Had your pathology report been finalized in a more timely manner, these discrepancies could have been identified sooner and adjuvant therapy could have been instituted sooner.

The Board requires, and you agree, that within six (6) months from the date of this letter, you shall complete a category 1 continuing medical education (“CME”) course regarding communication and professionalism. Approval for such CME must be obtained from the Board’s Office of Medical Director by contacting the Board’s Compliance Coordinator to facilitate approval at compliance@ncmedboard.org, before taking the CME. You must provide proof of completion of such CME course to the Board within thirty (30) days of completion by emailing proof of CME compliance to compliance@ncmedboard.org.

The Board urges you to take steps to ensure that the conduct giving rise to the Board’s concerns does not happen again. Otherwise, the Board may vote to commence formal disciplinary proceedings against your license. If that happens, this letter may be entered into evidence in determining the appropriate action.

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,

Barbara E. Walker, D.O.
President

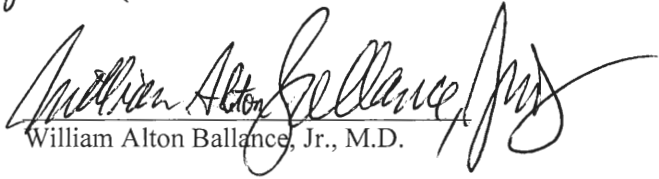
BEW/PFB/wl

Consent and Waiver

I, William Alton Ballance, Jr., M.D., would like to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings and consent to the Board's issuance of this Public Letter of Concern in resolution of the matter referenced above. I hereby waive any requirement under any law or rule that this Public Letter of Concern be served on me.

I further agree to attend the required continuing medical education ("CME") on the terms specified in this public letter of concern. I agree to contact the Board's Compliance Coordinator at compliance@ncmedboard.org once this CME is completed and provide proof of CME completion.

Consented to this the 30th day of September, 2019.


William Alton Ballance, Jr., M.D.

State of North Carolina

County of Pitt

I, Susan M. Cyphers, do hereby certify that William Alton Ballance, Jr., 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 30 day of September, 2019.

Susan M. Cyphers
Notary Public

(Official Seal)

My Commission Expires: 2-24-2024

