December 20, 2018

Via Attorney of Record

William Christopher McLeod, D.O.
New Hanover Medical Group
1960 S. 16th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

Dear Dr. McLeod:

The North Carolina Medical Board (“Board”) has concluded its investigation regarding the professional liability payment paid on your behalf on October 16, 2017. It is the Board’s decision not to commence formal proceedings against your license. 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.

On March 1, 2016, Patient A, a 39-year-old generally healthy male, was seen to reestablish care with the practice by a physician assistant at your practice. Patient A expressed concern about possible heart burn and described discomfort just below his sternum that radiated to the right side of his chest, pressure that occasionally radiated into his right arm, and left shoulder pain. He reported relief of his symptoms with Nexium. He explained that he had been dealing with shoulder pain since November 2015. Your physician assistant ordered an ECG and the results were abnormal. The patient had no prior ECG for comparison. Your physician assistant discussed the patient’s history, evaluation and abnormal ECG results with you. You recommended that your physician assistant perform additional blood work, including a troponin level, which did not occur. A follow-up appointment was made for the patient by the physician assistant for the next day.

On March 2, 2016, Patient A returned to see you for his follow-up appointment. The patient reported having not sought primary care services for greater than 10 years. You performed a physical examination during which the patient denied any chest pain, shortness of breath or palpitations. The patient reported that his symptoms of burning in his chest resolved with Nexium. You concurred with the diagnosis of gastroesophageal reflux as the cause of the patient’s symptoms based on the patient’s report that his symptoms resolved with Nexium. You discussed with patient that since he was asymptomatic a follow-up complete physical exam with blood work should be scheduled. You discussed with the patient that after a complete risk factor analysis you could determine whether he would be a candidate for treadmill stress test or a nuclear stress test. A follow-up physical appointment was scheduled by your staff for May 6, 2016. Patient A died of a fatal cardiac arrhythmia secondary to coronary artery atherosclerotic disease approximately six weeks later.
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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 in that you failed to appreciate and address Patient A’s abnormal ECG coupled with his clinical presentation. The Board urges you to take steps to ensure 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 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,

Bryant A. Murphy, M.D.
President Elect

BAM/MJ/It
Consent and Waiver

I, William Christopher McLeod, D.O., 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 above matter. I hereby waive any requirement under any law or rule that this public letter of concern be served on me.

Consented to this the 19 day of December, 2018.

[Signature]

William Christopher McLeod, D.O.

State of North Carolina

County of New Hanover

I, Lauren Komons, do hereby certify that William Christopher McLeod, D.O., personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the date execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal this the 19 day of December, 2018.

[Signature]

Lauren Komons
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: Feb 22, 2020

North Carolina Medical Board