



**NORTH CAROLINA  
MEDICAL BOARD**

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June 29, 2015

**Via Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested**

Robert R. Ratcliffe, III, M.D.  
123 Grace Heights  
Rutherfordton, NC 28139-7210

Dear Dr. Ratcliffe:

The North Carolina Medical Board (“Board”) has concluded its inquiry regarding your prescribing practice. Although the Board decided not to commence formal disciplinary proceedings against your license, it did vote to issue you this public letter of concern.

The Board is concerned about information it received that you had written prescriptions for controlled substances for three individuals for whom you did not perform appropriate examinations or maintain appropriate records. You have indicated that you wrote the prescriptions because those persons did not have insurance and they were all former patients of yours. The prescriptions were written on a form from Saint Luke’s Hospital in Columbus, NC in October 2014. At the time you wrote these prescriptions, you were retired and no longer practiced at Saint Luke’s Hospital. You voluntarily surrendered your controlled substance prescribing permit to the Drug Enforcement Agency when questioned about one of the prescriptions in question.

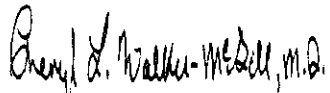
In your case, the Board is concerned that you prescribed various medications, including controlled substances, to several people outside of proper medical practice and that you did not keep an appropriate medical record of the treatment provided to these individuals.

The Board urges you to make sure 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 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.

Robert R. Ratcliffe, III, M.D.  
June 29, 2015  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl L. Walker-McGill, M.D." The signature is written in a cursive style.

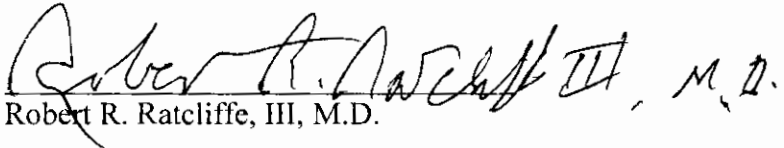
Cheryl L. Walker-McGill, M.D.  
Board President

CMG/DTB/coh

Consent and Waiver

I, Robert R. Ratcliffe, III, 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.

Consented to this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015.

  
Robert R. Ratcliffe, III, M.D.

State of NC

County of Polk

I, Brenda K. Henson, a Notary Public for the above named County and State, do hereby certify that Robert R. Ratcliffe, III, 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015.

  
Notary Public

(SEAL)

My Commission expires: 4.30.2018