

C.21

Letters Stating Number of
Complaints from Boards of Medicine
and Nursing (2011)



October 27, 2011

At the request of the group, I have compiled the following information on Disciplinary Actions from the Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine. From 2007 to Oct 24, 2011 there were 1043 complaints made to the Board. Seventy-seven (77) complaints resulted in Disciplinary Action. Of those 77 disciplines, 22 were for unprofessional conduct related to the prescribing of controlled substances. Of the 22 prescribing related disciplines, 9 (41%) were for self-prescribing and/or abuse only.

Detailed information on dismissed cases is not readily available. I am unable to determine the number of complaints brought against prescribers for such actions as discontinuing narcotics for a contract breach, refusal to initiate narcotics, etc.

Occasionally, a complaint will not rise to a level that warrants discipline, however the Board has concerns regarding a practitioner's prescribing practices. In these cases, the Board will often work with the clinician through education on the prescribing of controlled substances and/or conduct periodic audits of the practitioner's prescribing. These cases are dismissed once the practitioner demonstrates proficiency with prescribing of controlled substances. There are 2-4 of these cases per year.

Mark S. Cooper, M.D.
Medical Director
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PAUL R. LEPAGE
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MYRA A. BROADWAY, J.D., M.S., R.N.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 12, 2011

Maine State Legislature

To Whom It May Concern:

Per my conversation with Bonnie Lunquist, this is to confirm there have been no incidences within the last five years where the Board has found that a nurse practitioner failed to provide adequate pain relief to a patient.

Sincerely,

Myra A. Broadway, J.D., M.S., R.N.
Executive Director

MAB/clb



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