

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of)
FRANCIS J. WOO, JR., M.D.)
Holder of License No. 10705)
For the Practice of Medicine)
In the State of Arizona.)

FINDINGS OF FACT,
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
AND DECREE OF CENSURE

FRANCIS J. WOO, JR., M.D., after hereby appearing before the Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") on October 11, 1990, and after evaluating the evidence and arguments in this matter, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED entering the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

I

The Board of Medical Examiners of the State of Arizona is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of medicine in the State of Arizona, pursuant to A.R.S. §32-1401, et seq.

II

FRANCIS J. WOO, JR., M.D., is the holder of License No. 10705 for the practice of medicine in the State of Arizona.

III

As a result of a inspection and interview conducted by the Board's staff investigator (Michael Zakrzewski), Doctor FRANCES J. WOO, JR., was found to be performing chelation therapy with his patients. The chelation therapy is performed with the assistance of a nurse twice weekly for two to three hours. During the course of the aforementioned

investigative interview and inspection, Doctor WOO acknowledged that he has been performing chelation therapy for three to four years and primarily for the treatment of arteriosclerosis.

IV

During the course of the aforementioned investigative interview and inspection of May 7, 1990, the Board's staff investigator requested that Doctor WOO provide a copy of a written protocol for the use of chelation therapy. However, Doctor WOO did not provide to the Board's investigator a copy of the aforementioned written protocol.

V

During the inspection and interview of May 7, 1990, the Board's staff investigator requested that Doctor WOO provide copies of written patient consent forms that Doctor WOO asserted were used for the chelation therapy patients. However, Doctor WOO could not provide copies of the patient consent forms for review by the Board's investigator. Furthermore, the Board's staff subsequently requested and received copies of seven patients' medical histories who had received chelation therapy; and, none of the patient records contained copies of the appropriate patient consent document for chelation therapy.

VI

During the course of the inspection and interview conducted by the Board's staff investigator on May 7, 1990, Doctor WOO stated that he has provided chelation therapy to approximately 50 to 100 patients.

VII

By letter dated June 27, 1984, the Board's Executive Director informed Doctor WOO of its intent to promulgate an administrative rule limiting the use of chelation therapy to the treatment of arteriosclerosis for experimental treatment purposes. The aforementioned letter also indicated that the appropriate experimental protocol should be followed for the use of chelation therapy should be as adopted by the U.S. Federal Drug Administration.

VIII

A.R.S. §32-1401(19)(gg), as amended and effective in 1987, defines unprofessional conduct as follows:

(gg) Using chelation therapy in the treatment of arteriosclerosis or as any other form of therapy, with the exception of treatment of heavy metal poisoning, without adequate informed patient consent and without conforming to generally accepted experimental criteria, including protocols, detailed records, periodic analysis of results and periodic review by a peer review committee.

IX

Doctor WOO has provided to the Board the medical records of patients receiving chelation therapy from May, 1989 through May, 1990. The aforementioned records do not contain adequate informed patient consent documents concerning use of chelation therapy; and, the aforementioned patient records establish that Doctor WOO did not conform

the use of chelation therapy to accepted experimental criteria, including protocols, detailed records, periodic analysis of results and periodic review by a peer review committee.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

X

The Board of Medical Examiners of the State of Arizona possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over FRANCIS J. WOO, JR., M.D.

XI

The conduct described in Paragraphs III through IX, herein constitutes unprofessional conduct in violation of A.R.S. §32-1401(20)(a), (gg).¹

ORDER


Based upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth above, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That FRANCIS J. WOO, JR., M.D. is Censured for unprofessional conduct.

ENTERED this 6 day of November, 1990.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

[S E A L]

BY 
DOUGLAS N. CERF
Executive Director

¹ Effective September 27, 1990, A.R.S. §32-1401(19) and its subsections were amended and renumbered A.R.S. §32-1401(20)