

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CONTACT:

Nancy Achin Audesse
(617) 654-9867

STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE TAKES DISCIPLINARY ACTION

BOSTON: At its meeting today, the State Board of Registration in Medicine accepted an Agreement for Practice Restrictions from Joseph Upton, III, M.D.

Dr. Upton is a 1970 graduate of Baylor College of Medicine and was first licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts in 1977. He is board certified in plastic surgery and surgery of the hand, and has privileges at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), Children's Hospital and Shriners' Hospital. On April 20, Dr. Upton voluntarily agreed not to practice medicine for two weeks while the Board continued an investigation into an incident that occurred at BIDMC.

In the Agreement for Practice Restrictions Dr. Upton agreed that, effective immediately, any surgeries he performs at any medical facility will be monitored by another attending physician at that facility. All monitors will be approved in writing, in advance, by the Board or a Board designee. Dr. Upton further agreed not to leave the surgical floor during any procedure, and not to schedule or perform surgical procedures at more than one medical facility on any given day. He also agreed to follow all hospital policies and procedures with respect to his supervision of medical residents and fellows. This agreement by Dr. Upton will remain in effect indefinitely, until further order of the Board.

In announcing today's agreement, Nancy Achin Audesse, the Executive Director of the Board, said, "The Board wishes to acknowledge the full cooperation it received from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in this case. Both the medical and administrative staff were very helpful as the Board attempted to craft an approach to this case that is in the best interests of patient safety."

Audesse also announced that Board Chair Martin Crane, M.D., has formed an ad hoc committee to review the issues with respect to the appropriate level of supervision for hospital residents and fellows. Board member John Herman, M.D. will chair the ad hoc committee.

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine licenses more than 30,000 physicians, osteopaths and acupuncturists. The Board was created in 1894 to protect the public health and safety by setting standards for the practice of medicine and ensuring that doctors who practice in the Commonwealth are appropriately qualified and competent. The Board investigates complaints, holds hearings and determines sanctions. More information about the Board is available at www.massmedboard.org.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Copies of orders issued by the Board are available by calling the Public Information Coordinator at (617) 654-9831.

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