

STATE OF COLORADO

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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Bruce M. Douglas, Director



Bill Owens
Governor

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

April 12, 2001
Case # 5199010371

Robert M. Rifkin, M.D.
1800 Williams Street, Suite 350
Denver, Colorado 80218

Dear Dr. Rifkin:

Inquiry Panel A of the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners has concluded its investigation regarding your role in the care and treatment of patient A.B. It was the Panel's decision not to commence with formal proceedings against your license to practice medicine. However, the Panel did vote to administer disciplinary action to you in the form of this letter of admonition.


In June 1996 and again in September 1996, leukemia patient A.B. was referred to you by board-certified oncologists who were following her. You were asked to evaluate A.B. for possible graft versus host disease ("GVHD") following bone marrow transplantation. Rather than reviewing A.B.'s previous laboratory test results yourself or repeating the tests, the Panel found that you relied unduly on reported laboratory test results. Although you recommended several tests to complete an assessment for GVHD, you reported that you believed it to be less likely that A.B. had GVHD and focused on depression as the cause of her symptoms. The Panel found that your reports to the referring oncologists did not sufficiently communicate the importance of performing the follow-up evaluation you recommended to confirm or rule out GVHD, given the probability of GVHD in this patient.

By this letter, the Panel hereby admonishes you and cautions you that complaints disclosing any repetition of such practice may lead to the commencement of formal disciplinary proceedings against your license to practice medicine, wherein this letter of admonition may be entered into evidence as aggravation.

You have agreed to waive your right to contest this letter of admonition pursuant to § 12-36-118(4)(c)(III), C.R.S.

Very truly yours,

FOR THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
INQUIRY PANEL A


Irene Aguilar, M.D.

Chair

xc: Paul E. Scott, M.D., J.D.

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