



North Carolina Medical Board

John W. Rusher, MD, JD: President | Michaux R. Kilpatrick, MD, PhD: President-Elect | Christine M. Khandelwal, DO: Secretary/Treasurer

June 16, 2022

Patricia Colon-Garcia, M.D.
Tele-Specialists, LLC
9110 College Pointe Court
Fort Myers, FL 33919

Dear Dr. Colon-Garcia:

The North Carolina Medical Board (“Board”) has concluded its investigation regarding your care of Patient A. It is the Board’s decision not to commence formal proceedings against your license. However, the Board voted to issue you this public letter of concern. The Board does not consider a public letter of concern to be a disciplinary action or a limitation or restriction on your license.

On February 25, 2019, a sixty-seven-year-old male (“Patient A”) was transported from his home to a nearby hospital by EMS after demonstrating signs of a possible stroke, including slurred speech, left facial droop, and weakness on his left side. The attending physician evaluated Patient A and assigned a 3 out of 42 on the National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale based mainly on Patient A’s left leg weakness. The attending physician then ordered a noncontrast CT which was negative for hemorrhage. You were called in for a tele-neurology consult approximately 1.5 hours after onset of Patient A’s symptoms. Your impression was that Patient A was suffering from an acute stroke, but that Patient A’s presentation was not suggestive of a large vessel occlusion. Therefore, you did not recommend a CT angiogram (“CTA”) of Patient A’s head at the time. Patient A was admitted to the hospital for observation and a subsequent CTA of Patient A’s head revealed a large vessel occlusion. On March 1, 2019, Patient A was discharged to a rehabilitation facility secondary to cognitive impairment and need for assistance with all activities of daily life.

The Board is concerned that you failed to consider that Patient A may have had an impending large vessel occlusion in progress and did not recommend a CTA. Had you recommended a CTA at the time of your consultation, you may have identified the impending large vessel occlusion and intervention measures could have been taken before Patient A developed permanent and severe disabilities.

The Board is concerned that your care of Patient A may have failed to conform to the standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice in North Carolina. The Board urges you to take steps to ensure the conduct giving rise to the Board’s concerns does not happen again. Otherwise, the Board may take additional action against your license to practice medicine. If that happens, this letter may be reviewed in determining the appropriate action.

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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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Rusher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being particularly prominent.

John W. Rusher, M.D., J.D.
President

JWR/MJ/jhg

Consent and Waiver

I, Patricia Colon-Garcia, 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 above matter. I hereby waive any requirement under any law or rule that this public letter of concern be served on me.

Consented to this the 14th day of June, 2022.



Patricia Colon-Garcia, M.D.

State of Louisiana

County of ORLEANS

I, Randy J. Boudreaux, do hereby certify that Patricia Colon-Garcia, 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 14th day of June, 2022.


Notary Public

(Official Seal)

My Commission Expires: FULL T.E.

