

ORIGINAL

Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline

**In the Matter of
Anthony Donatelli, D.C.**

Summary Suspension

The Board of Chiropractic Examiners received complaints regarding Anthony Donatelli, D.C. indicating a pattern of conduct indicating professional standards that fall seriously below those expected of a licensed health care professional. It is apparent from the outset of his licensure in Rhode Island on July 27, 1999 that the Respondent has repeatedly engaged in conduct unbecoming of a licensed chiropractic physician.

The Board's findings are as follows:

1. Respondent forged the name of an osteopathic physician, a former associate, on a report to a liability insurance carrier for financial gain as evidenced by affidavit received by the Department of Health on March 31, 2004.
2. The Respondent knowingly practiced chiropractic medicine in Rhode Island without a license. The Respondent started practicing at a Cranston location in April of 1999, three months before he was issued his RI license on July 27th.

3. The Board of Chiropractic Examiners has noted that the Respondent had not disclosed the 1986 arrest for possession of 20 syringes and needles and anabolic steroids and has noted his Nolo Plea for operating on a suspended license when submitting his original licensing application. When applying for a renewal application, signed on the 18th of September, 2002, the Respondent falsely answered “no” to the question of Disciplinary action Question A.
4. Respondent committed billing fraud by billing 3rd party insurers for services from October 8-16, 2002 that were not provided because he was in the hospital during the period when treatments were allegedly rendered.
5. Respondent has engaged in a scheme to defraud insurance carriers and patients by utilizing an “electrodiagnostic study” allegedly to assist in the differential diagnosis of radiculopathy vs. peripheral neuropathy. These studies were done without needle electromyography and were read by out-of-state chiropractors. The patients and liability carriers were billed excessive sums of money for tests that were incomplete and non-diagnostic in nature.
6. Respondent has utilized tests, such as diagnostic spinal ultrasound, which have been determined to be without usefulness for evaluation of back pain or radicular symptoms.
7. Respondent billed third party payers, such as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island, by coding office visits at a higher level indicating

treatments that were either not performed or are undocumented in the treatment record.

8. Respondent's treatment records do not meet the minimally acceptable standards for documentation in that it is not clear who performed the treatment, the clinical rationale for the treatment, the history and physical examination is often missing from the chart, and patients with documented and potentially serious medical problems as indicated by the medical record are often not referred to qualified practitioners who are licensed and trained to address the issues reported by the Respondent.
9. On the 22nd February 2002, the Respondent pleaded Nolo to assault and battery upon his girlfriend of 3 ½ years and willfully and maliciously injuring property owned by his girlfriend.
10. On the 25th May 2002, the Respondent also pleaded Nolo to the obstruction of a police officer, and operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.
11. The Respondent engaged in deceptive advertising by advertising that massage was covered by insurance. Such advertisements failed to identify the practitioner when the number in the advertisement was the number of RI Medical Rehabilitation and/or RI Medical Rehabilitation, businesses owned by the Respondent.
12. On multiple occasions the Respondent allowed a message therapist to practice without the Respondent's supervision.

13. Respondent engage in a "kickback" scheme in which free office visits were given to patients who referred friends.

ORDER

After considering the findings of the evaluation of the Respondent and the recommendations of the Board, it has been determined that the continuation in practice of medicine of Anthony Donatelli, D.C. would constitute an immediate danger to the public. Accordingly, Anthony Donatelli, D.C. is suspended from practicing chiropractic medicine until further Order of the Department of Health. Respondent's suspension is in accordance with the terms of the administrative procedures act R.I.G.L. § 42-35-14 (c) and R.I.G.L. § 5-30-17. The Respondent is entitled to a hearing pursuant to the provisions of R.I.G.L. § 5-37-8 within 10 days of the effective date below

Patricia A. Nolan, MD, MPH
Patricia A. Nolan, MD, MPH
Director of Health

March 31, 2004
Date

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that a copy of this **ORDER** was sent via hand delivery to the Respondent and his attorney on April 1, 2004 at the following addresses:

Anthony Donatelli, DC
125 Atwells Ave.
Providence, RI 02909

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