



**COLORADO**

Department of  
Regulatory Agencies

Division of Professions and Occupations

May 22, 2020

Jeffrey Kesten, M.D.

Re: License Number: DR. 0031919  
Case Number: 2018-5306-B

Dear Dr. Kesten:

The Colorado Medical Board has concluded its inquiry into the aforementioned matter. It was the Panel's decision not to commence with formal proceedings against your professional license. However, the Panel did determine disciplinary action in the form of this letter of admonition is warranted.

As you recall, in April 2017, patient C.P., a 32-year old male, presented for evaluation and treatment of whole body allodynia and hyperalgesia, torticollis, anorexia, depression and anxiety disorder. You prescribed frequent ketamine troches and other forms of ketamine to the patient. There was concern for potential drug-seeking behavior, and your medical records reflect your recognition of the potential for "doctor shopping." Also, the patient was previously evaluated at several institutions, and multiple sources questioned the patient's diagnosis of complete regional pain syndrome. In your response to the Board through counsel, you stated that although it is a controlled substance, ketamine is not considered to be physiologically "addictive" as are opioids.

After a review of all the information in this matter, the Panel found that your care and treatment of patient C.P. fell below the generally accepted standards of practice for a physician, constituting unprofessional conduct in violation of section 12-240-121 of the Colorado Revised Statutes. Specifically, you continued to prescribe ketamine despite evidence that the patient's use of ketamine may be excessive in that for at least a 3-week period during your 2.5 years of treatment he was using ketamine on a dose schedule of every 2 hours, while being treated with multiple other controlled substances. While you conclude that ketamine is not addictive, and thus not contraindicated for the patient, the Board is concerned that the patient's presentation and behavior - including the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program data indicating early refills and additional prescriptions for ketamine, escalating doses, lack of sustained improvement, and lack of significant last pain reduction - were indicative of addiction. Additionally, you continued to prescribe ketamine despite continued reports of high levels of pain.

By this letter, the Board takes the formal disciplinary action of admonishing you for the conduct specified above, and warns you that repetition of such practice may lead to imposition of more severe disciplinary action. This letter is an open public record and a reportable action to individuals or entities requesting disciplinary information. The Board strongly encourages you to review and understand the Medical Practice Act requirements and obligations for the practice of medicine in Colorado.

Pursuant to agreement with the Board, you have agreed to waive the right provided by section 12-20-404(4)(b), C.R.S. to contest this Letter of Admonition. You previously exercised your right pursuant to section 12-20-404(4)(b) to contest the Letter of Admonition.

A Letter of Admonition, when accepted, becomes a permanent, public portion of your record. It is not, however, a restriction on your practice as a physician.

If you have further questions or concerns, please visit our website at <https://www.colorado.gov/dora/dpo> or you can contact our office at [dora\\_medicalboard@state.co.us](mailto:dora_medicalboard@state.co.us) or by calling (303) 894-7800.

Sincerely,

FOR THE COLORADO MEDICAL BOARD  
With Delegated Authority from Inquiry Panel B



Paula E. Martinez  
Program Director

cc: Linda Siderius, Esq.

#### **Notice**

Your Healthcare Professions Profile will be updated to reflect this Colorado public action. Pursuant to section 12-30-102, C.R.S., your profile must be updated within 30 days of any reportable event. To ensure compliance, you must regularly review and update your profile. To access your profile, go to [www.colorado.gov/dora/hppp](http://www.colorado.gov/dora/hppp) and click the "Create/Update a Profile" link. For any questions, please contact [dora\\_dpo\\_hppp@state.co.us](mailto:dora_dpo_hppp@state.co.us).