

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

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In the Matter of Charges and
Complaint Against
NERI M. BLANCO-CUEVAS, M.D.,
Respondent.

Case No. 19-12338-1

FILED

JAN 31 2019

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL EXAMINERS
By: 

COMPLAINT

The Investigative Committee¹ (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (“Board”) hereby issues this formal Complaint against Neri M. Blanco-Cuevas, M.D. (hereinafter referred to as Respondent), a physician licensed in Nevada. After investigating this matter, the IC has a reasonable basis to believe that Respondent has violated provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 630 and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 630 (collectively, the Medical Practice Act).

The IC alleges the following facts:

1. Respondent is, and was at all times relevant to this case, a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Nevada (License No. 10819). Respondent lists her scope of practice as general surgery. Respondent was issued her license from the Board on February 26, 2004, pursuant to the provisions of NRS Chapter 630.

2. Patient A was a 64-year-old male at the time of the events at issue. His true identity is not disclosed herein to protect his privacy, but is disclosed in the Patient Designation served upon Respondent along with a copy of this Complaint.

3. Patient A initially presented to Respondent’s office on or about June 29, 2015, complaining of pain in his right hand. Respondent performed a brief physical examination and history on Patient A, and documentation of the initial visit was brief. Under the heading of “Past

¹ The Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, at the time the filing of this Complaint was approved, was composed of Wayne Hardwick, M.D., Mr. M. Neil Duxbury, and Aury Nagy, M.D.

1 Surgical History,” Respondent wrote, “Multiple orthopedic surgeries.” Respondent diagnosed
2 Patient A with a right palmar mass, scar tissue, slightly painful with range of motion secondary to
3 mass effect, but no erythema, drainage, increased pain or finger tingling. Under the heading of
4 “Assessment/Plan,” Respondent wrote, “Right palmar Mass, Dupuytrens Contracture, Office Bx.”

5 4. Patient A presented back to Respondent’s office on July 27, 2015, for the
6 procedure. Respondent, in her notes, states the following: “Informed consent obtained. Patient
7 was sitting with hand on surgical table. Injected with lidocaine hand block. Prepped and draped.
8 Scalpel and curette used to debride, I&D, release scar tissue and tendons to 4rth finger. Good
9 hemostasis. Sterile dressings placed. Well Tolerated.”

10 5. Upon information and belief, Respondent abandoned the surgery in mid-procedure
11 for fear of potential damage.

12 6. On or about September 16, 2015, Patient A presented to a hand surgeon for his
13 right hand.

14 7. The new hand surgeon felt that surgery was required but needed to be delayed to
15 provide time for healing from the previous surgery performed by Respondent.

16 8. On or about April 6, 2016, Patient A was forced to undergo another surgery on his
17 right hand. The second surgery required a rather extensive fasciectomy with a complex flap
18 closure of the hand.

19 9. The IC reviewed the findings from an Independent Medical Expert (IME), who
20 reviewed the medical records and additional relevant documentation and opined that Respondent’s
21 acts and/or omissions violated the Medical Practice Act.

22 **COUNT I**

23 **Failure to Maintain Timely, Legible, Accurate and Complete Medical Records**

24 **NRS 630.3062(1)(a)**

25 10. All of the allegations in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference
26 as though fully set forth herein.

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1 19. NRS 630.301(4) provides that malpractice is an act, among others, that constitutes
2 grounds for initiating disciplinary action.

3 20. Malpractice is defined as "the failure of a physician, in treating a patient, to use the
4 reasonable care, skill, or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances." NAC 630.040.

5 21. Respondent, including, but not limited to, did not do a thorough initial physical
6 examination, did not have the qualifications for this complex hand surgery, performed the surgery
7 in her office (rather than a well-equipped hospital), and abandoned the surgery in mid-procedure.

8 22. As a direct result of Respondent's failure to use reasonable care, skill, or
9 knowledge ordinarily used in the circumstances, Patient A was forced to undergo a second surgery
10 to address Respondent's improperly performed hand surgery.

11 23. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as
12 provided in NRS 630.352.

13 **WHEREFORE**, the Investigative Committee prays:

14 1. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners give Respondent notice of the
15 charges herein against her and give her notice that she may file an answer to the Complaint herein
16 as set forth in NRS 630.339(2) within twenty (20) days of service of the Complaint;

17 2. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners set a time and place for a
18 formal hearing after holding an Early Case Conference pursuant to NRS 630.339(3);

19 3. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners determine what sanctions to
20 impose if it determines there has been a violation or violations of the Medical Practice Act
21 committed by Respondent;

22 4. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners make, issue and serve on
23 Respondent its findings of fact, conclusions of law and order, in writing, that includes the
24 sanctions imposed; and

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5. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners take such other and further action as may be just and proper in these premises.

DATED this 31 day of January, 2019.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: 
Donald K. White, Esq., Deputy General Counsel
Attorney for the Investigative Committee

VERIFICATION

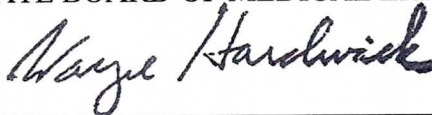
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STATE OF NEVADA)
 : ss.
COUNTY OF WASHOE)

Wayne Hardwick, M.D., having been duly sworn, hereby deposes and states under penalty of perjury that he is the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners that authorized the Complaint against the Respondent herein; that he has read the foregoing Complaint; and that based upon information discovered in the course of the investigation into a complaint against Respondent, he believes that the allegations and charges in the foregoing Complaint against Respondent are true, accurate, and correct.

DATED this 31st day of January, 2019.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS



Wayne Hardwick, M.D., Chairman