

1 experienced intermittent low back pain and that it had worsened over the course of a few days prior
2 to the ED visit.

3 5. During this visit, Patient A denied any fevers or chills, numbness or tingling, loss of
4 bowel or bladder control, or perineal numbness. Patient A underwent a CT lumbar spine that was
5 interpreted by the radiologist as demonstrating “no acute abnormality” with unremarkable soft
6 tissues and no acute fracture. The documentation reflects that Patient A felt improved after having
7 received a dose of intramuscular (IM) ketorolac and was discharged home with prescriptions for
8 naproxen and methocarbamol with recommendations to follow-up with his primary care physician
9 for a physical therapy order as well as regarding elevated blood pressure.

10 6. On April 23, 2023, just four (4) days after Patient A’s initial presentation to the
11 hospital, Patient A again presented to the ED at Banner Churchill Community Hospital (Banner).
12 Patient A complained of pain in the lower back and coccyx region, with normal sensation and
13 strength. Medical documentation reflects that Patient A had fallen onto his buttocks that day after
14 losing feeling in his legs.

15 7. The April 23, 2023, Emergency Room Report indicates a past medical history of
16 diabetes mellitus (DM). The physical exam was notable for tenderness over the coccyx with no
17 signs of trauma and normal sensation and strength. Patient A again received ketorolac 15mg IM,
18 diazepam 5mg orally, and hydrocodone/acetaminophen 5/325. Patient A was discharged thereafter.

19 8. On April 27, 2023, Patient A returned to the ED at Banner with a chief complaint of
20 “lower back pain and possible abscess on R [right] buttock.” It is noted that Patient A was
21 complaining of several days of progressive worsening pain on the right buttock with associated
22 swelling and fluid discharge. Further, the records reflect that Patient A had a small amount of
23 purulent drainage expressed from a tender site of firmness in the right medial superior gluteal region.

24 9. During the April 27, 2023, ED visit, an unsuccessful attempt at aspiration with an
25 18-gauge needle, an incision and drainage procedure was performed by the attending emergency
26 physician with use of local anesthesia. The procedure note describes a 1cm incision made with a
27 return of 10ml of purulent drainage, followed by packing with 1/4 inch gauze. Patient A was then

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1 discharged home on a seven-day course of doxycycline 100mg twice daily with instructions to
2 remove the packing the following day and to continue with sitz baths Epsom salts.

3 10. On May 4, 2023, Patient returned for a third time to the ED at Banner, and the records
4 reflect, that Patient A was transported to the hospital via Emergency Medical Services (EMS), at
5 which time Respondent evaluated Patient A. Patient A's initial triage vital signs included a
6 temperature of 36.3° Celsius (tympanic), heart rate 113, blood pressure 177/111, respiratory rate of
7 18, and a stated pain level of 9 out of 10. The ED Intake Form includes the medications Patient A
8 was taking at the time, and specifically there is a section titled "Miscellaneous Medication" with a
9 comment that "patient doesn't remember what his insulin is called."

10 11. The May 4, 2023, Emergency Room Report as documented by Respondent, indicates
11 "[t]he patient presents 'feeling sick.'" The medical notes describe Patient A complaining of back
12 of pain since February of 2023, when he had his first fall at work, and that "he reinjured it and is
13 now worse." Further, the documentation shows that Patient A had been seen at the facility one
14 week prior for an abscess on the right buttock. Patient A reported that "his chronic back pain is
15 getting worse," and that he had not yet undergone an MRI through workers compensation. The
16 documentation reflects no medications listed in the Medications section of the Emergency Room
17 Report, with the Medical History described as "[r]eviewed as documented in chart." A physical
18 examination of Patient A's back was documented as "no tenderness or warmth. Positive paraspinal
19 tenderness. No sacral anesthesia," and an examination of the skin described it as "warm and dry."
20 The medical decision making documented by Respondent indicates a differential diagnosis of
21 "paraspinal muscle strain, fracture, [and] slipped disc."

22 12. On May 4, 2023, at 11:46 a.m., Respondent entered orders for ketorolac 30mg IV
23 and diazepam 5mg IV, as well as a CT lumbar spine without contrast. There were no orders for any
24 laboratory tests.

25 13. Further, Respondent's May 4, 2023, documentation indicates that "[he] did examine
26 [Patient A's] buttock and lower back better because he did have some free air in the CT. Respondent
27 goes on to state, "[t]his does appear to be related to the recent drainage of the abscess. I see no
28 evidence of sepsis or deep infection that would be worrisome for nec fascia (necrotizing fasciitis)

1 at this time...” At this time, Patient A inquired about his chronic pedal edema and was advised to
2 follow up with his “regular doctor” for further evaluation.

3 14. Less than twenty-four (24) hours later, on May 5, 2023, Patient A was transported
4 via EMS to Banner ED again for back pain that Patient A described to be an 8/10 on the Numeric
5 Pain Intensity Scale (NPIS). Documentation by the physician treating Patient A states he was “BIBA
6 (brought in by ambulance) for lower back/buttock pain... for work injury.” Documentation further
7 states that Patient A was “[s]een in ED last week and had abcess [sic] drained,” and he was “[s]een
8 in ED yesterday and had CT done. Pt hasn’t been able to take DM meds d/t pain so 600+ (point of
9 care glucose level).

10 15. Documentation by the Physician’s Assistant (PA) on the May 5, 2023, Banner visit,
11 notes that Patient A’s “abscess continues to drain” and indicates that Patient A was experiencing
12 chills and that he had not taken his diabetic medications for the “last month because of his pain...”
13 Patient A’s physical examination at this time was notable for “severe tenderness to palpation of the
14 lumbar and sacral spine” along with an “abscess on superior right inner buttocks, no surrounding
15 erythema or warmth.”

16 16. Laboratory results from blood collected at 11:24 a.m. on May 5, 2023, were notable
17 for a white blood cell count of 34.2 with 90.6% neutrophils, lactic acid 2.1, serum glucose 757, CO2
18 of 20 with anion gap 23, blood urea nitrogen (BUN) 36 with creatine 1.32, sodium 124, and C-
19 reactive protein 358.7. At this time wound cultures and blood cultures were sent and a stat MRI of
20 the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine was performed. Medical notes indicate that emergency
21 physician had concerns of underlying necrotizing fasciitis, and efforts were made to transfer Patient
22 A to a higher level of care.

23 COUNT I

24 **NRS 630.301(4) - Malpractice**

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

27 18. NRS 630.301(4) provides that malpractice of a physician is grounds for initiating
28 disciplinary action against a licensee.

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VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEVADA)
 : ss.
COUNTY OF CLARK)

Nick M. Spirtos, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., 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 14 day of April, 2026.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: 

NICK M. SPIRTOS, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.
Chairman of the Investigative Committee