

# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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State of Wisconsin  
Before the Medical Examining Board

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In the Matter of Disciplinary Proceedings Against

Peri Aldrich, M.D.  
Respondent.

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Final Decision and Order  
LS0402181MED

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The parties to this proceeding for purposes of s. 227.53, Stats., are:

Peri Aldrich, M.D.  
331 W. Green Bay Street  
Pulaski WI 54162

Medical Examining Board  
Department of Regulation and Licensing  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison WI 53708

Division of Enforcement  
Department of Regulation and Licensing  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison WI 53708

The parties having agreed to the attached stipulation, the Medical Examining Board makes the following:

Findings of Fact

1. Peri Aldrich, M.D., was born on July 23, 1952, and is licensed to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Wisconsin pursuant to license number 21592, first granted on July 14, 1978.
2. In December 1995, Estelle E. Lilla, a woman born on November 16, 1913, presented at Respondent's office as a new patient, complaining of an injury to her hand. On January 9, 1996, Respondent read Ms. Lilla's records, transferred from her previous physician, and noted "heme + stools."
3. Between January 1996 and March, 2001, Respondent noted on several occasions that Ms. Lilla was anemic, and was continuing to have some gastro-intestinal blood loss.
4. In May 2000, Ms. Lilla had a hernia repair operation on the right. In the course of the pre-operative physical, Ms. Lilla was found to have a hemoglobin of 5.5. On May 22, 2000, she was given four units of red blood cells and Respondent noted "In looking back over the old records, she has had chronic GI blood loss and she may have just finally wiped out her iron stores. No etiology for the chronic blood loss had ever been identified."
5. Respondent took no steps to determine the etiology of the chronic GI blood loss at any time.
6. Between May 2000 and March 16, 2001, Respondent's records contain continued notes that Ms. Lilla is anemic.
7. On March 16, 2001, Ms. Lilla presented to Respondent's nurse practitioner complaining of a "pulling" pain in her right abdomen, present from the time of the hernia operation in May 2000 but getting progressively worse to the point of making her dizzy from the pain. The nurse practitioner ordered a urinalysis, which was positive for leukocytes; she ordered

antibiotics. She also ordered two units of packed cells for anemia, and suggested that Ms. Lilla might have to be seen by the surgeon who performed the hernia repair.

8. On March 19, 2001, Respondent ordered two units of red blood cells to be administered to Ms. Lilla for “acute anemia secondary to chronic GI blood loss.”

9. On March 26, 2001, Ms. Lilla presented to Respondent for follow up, and Respondent arranged to have Ms. Lilla seen the next day by the surgeon who had performed the hernia repair in May 2000.

10. On March 27, 2001, the surgeon, Dr. Davis, ordered a CT scan of Ms. Lilla’s abdomen.

11. On April 3, 2001, Ms. Lilla presented to the emergency room at St. Vincent’s Hospital, Green Bay. The physician in the emergency room felt a lump in Ms. Lilla’s abdomen, ordered a copy of the CT scan that had been ordered the previous week by Dr. Davis, and a stool test for occult blood. Dr. Davis ordered a colonoscopy, and on the basis of all of that information, diagnosed colon cancer.

12. On April 10, 2001, Dr. Davis performed surgery, and removed a section of colon, the tumor, and part of Ms. Lilla’s hip muscle.

13. Respondent states that she did not have a plan to follow Ms. Lilla’s gastric bleeding, and she does not follow the American Cancer Society’s protocol for screening for colo-rectal cancer.

14. The minimally competent physician presented with Ms. Lilla’s anemia and chronic GI blood loss of unknown etiology investigates the cause of the chronic GI blood loss.

#### Conclusions of Law

1. The Medical Examining Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to s. 448.02(3), Stats.

2. Respondent’s failure to determine the cause of Ms. Lilla’s chronic GI blood loss and anemia is conduct which constitutes a danger to the health of the patient within the meaning of s. MED 10.02(2)(h), Wis. Admin. Code.

#### Order

Now, therefore, Respondent Peri Aldrich, M.D., is reprimanded.

It is further ordered that within nine months of the date of this order, Peri Aldrich complete 24 hours of continuing medical education in assessment of chronic gastro-intestinal blood loss, and indications of and screening for gastro-intestinal cancers.

Respondent shall obtain approval from the Medical Examining Board for each course she intends to take in compliance with this order.

For purposes of this order, the Board’s designee is

Department Monitor  
Division of Enforcement  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison WI 53708  
Fax 608/266-2264

Respondent shall be responsible for all costs associated with compliance with this order.

Respondent may not count any course taken in compliance with this order towards compliance with any other continuing education requirement imposed by the Department of Regulation and Licensing or the Medical Examining Board.

It is further ordered that Respondent shall pay the costs of this proceeding in the amount of \$2100.00 to the Department of Regulation and Licensing within 60 days of the date of this Order.

Dated: 2/18/04

Wisconsin Medical Examining Board

Alfred Franger  
A Member of the Board