

STATEMENT FROM PRINCE GEORGE'S HOSPITAL CENTER

We, like some members of the public and likely other organizations who were involved with Dr. Akoda, were concerned to learn of the issues uncovered by the United States Attorney's Office regarding Dr. Charles Akoda's use of multiple social security numbers and name changes prior to his obtaining a medical license. As an organization dedicated to delivering quality care in our community, we seek only to grant privileges to physicians who demonstrate both solid qualifications and sound moral character. Dr. Akoda's conduct failed to meet our expectations regarding character.

While we do not know the motivation for his actions, it is important to correct significant misinformation about this case, specifically regarding his medical education, training, clinical competency, and licensure. Important facts:

- Dr. Akoda was certified by the Educational Committee for Foreign Medical Graduates ("ECFMG"), which grants certifications in the United States to all graduates of foreign medical schools. ECFMG completes primary source verification of each foreign medical graduate's credentials, then awards certification.
- After receiving ECFMG certification, he applied to, was accepted, and successfully completed a four-year residency program at Howard University from 2007-2011. During that time, he completed multiple clinical rotations, and per Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education guidelines, demonstrated competence in the areas of patient care (clinical and surgical), system-based practice, and practice-based learning and improvement.
- He performed satisfactorily on Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology ("CREOG") examinations, the subspecialty test administered annually and nationally to obstetrics and gynecology residents.
- During the final year of his residency in 2010-11, he was selected by the faculty of Howard University as the Resident of the Year and was also the Administrative Chief Resident. The Howard faculty "highly recommended" him upon completion of his residency.
- Upon residency completion, he applied for and obtained licenses to practice medicine from the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia, which remained active and in good standing while he had privileges at our hospital.
- He also applied for and obtained necessary credentials from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Maryland Department of Health in order to prescribe medications.
- He obtained certification in electronic fetal monitoring.
- He obtained a National Provider Identifier, which is issued to health care providers in the United States by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS").
- He achieved board certification from the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.
- All physicians seeking privileges at Prince George's Hospital Center undergo a multifactorial and rigorous credentialing process. Dr. Akoda was no exception, and prior to being credentialed our providers had the further benefit of observing Akoda's knowledge and skills as a physician, as four of his clinical residency rotations were completed at our hospital.

We acknowledge the concerns expressed by some of his former patients. However, it remains a fact that Dr. Akoda was a trained, licensed, and qualified obstetrician and gynecologist during the entire period he had privileges to practice at our facility. We also thank the individuals who have contacted us to share the positive patient/physician experiences they had with him in the midst of an abundance of misinformation and inaccurate assumptions.

We are exploring many aspects of this case, researching records, and evaluating processes and procedures upon which we rely to validate information. Several highly reliable agencies validated his credentials including the states in which he held medical licenses. We will continue our pursuit of excellence in service to our community.