



February 11, 2026

Case number: 26-CRF- 0040

James Joseph Otting, M.D.
2235 Willow Pond Blvd
Sylvania OH 43560-8915
drjotting@yahoo.com

Dear Doctor Otting:

In accordance with Chapter 119., Ohio Revised Code, you are hereby notified that the State Medical Board of Ohio [Board] intends to determine whether or not to limit, revoke, permanently revoke or suspend your license or certificate, or refuse to grant or register or issue the license or certificate for which you have a pending application in accordance with Section 9.79 of the Ohio Revised Code, or refuse to renew or reinstate your license or certificate to practice medicine and surgery, or to reprimand you or place you on probation for one or more of the following reasons:

- (1) In the routine course of your practice, you provided care and treatment for Patients 1 through 6, as identified on the attached Patient Key (Key is confidential and to be withheld from public disclosure). You inappropriately treated and/or failed to appropriately treat and/or failed to appropriately document your treatment of these patients.
- (2) Examples of such care and treatment identified in paragraph (1) include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (a) You began treating Patient 1 on or about April 23, 2023, to at least on or about January 27, 2025,. You began prescribing Opioids to Patient 1 in May 2023, approximately one month after Patient 1's initial visit. You then began prescribing methadone in June 2023. You increased the amount to be dispensed from a 15-day supply to a 30-day supply with no documentation. There are inconsistencies in the patient record with no discussion for the rationale for adding methadone and then extending methadone from June 2023 to June of 2025. Patient 1 was short on at least one pill count for both oxycodone and methadone yet the notes indicate "patient is adherent with medications" for that encounter. There is no documented discussion with Patient 1 about the reason for shortage in both of Patient 1's opioid prescriptions.
 - (b) You began treating Patient 2 on or about August 1, 2021, to at least on or about February 12, 2024. You prescribed Opiates to Patient 2 from August 2021 through 2024. There were documented issues that raised concerns about Patient 2's abuse of those opioids and other illicit substances. These issues include incorrect pill counts, and a positive fentanyl urine drug screen. Notes indicated

that the positive fentanyl drug screen was a “false positive” but there is no explanation as to how this conclusion was reached. There is no documentation of treatment plans and rationale for continued high dosages of high-risk medications.

- (c) You began treating Patient 3 on or about August 1, 2021, to at least on or about February 12, 2024. You began prescribing opioids to Patient 3 from mid-2021 through 2024. There are documented issues with medication compliance including a controlled substance agreement violation final warning July 20, 2022 and an additional medication compliance problem August of 2023 with being 9 days short of medication. At this time, you discontinued Patient 3’s morphine prescription and maintained the patient on hydrocodone. In February 2024 you restarted Patient 3 on morphine and hydrocodone but failed to document a discussion on the treatment plan, including rationale for restarting Patient 3 on morphine and continuing the hydrocodone.
- (d) You began treating Patient 4 on or about January 11, 2021, to at least on or about November 14, 2023. You began prescribing opioids beginning in early 2021 and continued through 2023. Patient 4’s records are limited and there is no discussion or inclusion of a signed controlled substance agreement. There is also no discussion of or inclusion of urine drug screens. Notes from office visits fail to document discussions on treatment plans and there is no documented rationale for continued high dosage medication usage.
- (e) You began treating Patient 5 on or about January 16, 2023, to at least on or about January 13, 2025. You prescribed 180 hydrocodone tablets approximately once monthly during the treatment period. Office visit notes for January 23, 2024, note that family members of Patient 5 indicated high risk behavior by stating the “patient sells our prescriptions”. Despite this, you also noted in the same visit that “patient is adherent with medication and demonstrates compliance”. In another visit a UDS was conducted and Patient 5 tested negative for all opioids, including the hydrocodone you were prescribing, with no noted change in prescribing. On April 22, 2024, a right greater troch bursa corticosteroid injection was performed. However, you failed to document any positive examination findings.
- (f) You began treating Patient 6 on or about June 21, 2021, to at least on or about August 7, 2023. You prescribed opioids and benzodiazepines to Patient 6 from mid 2021 through 2023. Documentation reviewed between June of 2023 and August of 2023 include significant inconsistencies. For instance, notes from office visits indicate that “patient is not prescribed any narcotic pain medications.” However notes from the same visit also indicate that refills of opioids were provided. There is no documentation of risk and/or function, nor of prior imaging or testing.

Your acts, conduct, and/or omissions as alleged in paragraphs (1) through (2) above, individually and/or collectively, constitute “[f]ailure to maintain minimal standards applicable to the selection or administration of drugs, or failure to employ acceptable scientific methods in the selection of drugs or other modalities for treatment of disease,” as that clause is used in Section 4731.22(B)(2), Ohio Revised Code.

Additionally, Your acts, conduct, and/or omissions as alleged in paragraphs (2.a.) through (2.f.) above, individually and/or collectively, constitute “violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate, any provisions of this chapter or any rule promulgated by the board,” as that clause is used in Section 4731.22(B)(20), Ohio Revised Code to wit: Rule 4731-11-02 General Provisions Ohio Administrative Code, and Rule 4731-11-14 Prescribing for Subacute and Chronic Pain Ohio Administrative Code.

Further, your acts, conduct, and/or omissions as alleged in paragraphs (1) through (2) above, individually and/or collectively, constitute a “departure from, or the failure to conform to, minimal standards of care of similar practitioners under the same or similar circumstances, whether or not actual injury to a patient is established,” as that clause is used in Section 4731.22(B)(6), Ohio Revised Code.

Furthermore, for any violations that occurred on or after September 29, 2015, the Board may impose a civil penalty in an amount that shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars, pursuant to Section 4731.225, Ohio Revised Code. The civil penalty may be in addition to any other action the Board may take under section 4731.22, Ohio Revised Code.

Pursuant to Chapter 119., Ohio Revised Code, you are hereby advised that you are entitled to a hearing in this matter. If you wish to request such hearing, the request must be made in writing and must be received in the offices of the State Medical Board within thirty days of the time of service of this notice.

You are further advised that, if you timely request a hearing, you are entitled to appear at such hearing in person, or by your attorney, or by such other representative as is permitted to practice before this agency, or you may present your position, arguments, or contentions in writing, and that at the hearing you may present evidence and examine witnesses appearing for or against you.

In the event that there is no request for such hearing received within thirty days of the time of service of this notice, the State Medical Board may, in your absence and upon consideration of this matter, determine whether or not to limit, revoke, permanently revoke or suspend your license or certificate, or refuse to grant or register or issue the license or certificate for which you have a pending application in accordance with Section 9.79 of the Ohio Revised Code, or refuse to renew or reinstate your license or certificate to practice medicine and surgery, or to reprimand you or place you on probation.

Please note that, whether or not you request a hearing, Section 4731.22(L), Ohio Revised Code, provides that “[w]hen the board refuses to grant or issue a license or certificate to practice to an applicant, revokes an individual's license or certificate to practice, refuses to renew an individual's license or certificate to practice, or refuses to reinstate an individual's license or certificate to practice, the board may specify that its action is permanent. An individual subject to a permanent action taken by the board is forever thereafter ineligible to hold a license or certificate to practice and the board shall not accept an application for reinstatement of the license or certificate or for issuance of a new license or certificate.”

Copies of the applicable sections are enclosed for your information.

THE STATE MEDICAL BOARD OF OHIO

Kim G. Rothermel md
Kim G. Rothermel, M.D.
Secretary

KGR/PJH
Enclosures

Via email: driotting@yahoo.com

Cc:

David Nacht
Attorney for Dr. Otting
501 Avis Dr. Suite 3
Ann Arbor MI 48108

Via email: dnacht@nachtlaw.com

IN THE MATTER OF
James Joseph Otting, M.D.

26-CRF-0040

February 11, 2026

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

Patient Key

Sealed

To Protect Patient Confidentiality