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March 14, 2017

Timothy Dembowski, DC
Clinic Director
Atlanta Medical Clinic
1801 Peachtree Street, Suite 250
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

RE: Applicability of Pain Clinic Licensure Requirements

Dear Dr. Dembowski:

Thank you for your February 7, 2017 letter requesting the Board's clarification of the applicability of Georgia's pain management clinic licensure requirements to Atlanta Medical Clinic. Although I cannot give you legal advice, and this response should not be misconstrued as such, it appears to me that Atlanta Medical Clinic is required to hold licensure as a pain management clinic in Georgia.

As you acknowledged in your letter, O.C.G.A. § 43-34-282(7) defines a pain management clinic as a medical practice advertising "treatment of pain" or utilizing "pain" in the name of the clinic or a medical practice or clinic with greater than 50 percent of its annual patient population being treated for chronic pain for nonterminal conditions by the use of Schedule II or III controlled substances, with the only exceptions being those clinics or practices owned or operated by a hospital, health system, ambulatory surgical center, skilled nursing facility, hospice, or home health agency licensed pursuant to Chapter 7 of Title 31. Your clinic's website (www.atlantamedicalclinic.com) contains many indications that it is indeed a medical practice advertising the treatment of pain, including specific references to the treatment of chronic pain, migraines, knee pain, by using pain-relieving medication, joint injections, nerve blocks, interventional medicine, etc., and lists licensed physicians among its practitioners.

As my response should not be construed as legal advice or guidance, I strongly suggest that you consult your attorney regarding this matter. Should you wish to request the Board's guidance as to the applicability of the pain management clinic licensure requirement to Atlanta Medical Clinic, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Robert Jeffery, MBA
Executive Director