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Administrator

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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

Illegal Surgeries Occurring in Reno-Sparks Area

Nevada State Health Division warns the public to use licensed physicians only

Carson City – The Nevada State Health Division urges the public to avoid having surgeries, shots, or other procedures that enter the skin done by unlicensed medical persons. Unlicensed surgical procedures are being performed on residents in the Reno-Sparks area. Dr. Tracey D. Green, MD, State Health Officer is working with local law enforcement to stop this illegal practice of medicine.

The unlawful procedures may occur in locations associated with the sale of herbs and vitamins, private residences, or non-medical facilities. They are dangerous. The procedures may be actual surgeries or simply shots. In some cultures, this kind of practice may be common, but in the United States, for the safety for patients, both practitioners and facilities where procedures take place must be licensed and inspected.

Residents are asked to:

1. Be sure that your physician/surgeon is legitimate and licensed. To check on a physician, visit www.medboard.nv.gov for MDs and www.bom.nv.gov for DOs. (MD and DO are initials doctors use after their names which identify the degree they earned in medical school).
2. Avoid these “back room” medical procedures. If someone offers a “backroom” procedure to you, report it to the Nevada State Health Division at 775-684-5911.
3. If you or someone you know needs medical attention possibly caused by an unlawful medical procedure, promptly seek medical care from a legitimate healthcare provider such as a local health clinic, urgent care center, hospital emergency room or your own licensed physician. Such persons may need medical attention related to infections from the surgery, excessive bleeding or other complications.
4. There have also been reports of illegal prescribing of medications. If you received a prescription from anyone other than a pharmacist, or if you are experiencing health problems that are usually controlled by prescription medication and the medications were dispensed from an unlicensed source, report the incident to the Nevada State Health Division at 775-684-5911.

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For more information about the Nevada State Health Division, go to: <http://health.nv.gov>.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Whitley".

Richard Whitley, Administrator

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