**Doctor faces discipline from illegal pot clinic**

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By COURTNEY PERKES / THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

[](http://images.onset.freedom.com/ocregister/gallery/m2a7ri-b78939880z.120120410140023000gqn16s120.2.jpg)A registered grower points to the part of the marijuana plant that will eventually flower near Santa Fe, N.M. SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN, AP

A Los Alamitos doctor, [who was punished last year after a plastic surgery patient died](http://www.ocregister.com/articles/surgery-288471-board-documents.html), is facing more California Medical Board discipline stemming from his work at a beach-front medical marijuana clinic in Venice.

In the latest medical board case, Dr. Lawrence H. Hansen is accused of dishonest or corrupt acts for practicing medicine in a clinic owned by non-doctors, a violation of state law.

While California allows seriously ill patients to obtain medical marijuana recommendations from their doctors, solicitors for Kush Doctor in Venice stood outside with fliers inviting passersby to come in for a recommendation, according to accounts from undercover medical board officers.

In April of 2011, the medical board and law enforcement agencies raided the Kush clinics, seizing large bags of marijuana. Last year, the Los Angeles County district attorney's office filed felony criminal charges against two clinic operators for allegedly possessing and distributing marijuana for sale and for practicing medicine without a license, according to Superior Court records.

Hansen was reached Monday at a different Kush clinic in West Los Angeles and said he was unaware of the latest medical board accusation against him.

"I haven't done anything wrong," Hansen said. "I'll have to check into it."

Legal documents recently made public by the medical board give this account:

In January 2010, the board was alerted that non-doctors were operating Kush Doctor, a collection of medical marijuana clinics along Ocean Front Walk in Venice. State law says only licensed physicians can own and operate medical clinics.

In June 2010, an undercover medical board officer visited two Kush clinics. The officer met Hansen, who said he had worked there for the past 18 months. The officer told Hansen it was unethical to provide a medical marijuana recommendation without a proper physical exam.

In August 2010, the board sent two undercover officers to pose as patients. An officer was asked if he wanted to get "legalized" to use marijuana for $150. The officer said the price was too much and agreed to pay $70. The officer said he was seeking marijuana for relief from headaches resulting from heavy drinking and inability to sleep.

He saw an unidentified doctor who briefly examined him before he was given a medical marijuana recommendation card. Hansen is not mentioned in the description of the August visit.

At another Kush clinic, the officer asked another unidentified doctor where he could buy marijuana after receiving the recommendation. The doctor told him it was illegal to give information and then whispered "next door, upstairs." The officer then went to the upstairs dispensary and bought $20 worth of marijuana.

In February 2011, Hansen was put on 35 months of medical board probation and barred from performing surgeries after the [death of a patient he operated on](http://www.ocregister.com/articles/surgery-288471-board-documents.html).

Hansen had retired from active practice in 2003 but in 2008 performed a vaginal reconstruction at an unaccredited outpatient surgery center in Anaheim Hills.

The medical board documents say Hansen met the patient, Maria Garcia, for the first time shortly before the surgery and failed to take a thorough medical history or perform a comprehensive exam. During the surgery, Garcia, 39, began to bleed. Afterward, she underwent liposuction, which was performed by a different doctor.

Garcia suffered a heart attack and died an hour later at a hospital. Hansen was accused of incompetency for failing to verify that the surgery center was accredited or check on his patient at the hospital after he learned of her complications.

To check a doctor's disciplinary record visit [mbc.ca.gov/](http://mbc.ca.gov/)

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Original document found online at: http://www.ocregister.com/articles/medical-348615-board-marijuana.html