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# State board revokes the licenses of four physicians

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SACRAMENTO (AP) — The state is revoking the licenses of four doctors, including a prominent practitioner of sex-change surgery, state medical officials announced Thursday.

"The new medical board is aggressively rooting out the bad cookies," said state Consumer Affairs Director Richard Spohn.

Spohn's Consumer Affairs Department plans to ask the Legislature next month for the power of immediate suspension in extreme cases, rather than letting a doctor continue to practice for a year while revocation proceedings are pending, said department spokesman Vernon Leeper.

License revocation is the most severe action the state can take against a doctor, short of criminal prosecution. Out of more than 200 disciplinary cases, about 20 California doctors will lose their licenses this year, an increase over previous years, Leeper said.

The four doctors are:

—John R. Brown of Los Angeles and San Francisco, a plastic surgeon specializing in transsexual surgery. The department said he had failed to conduct proper physical and psychological screening of patients for the operation and had not arranged for proper post-operative care.

—Patrick Orrock of Brea, a physician and surgeon. The department said his license was suspended this year after improper treatment of a heart attack victim who died, but he moved to Riverside and continued to practice.

—Seymour M. Solomon of San Francisco, a physician and surgeon. The department said he had pleaded no contest to possessing heroin and had written three fraudulent prescriptions for money to support a heroin habit.

—Raphael Haley of La Puente. The department said he had been convicted of lewd conduct and failed to meet the terms of his probation.

The case of Brown, the sex-change surgeon, was documented by the department in a 13-page complaint that detailed several cases of patients who developed serious complications after transsexual surgery.

The complaint also said Brown sent would-be patients to a psychiatrist for an hour or two, then reserved the right to override their recommendation. By contrast, Stanford University's hospital, a major center of transsexual surgery, requires a two-year waiting period and extensive physical and psychological testing, the department said.

Another allegation as that Brown had allowed an unlicensed person to act as a doctor and to promote Brown's practice at parties to which transsexuals were invited.

Nevertheless, the state administrative judge in the case, Paul Doyle, said it appears Brown "has something of value to offer" as a sex-change surgeon. And Brown's lawyer, Franklin Laven, said there would be an attempt to block revocation in court before it took effect Jan. 22.

Laven said in an interview that Brown had performed about 250 transsexual operations in the last few years, compared to only a few a year at Stanford. He said Brown disagreed with the standards set at Stanford.

"He is a pioneer in that field," Laven said. "Transsexuals are crying for help. They're lost souls. Some don't want to live if they can't get this operation."