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Posted: Thursday, 27 September 2007 2:44PM

# Suburban Doctor Accused Of Fondling Patients

**BERWYN, III. (STNG)** -- Berwyn physician was arrested Wednesday -- a day after his license was suspended -- for allegedly engaging in sexually inappropriate conduct with female patients at his west suburban office.

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation suspended the physician and surgeon license of Ricardo Arze, M.D., on Tuesday after an investigation between the agency and Berwyn police, an IDFPR release said.

Arze was arrested by Berwyn police Wednesday after four patients filed complaints of inappropriate conduct during visits to his office at 6925 Cermak Rd., the release said. Berwyn Police Chief William Kushner said the arrest followed an investigation involving Berwyn and Cook County Sheriff's police, as well as the IDFPR.

"We were investigating for a couple of months," Kushner said. "The arrest was prompted because we learned that a couple of patients had bypassed us and gone straight to IDFPR with their complaints."

Kushner said Arze was charged with four counts of misdemeanor battery and was released after posting \$100 cash bond. He is scheduled to appear in court at 9 a.m. Nov. 7 in Maywood.

According to the IDFPR petition for suspension, one patient told Berwyn police that on March 22, 2005, she went to Arze suffering depression, but he hugged her tightly, put his hands under her shirt

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and unhooked her bra, rubbed her breasts and attempted to put his hands under her pants.

A second patient told police that on May 1, 2007, she went to Arze suffering sleep loss and depression, and he kissed her, rubbed her buttocks, breast and vaginal area, asked if she was aroused and became aroused himself, the petition claims.

A third patient said that on at least three visits to Arze this year while suffering stomach pains, the doctor pulled her pants down without providing an examination gown, pulled up her shirt and bra, and made sexually inappropriate comments, the petition alleges.

A fourth patient told police that in August she went to Arze for depression, and he removed her blouse and bra, massaged her back and made sexually inappropriate comments, the petition states.

Kushner said all the of the victims were adults, ranging in age from 23 to the early 50s, and were residents of Berwyn, Elmwood Park and Brookfield.

The IDFPR issued the suspension because it "believes the health and safety of the public may be in danger by the continued practice" of Arze, the release said.

Police are asking other potential victims to come forward, according to the release.

Arze, who has the right to appeal before an administrative law judge, is scheduled for a hearing on Oct. 9.

A Cook County State's Attorney's office spokesman said no felony charges had been filed against the doctor as of 1 p.m. Thursday.

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