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Michigan doctor charged in connection with the death of three patients

A Flint doctor has been charged in connection with the deaths of three patients.

Prosecutors say the patients were all prescribed methadone in a manner inconsistent with legitimate medical practices.

Dr. Hatem Ataya is charged with three counts of delivering a controlled substance, and three counts of delivering a controlled substance causing death.

The patients who have died were all from Lapeer County. Ataya is currently being held in the Lapeer County Jail.

Other patients have also filed lawsuits against Ataya alleging malpractice, saying he caused injury through improper prescriptions.

Attorney Brian McKeen represents one of the victims.

He said his client has suffered life-changing injuries, with medical bills in the millions.

“Our client was on long term Prednisone therapy, this drug was not indicated and should not have been used for his condition, certainly should not have been used for as long as it was.”

Mckeen said along with ulcers from the pills, the victim was in a coma for over a month and is currently on a breathing tube.

He also said Ataya will be getting the justice he deserves.

“Dr. Ataya I think is going to face responsibility in the criminal justice system, he’s also going to face responsibility in the civil justice system.”

We reached out to Ataya’s attorney for comment. Those calls were not returned.