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FILED

AUGUST 26, 2005

**NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

By: Sandra Y. Dick
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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION : Administrative Action
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF: :
: :
RAMALAKSHMI YERRAMILI, M.D. :
LICENSE NO. MA41112 : **CONSENT ORDER**
: :
TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY :
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :
: :

This matter was initially opened to the Medical Practitioner Review Panel of the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners (hereinafter "the Panel") upon receipt of information that Ramalakshmi Yerramilli, M.D. ("Respondent") had been the subject of a medical malpractice action in which it was alleged that Dr. Yerramilli failed to properly advise the parents of R.V., a nine year old boy, about the child's peanut allergy, and did not provide an Epi-Pen for the child, who suffered an allergic reaction which resulted in brain damage and eventual death. Respondent appeared with counsel, and testified before the Panel in February 2005.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

Respondent testified that she treated R.V. from birth until he was 18 months old, when he moved out of state. At the time R.V. returned to respondent's practice at age 4, he had already been diagnosed with asthma by another physician. Dr. Yerramilli did not evaluate the child's asthma. When the child was about 8 years old, in October of 1994, Dr. Yerramilli saw him for wheezing. He was already using a Proventil inhaler for asthma. On December 12, 1994 R.V. was seen in the office after ingesting peanuts at school and developing a rash and wheezing. Dr. Yerramilli diagnosed a peanut allergy and referred the patient to an allergist. She advised the mother in the event of another incident, to use the nebulizer and take the child to the emergency room if R.V. failed to improve. Although not documented in the chart, Dr. Yerramilli claimed she informed the mother that an allergic reaction could be life threatening. Dr. Yerramilli's chart did not include any information regarding R.V.'s history of allergies, nor the type of allergies. Dr. Yerramilli did not prescribe an Epi-Pen as she assumed it would have been prescribed by the allergist. On November 25, 1996, R.V. was seen by respondent following a severe asthma attack. According to respondent, she referred R.V. to a pulmonary specialist, prescribed Prednisone and again advised regarding use of a nebulizer. On December 25, 1996, after eating candy containing peanuts at home the patient was admitted to the hospital in

respiratory and cardiac arrest, with no cerebral activity, suffered an irreversible anoxic brain injury and eventually expired.

Having reviewed this matter, the Board finds that respondent did not perform a work-up when R.V.'s reactions worsened with each exposure to peanuts, did not assure that an Epi-Pen was ordered, nor followed up to ensure the ordered referral took place. These facts establish a basis for disciplinary action, in accord with N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d). It appearing that Respondent desires to resolve this matter without further proceedings, and the Board finding the within disposition adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and for good cause shown,

IT IS THEREFORE, ON THIS 25TH DAY OF August, 2005,

ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent Ramalaskshmi Yerramilli, M.D. is hereby reprimanded for repeated acts of negligence in the care of patient R.V.

2. Within six (6) months of the entry of this Order, Respondent shall fully attend and successfully complete courses pre-approved by the Board in the following areas:

- a) pediatric lung conditions (including allergy and asthma)
- b) recordkeeping

Within ten (10) days of completion of each course Respondent shall provide written documentation of full attendance and successful completion to the Medical Board Director and the Attorney General.

3. Simultaneously with signing this Order, Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of \$5,000 and the costs of the investigation of this matter in the amount of \$ 953.88, by certified check, money order or attorney trust fund check forwarded to the Attorney General.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: 
Bernard Robins, M.D., F.A.C.P.,
President

I have read and understood the within Order and agree to be bound by the its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Board to enter this Order.


Ramalakshmi Yerramilli, M.D.

Consent as to form and entry:


Robert Giannone, Esq.
Attorney for Ramalakshmi Yerramilli, M.D.

**NOTICE OF REPORTING PRACTICES OF BOARD
REGARDING DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-3(3), all orders of the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners are available for public inspection. Should any inquiry be made concerning the status of a licensee, the inquirer will be informed of the existence of the order and a copy will be provided if requested. All evidentiary hearings, proceedings on motions or other applications which are conducted as public hearings and the record, including the transcript and documents marked in evidence, are available for public inspection, upon request.

Pursuant to 45 CFR Subtitle A 60.8, the Board is obligated to report to the National Practitioners Data Bank any action relating to a physician which is based on reasons relating to professional competence or professional conduct:

- (1) Which revokes or suspends (or otherwise restricts) a license,
- (2) Which censures, reprimands or places on probation,
- (3) Under which a license is surrendered.

Pursuant to 45 CFR Section 61.7, the Board is obligated to report to the Healthcare Integrity and Protection (HIP) Data Bank, any formal or official actions, such as revocation or suspension of a license (and the length of any such suspension), reprimand, censure or probation or any other loss of license or the right to apply for, or renew, a license of the provider, supplier, or practitioner, whether by operation of law, voluntary surrender, non-renewability, or otherwise, or any other negative action or finding by such Federal or State agency that is publicly available information.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:9-19.13, if the Board refuses to issue, suspends, revokes or otherwise places conditions on a license or permit, it is obligated to notify each licensed health care facility and health maintenance organization with which a licensee is affiliated and every other board licensee in this state with whom he or she is directly associated in private medical practice.

In accordance with an agreement with the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, a list of all disciplinary orders are provided to that organization on a monthly basis.

Within the month following entry of an order, a summary of the order will appear on the public agenda for the next monthly Board meeting and is forwarded to those members of the public requesting a copy. In addition, the same summary will appear in the minutes of that Board meeting, which are also made available to those requesting a copy.

Within the month following entry of an order, a summary of the order will appear in a Monthly Disciplinary Action Listing which is made available to those members of the public requesting a copy.

On a periodic basis the Board disseminates to its licensees a newsletter which includes a brief description of all of the orders entered by the Board.

From time to time, the Press Office of the Division of Consumer Affairs may issue releases including the summaries of the content of public orders.

Nothing herein is intended in any way to limit the Board, the Division or the Attorney General from disclosing any public document.