

FILED

July 17, 2008

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD  
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION : Administrative Action  
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF: :

MUNIR H. FASWALA, M.D. : FINAL ORDER  
LICENSE #61219 :  
:

TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY :  
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :  
:

This matter opened to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners upon the filing of an Administrative Complaint and Notice of Hearing, by then Attorney General Peter C. Harvey by former Deputy Attorney General Daniel S. Goodman. The doctor's license was temporarily suspended by order filed April 11, 2005. No answer was ever filed in response to the complaint and Deputy Attorney General Kathy Stroh Mendoza filed a Notice of Motion for Default on May 23, 2007. At the time set for hearing on July 11, 2007, respondent did not appear and the State represented by Kathy Mendoza, DAG presented to the Board evidence that reasonable efforts had been made to serve respondent with notice of the Complaint as well as the Motion for Default. At the hearing the deputy described documents which were entered into the record

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

including a certification of service of the Administrative Complaint by personal service, overnight mail and regular mail (C-1 and C-2) to respondent's address of record with the Board. The State further submitted C-3; certified mail receipts (signed by "Faswala"), and a cover letter dated May 30, 2007 enclosing the Notice of Motion for default and for default judgment, and C-4, a June 22, 2007 appearance letter notifying respondent again of the hearing scheduling this matter for July 11, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. Both were forwarded to the address of record and the latter notification was forwarded via UPS 2<sup>nd</sup> Day Air (tracked) and by regular mail.

The Board found that adequate service had been effectuated of both the Verified Complaint and the Notice of Motion for Default, and therefore voted to find respondent in default and directed the state to proceed with its proofs.

The Deputy Attorney General briefly recounted the allegations of the complaint including that respondent prescribed and dispensed controlled substances to an undercover officer on three occasions, indiscriminately or without good cause. A review of the proofs submitted in this matter including the certifications filed in support of the Attorney General's Complaint reveal that respondent prescribed Xanax, Fioricet, Zydone, Calcifol and Soma without examination or touching of the "patient," without the taking of a history, and simply in exchange for a \$100 payment and a request for "pills." In one instance respondent offered to write prescriptions for free, in exchange for work on his car, and in

another provided two postdated prescriptions for Zydone and Calcifol, with a promise to write for additional Xanax after the "patient" fixed the doctor's car.

It appears, given the default, that nothing in the record rebuts any of the proofs submitted, (we accept the certifications submitted and note this is an uncontested proceeding), that respondent sold prescriptions for CDS and prescription legend drugs with no medical basis whatsoever, to an undercover agent on three separate occasions. There is thus sufficient unrebutted evidence to find that respondent acted as a street level drug pusher, not as a physician. We find such conduct constitutes dishonesty, gross and repeated malpractice, professional misconduct, incapability of discharging the functions of a licensee consistent with public safety and health, indiscriminate prescribing, or prescribing without good cause, and conduct contrary to the regulations governing the dispensing and prescribing of controlled dangerous substances (N.J.A.C. 13:35-7.6) all in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), (c), (e), (h), (i) and (m).

Given the findings above, the Board, upon motion made and seconded, voted to grant the Attorney General's Motion thus granting a final decision in default- in so far as a prima facie case was demonstrated by the unrebutted evidence of the factual allegations of the complaint with one modification as to Count II paragraph 4 to conform with the certification of the undercover officer to read as follows- "The undercover officer then handed Respondent his New Jersey State Medicaid card and placed a \$100 bill on the desk which Respondent placed in his shirt pocket.

Respondent pulled out his prescription pad from his jacket and asked the undercover officer what he wanted"- and made all Conclusions of Law indicated above given the egregious conduct in this case. It further ordered the revocation of his license. The Board also ordered a penalty of \$50,000 as well as imposed costs and attorney's fees against Dr. Faswala based on the extensive certifications of investigative, attorney, transcripts and other costs submitted.

IT IS THEREFORE ON THIS *8* DAY OF *July* 2008,

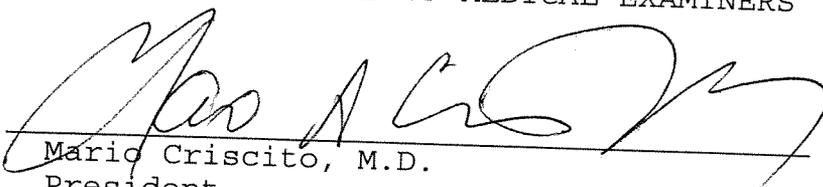
NUNC PRO TUNC August 8, 2007

**ORDERED:**

1. Respondent's license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey shall be and hereby is revoked effective immediately.
2. Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$50,000. The penalty shall be submitted by certified check or money order made payable to the State of New Jersey and submitted to the Board of Medical Examiners within 30 days of the date of this Order, by certified check or money order forwarded to the office of the Board of Medical Examiners.
3. Respondent shall pay investigative costs of \$3788.76, Court Reporting Fees of \$350, and attorneys fees of \$6,387.50 within 30 days of the date of filing of this order in the manner indicated in paragraph 2 above.
4. This action may be subject to reopening, if respondent can demonstrate that he did not receive notice of the complaint and or

default proceeding.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:   
Mario Criscito, M.D.  
President

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Dr. Munir H. Faswala  
NJ License # MA061219

**ADDENDUM**

Any licensee who is the subject of an order of the Board suspending, revoking or otherwise conditioning the license, shall provide the following information at the time that the order is signed, if it is entered by consent, or immediately after service of a fully executed order entered after a hearing. The information required here is necessary for the Board to fulfill its reporting obligations:

Social Security Number<sup>1</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

List the Name and Address of any and all Health Care Facilities with which you are affiliated:

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List the Names and Address of any and all Health Maintenance Organizations with which you are affiliated:

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Provide the names and addresses of every person with whom you are associated in your professional practice: (You may attach a blank sheet of stationery bearing this information).

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to 45 CFR Subtitle A Section 61.7 and 45 CFR Subtitle A Section 60.8, the Board is required to obtain your Social Security Number and/or federal taxpayer identification number in order to discharge its responsibility to report adverse actions to the National Practitioner Data Bank and the HIP Data Bank.

**DIRECTIVES APPLICABLE TO ANY MEDICAL BOARD LICENSEE  
WHO IS DISCIPLINED OR WHOSE SURRENDER OF LICENSURE  
HAS BEEN ACCEPTED**

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON MAY 10, 2000**

All licensees who are the subject of a disciplinary order of the Board are required to provide the information required on the addendum to these directives. The information provided will be maintained separately and will not be part of the public document filed with the Board. Failure to provide the information required may result in further disciplinary action for failing to cooperate with the Board, as required by N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1 et seq. Paragraphs 1 through 4 below shall apply when a license is suspended or revoked or permanently surrendered, with or without prejudice. Paragraph 5 applies to licensees who are the subject of an order which, while permitting continued practice, contains a probation or monitoring requirement.

**1. Document Return and Agency Notification**

The licensee shall promptly forward to the Board office at Post Office Box 183, 140 East Front Street, 2nd floor, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183, the original license, current biennial registration and, if applicable, the original CDS registration. In addition, if the licensee holds a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) registration, he or she shall promptly advise the DEA of the licensure action. (With respect to suspensions of a finite term, at the conclusion of the term, the licensee may contact the Board office for the return of the documents previously surrendered to the Board. In addition, at the conclusion of the term, the licensee should contact the DEA to advise of the resumption of practice and to ascertain the impact of that change upon his/her DEA registration.)

**2. Practice Cessation**

The licensee shall cease and desist from engaging in the practice of medicine in this State. This prohibition not only bars a licensee from rendering professional services, but also from providing an opinion as to professional practice or its application, or representing him/herself as being eligible to practice. (Although the licensee need not affirmatively advise patients or others of the revocation, suspension or surrender, the licensee must truthfully disclose his/her licensure status in response to inquiry.) The disciplined licensee is also prohibited from occupying, sharing or using office space in which another licensee provides health care services. The disciplined licensee may contract for, accept payment from another licensee for or rent at fair market value office premises and/or equipment. In no case may the disciplined licensee authorize, allow or condone the use of his/her provider number by any health care practice or any other licensee or health care provider. (In situations where the licensee has been suspended for less than one year, the licensee may accept payment from another professional who is using his/her office during the period that the licensee is suspended, for the payment of salaries for office staff employed at the time of the Board action.)

A licensee whose license has been revoked, suspended for one (1) year or more or permanently surrendered must remove signs and take affirmative action to stop advertisements by which his/her eligibility to practice is represented. The licensee must also take steps to remove his/her name from professional listings, telephone directories, professional stationery, or billings. If the licensee's name is utilized in a group practice title, it shall be deleted. Prescription pads bearing the licensee's name shall be destroyed. A destruction report form obtained from the Office of Drug Control (973-504-6558) must be filed. If no other licensee is providing services at the location, all medications must be removed and returned to the manufacturer, if possible, destroyed or safeguarded. (In situations where a license has been suspended for less than one year, prescription pads and medications need not be destroyed but must be secured in a locked place for safekeeping.)

### **3. Practice Income Prohibitions/Divestiture of Equity Interest in Professional Service Corporations and Limited Liability Companies**

A licensee shall not charge, receive or share in any fee for professional services rendered by him/herself or others while barred from engaging in the professional practice. The licensee may be compensated for the reasonable value of services lawfully rendered and disbursements incurred on a patient's behalf prior to the effective date of the Board action.

A licensee who is a shareholder in a professional service corporation organized to engage in the professional practice, whose license is revoked, surrendered or suspended for a term of one (1) year or more shall be deemed to be disqualified from the practice within the meaning of the Professional Service Corporation Act. (N.J.S.A. 14A:17-11). A disqualified licensee shall divest him/herself of all financial interest in the professional service corporation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 14A:17-13(c). A licensee who is a member of a limited liability company organized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 42:1-44, shall divest him/herself of all financial interest. Such divestiture shall occur within 90 days following the the entry of the Order rendering the licensee disqualified to participate in the applicable form of ownership. Upon divestiture, a licensee shall forward to the Board a copy of documentation forwarded to the Secretary of State, Commercial Reporting Division, demonstrating that the interest has been terminated. If the licensee is the sole shareholder in a professional service corporation, the corporation must be dissolved within 90 days of the licensee's disqualification.

### **4. Medical Records**

If, as a result of the Board's action, a practice is closed or transferred to another location, the licensee shall ensure that during the three (3) month period following the effective date of the disciplinary order, a message will be delivered to patients calling the former office premises, advising where records may be obtained. The message should inform patients of the names and telephone numbers of the licensee (or his/her attorney) assuming custody of the records. The same information shall also be disseminated by means of a notice to be published at least once per month for three (3) months in a newspaper of

general circulation in the geographic vicinity in which the practice was conducted. At the end of the three month period, the licensee shall file with the Board the name and telephone number of the contact person who will have access to medical records of former patients. Any change in that individual or his/her telephone number shall be promptly reported to the Board. When a patient or his/her representative requests a copy of his/her medical record or asks that record be forwarded to another health care provider, the licensee shall promptly provide the record without charge to the patient.

#### **5. Probation/Monitoring Conditions**

With respect to any licensee who is the subject of any Order imposing a probation or monitoring requirement or a stay of an active suspension, in whole or in part, which is conditioned upon compliance with a probation or monitoring requirement, the licensee shall fully cooperate with the Board and its designated representatives, including the Enforcement Bureau of the Division of Consumer Affairs, in ongoing monitoring of the licensee's status and practice. Such monitoring shall be at the expense of the disciplined practitioner.

(a) Monitoring of practice conditions may include, but is not limited to, inspection of the professional premises and equipment, and inspection and copying of patient records (confidentiality of patient identity shall be protected by the Board) to verify compliance with the Board Order and accepted standards of practice.

(b) Monitoring of status conditions for an impaired practitioner may include, but is not limited to, practitioner cooperation in providing releases permitting unrestricted access to records and other information to the extent permitted by law from any treatment facility, other treating practitioner, support group or other individual/facility involved in the education, treatment, monitoring or oversight of the practitioner, or maintained by a rehabilitation program for impaired practitioners. If bodily substance monitoring has been ordered, the practitioner shall fully cooperate by responding to a demand for breath, blood, urine or other sample in a timely manner and providing the designated sample.

**NJ License #**

**ADDENDUM**

Any licensee who is the subject of an order of the Board suspending, revoking or otherwise conditioning the license, shall provide the following information at the time that the order is signed, if it is entered by consent, or immediately after service of a fully executed order entered after a hearing. The information required here is necessary for the Board to fulfill its reporting obligations:

Social Security Number<sup>1</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to 45 CFR Subtitle A Section 61.7 and 45 CFR Subtitle A Section 60.8, the Board is required to obtain your Social Security Number and/or federal taxpayer identification number in order to discharge its responsibility to report adverse actions to the National Practitioner Data Bank and the HIP Data Bank.

**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.