

FILED

July 23, 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 LICENSE OF

HARSH SHARMA, M.D.
License No. MA65128

Administrative Action

TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

FINAL ORDER
OF DISCIPLINE

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and on which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made;

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent, Harsh Sharma, M.D., is the holder of License No. MA65128 and was licensed to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey on August 3, 1981. Respondent's license lapsed on June 30, 2005, which has resulted in the automatic suspension of Respondent's license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey without a hearing pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-7.1(b).

2. On or about June 27, 2007 the Florida Board of Medicine ("Florida Board") entered a "Final Order" in DOH Case No. 2004-

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37110 providing for a revocation of Respondent's medical license, payment of a fine of \$40,000.00 and costs of \$5,269.52, to be paid within 30 days of the date of the Final Order. More specifically, the Florida Board adopted the allegations set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, which are as follows: (a) Respondent violated Section 458.331(1)(nn), Florida Statutes (2004,2005), by violating Sections 456.057(7)(a)1 and 14, Florida Statutes(2004,2005), and Rule 64B8-9.003, FAC in one or more of the following ways: failure to maintain and produce medical records; failure to produce medical records in response to a fully executed release; failure to produce medical records in response to reasonable cause subpoena; or failure to respond to the investigation in the case to the extent required by law; (b) Respondent violated Section 458.331(1)(x), Florida Statutes (2004, 2005) and Section 456.072(1)(q), Florida Statutes (2004,2005), by failing to comply with a lawfully issued subpoena; (c) Respondent violated Section 458.331(1)(g), Florida Statutes (2004, 2005), by failing to perform any statutory or legal obligation placed upon a licensed physician; and (d) Respondent violated Section 458.331(1)(hh), Florida Statutes (2004, 2005), by improperly interfering with an investigation or with any disciplinary proceeding.

Additionally, on or about June 27, 2007 the Florida Board entered a "Final Order" in DOH Case No. 2005-08226 which provided

for a revocation of Respondent's medical license, payment of a fine of \$40,000.00 and costs of \$2,556.51, to be paid within 30 days of the date of the Final Order. More specifically, the Florida Board adopted the allegations set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, which are as follows: (a) Respondent violated Section 458.331(1)(q), Florida Statutes (2001), by inappropriately prescribing controlled substances to JM and JD, as further described in Rule 64B8-9.013, FAC; (b) Respondent violated Section 458.331(1)(t), Florida Statutes (2001), by failing to practice medicine with the level of care, skill and treatment which is recognized by a reasonably prudent similar physician as being acceptable under similar conditions and circumstances, as well as by failing to meet the standards of practice for the practice of medicine as defined in Rule 64B8-9.003 and 64B8-9.013, FAC; (c) Respondent violated Section 458.331(1)(m), Florida Statutes (2001), by failing to keep medical records that justify the course of treatment of the patients JM and JD, including, but not limited to, patient histories; examination results; test results; records of drugs prescribed, dispensed or administered; and reports of consultations and hospitalizations as further defined in Rule 64B8-9.003, FAC; (d) Respondent violated Section 458.331(1)(x), Florida Statutes (2001), and Section 456.072(1)(q), Florida Statutes (2001), by failing to comply with a lawfully issued subpoena of the

Department; and (e) Respondent violated Section 458.331(1)(g), Florida Statutes (2001), by failing to perform a statutory or legal obligation placed upon a licensed physician.

Finally, on or about June 27, 2007 the Florida Board entered a "Final Order" in DOH Case No. 2005-70115 which provided for a reprimand of Respondent's license; payment of a fine of \$10,000.00 and costs of \$2,331.18, to be paid within 30 days of the date of the Final Order; 5 hours of continuing medical education; and completion of 100 hours of community service within one year. More specifically, the Florida Board adopted the allegations set forth in the Administrative Complaint as the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, which are as follows: (a) Respondent violated Section 458.331(1)(g), Florida Statutes (2002), by failing to perform any statutory or legal obligation placed upon a licensed physician.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

The above disciplinary actions taken by the Florida Board resulting in the revocation of Respondent's Florida medical license provides grounds to take disciplinary action against Respondent's license to practice medicine and surgery in New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(g).

DISCUSSION ON FINALIZATION

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline ("POD") was entered by this Board on May 28,

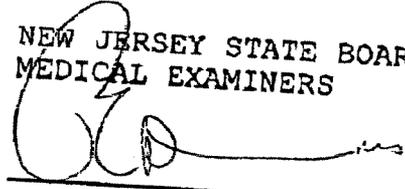
2008 and served upon Respondent. The POD was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th business day following entry unless Respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting Respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent did not submit a response or a request for a hearing in connection with the Provisional Order of Discipline. Accordingly, upon review of this matter, the Board determined that further proceedings were unnecessary and that the Provisional Order of Disciplinary should be finalized without change.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 23rd day of July, 2008,
ORDERED THAT Respondent's license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey shall be and hereby is **REVOKED**.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:


Paul C. Mendelowitz, M.D.
Board President

**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.

NAME: Harsh Sharma, M.D.
NJ License # MA065128

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 Number¹: _____

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

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

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).

¹ 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.