

that respondent, a psychiatrist, provided care to patient B.L. commencing in September 2000, and continuing through May 2003, when B.L. was found to have suffered lithium toxicity. During that time, respondent saw B.L. on multiple occasions, however only once, in February 2002, obtained a laboratory report of B.L.'s blood lithium levels. The Panel further found that respondent renewed prescriptions for B.L.'s medications (to include prescriptions for lithium) multiple times without seeing B.L.

The Panel concluded that respondent engaged in repeated acts of negligence during the time that he provided care to B.L., to include his failure, between February 2002 and May 2003, to have had any blood work performed on B.L. to monitor B.L.'s blood lithium levels. The Panel thus found that respondent negligently failed to order necessary laboratory work to monitor the blood levels of a potentially toxic drug that he continuously prescribed for B.L. The Panel further found that, during the same time period, Dr. Morelli engaged in negligence when he continued to renew B.L.'s prescriptions for lithium, without appropriate follow-up visits.

The Board herein adopts the above delineated findings made by the Panel. Based thereon, the Board concludes that cause for disciplinary action against respondent exists pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d). The parties desiring to resolve this matter without need for formal disciplinary proceedings, and the Board being satisfied that the need for such proceedings is obviated by the entry of the within Order, and being further satisfied that good cause exists to support the entry of the within Order,

IT IS on this 11 day of February, 2009:

ORDERED and AGREED:

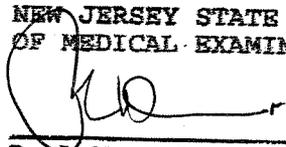
1. Respondent Louis G. Morelli, M.D., is hereby reprimanded for having engaged in repeated acts of negligence when providing care to patient B.L., specifically to having failed to adequately monitor B.L.'s lithium levels and having negligently renewed prescriptions for lithium without conducting follow-up visits.

2. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$5,000, which penalty shall be paid in full at the time of entry of this Order.

3. Respondent shall be required to attend and successfully complete, within six months of the date of entry of this Order, a continuing medical education course in pharmacology. Respondent shall secure approval from the Board for any course he proposes to take to satisfy the requirements of this paragraph.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:


Paul Mendelowitz, M.D.
Board President

I consent to the entry of this Order
by the State Board of Medical
Examiners


Louis G. Morelli, M.D.

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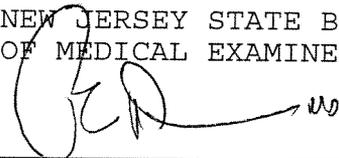
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Paul Mendelowitz, M.D.
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Louis G. Morelli, M.D.