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**FILED**

FEB 10 2011

**BOARD OF PHARMACY**

By: Jodi C. Krugman  
Deputy Attorney General  
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STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION  
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF

**JOHN J. MEO, R.P.**  
**License No. 28RI0150500**

TO PRACTICE PHARMACY IN THE  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") upon receipt of information that on November 5, 2008, respondent John J. Meo ("respondent") was charged with one count of Medicaid fraud in violation of N.J.S.A. 30:4D-1 et seq. The criminal complaint-summons specifically alleges that the respondent, while owning and operating a number of pharmacies in the Newark area, between May 28, 2003 and May 31, 2006, submitted requests for payment for prescription drugs to Medicaid. During this period, in violation of N.J.S.A. 30-4D-17(b), respondent submitted such requests even though he had knowledge that the prescribed drugs were not actually being dispensed.

Pursuant to a plea agreement, respondent pled guilty to third degree Medicaid fraud in the Essex County Superior Court on November 5, 2008, and specifically admitted that he had submitted requests for payment to Medicaid while knowing that the prescription drugs were not dispensed. Respondent testified that as part of the plea agreement, he had agreed to surrender his license to practice pharmacy and to be disqualified as a Medicaid provider. On May 27, 2009, respondent was sentenced to three years probation, ordered to perform ten hours of community service, and pay fees and restitution in the amount of \$500,000. Additionally, consistent with the plea agreement, respondent was disqualified as a provider from the Medicaid program and ordered to surrender his license as a pharmacist to be deemed a revocation.

The Board has reviewed all of the information presented, including the Accusation, and the Judgment of Conviction. The Board finding the within disposition adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and other good cause having been shown, and respondent desiring to resolve this matter without formal proceedings and having waived his right to those proceedings;

IT IS, therefore on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 201~~0~~<sup>1</sup>

ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent hereby voluntarily surrenders his license to practice pharmacy in the State of New Jersey to be deemed a revocation effective May 27, 2009. Respondent may not make application for reinstatement of his license for a minimum period of five years. In addition, respondent must comply with all of the requirements set forth in this Consent Order.

2. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from engaging in the practice of pharmacy, which includes, but is not limited to the following: respondent shall not handle, order, inventory, compound, count, fill, refill or dispense any drug; he shall not handle anything requiring a prescription, including devices and medications; he shall not handle prescriptions; he shall not advise or consult with patients, and he is prohibited from being present within a prescription filling area of a pharmacy.

3. Respondent shall surrender his wall certificate, wallet certificate, and his most recent renewal card of his license to the Executive Director of the Board immediately upon the entry of this Order by mailing them to Joanne Boyer, Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy, P. O. Box 45013, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

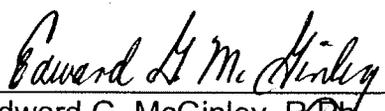
4. If respondent seeks reinstatement of his license, upon application for reinstatement, respondent shall:

- a. Appear before the Board or a committee thereof to discuss his readiness to reenter the practice of pharmacy. At that time Respondent shall be prepared to propose his plans and demonstrate his fitness for future practice in New Jersey.
- b. Provide the Board with evidence that he is capable of discharging the functions of a licensee in a manner consistent with the public's health, safety and welfare and that he is not then suffering from any impairment or limitation resulting from the use of any addictive substance which could affect his practice.
- c. Provide the Board with proof of the resolution of any criminal charges filed against him and compliance with any terms imposed by the criminal authorities related to this matter.
- d. Provide the Board with a full account of his conduct during the intervening period of time from the entry of this Order to his appearance pursuant to this Order.

5. If Respondent's license to practice pharmacy is reinstated, the Board, in its discretion, may impose any conditions or restrictions on licensure it deems necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

6. Any practice in this State in violation of the above conditions shall constitute grounds for discipline for violation of a Board Order and professional misconduct.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

By:   
Edward G. McGinley, R.Ph.  
Board President

I have read and understood the within Order and agree to be bound by its terms. I understand that this Order has significant legal consequences and I have decided to enter into this agreement. I consent to the form and entry of the Order by the Board of Pharmacy.

  
John J. Meo, R.P.

Consent is given as to form and entry of this Order:

 11/29/10  
Henry E. Klingeman, Esq.  
Attorney for John J. Meo, R.P.