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N.J. BOARD OF DENTISTRY
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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

In the Matter of the License of :
: Administrative Action
JOHN J. GRAEBER, D.M.D. :
License No. 22DI 00943800 :
: CONSENT ORDER
To Practice Dentistry in the :
State of New Jersey :

The New Jersey State Board of Dentistry ("Board") received information that John J. Graeber, D.M.D. ("Dr. Graeber" or "Respondent") entered into a Stipulation of Settlement with the State of New Jersey, Office of Insurance Fraud Prosecutor ("OIFP") on March 26, 2006. The settlement resolved claims made by OIFP following its intervention in a civil suit by brought by Delta Dental Plan of New Jersey, Inc. ("Delta"), alleging fraudulent misrepresentations of treatment dates, fees, and services rendered in claims submitted to Delta. In the OIFP Stipulation of Settlement, Dr. Graeber acknowledged that he caused to be presented a written statement in support of a claim for payment pursuant to

a Delta policy, knowing that the statement contained false or misleading information material to the claim by submitting the claim in the next policy year because the patient's benefits for the year of actual treatment were exhausted. As a result of this admission, Dr. Graeber was assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$75,000.00 by OIFP, and \$25,000.00 in attorney's fees.

In resolving the civil suit instituted by Delta, Dr. Graeber entered into a settlement agreement ("Delta Settlement"). As part of his agreement, Dr. Graeber "acknowledge[d] that [he had] personally participated in and personally directed insurance fraud against Delta Dental of New Jersey, Inc. In violation of the New Jersey Insurance Fraud Prevention Act, N.J.S.A. 17:33A-1 et seq., on numerous occasions during the period 1992 through 2001 including dates of service and patient treatment."

Dr. Graeber appeared before the Board on December 19, 2008, with counsel, Richard Tanner, Esq. He admitted, as set forth in the OIFP settlement, that he had knowingly submitted one insurance claim for a patient in the year following the year in which the services were performed, as the patient's benefits for the earlier year had been exhausted. Additionally, Respondent admitted to permitting hygienist to use lasers for root planing and scaling.

Having reviewed the record, including the testimony of Respondent at the investigative inquiry, an Administrative Complaint was filed with the Board by the Attorney General on

October 21, 2010 alleging that Respondent, through his conduct related to insurance submissions, has engaged in the use or employment of dishonesty, fraud, deception, or misrepresentation, and has violated board regulations, specifically N.J.A.C. 13:30-8.10, and has violated the provisions of N.J.S.A. 17:33A-1 et seq. Additionally, Respondent, by permitting hygienists to perform services outside the scope of their permitted practice, has engaged in professional misconduct, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

Respondent acknowledges that the Board's position has consistently been that use of lasers by a hygienist is outside the scope of permissible practice for a hygienist as specified in N.J.A.C. 13:30-1A.2, but denies any intent to have violated the Board's regulations.

The Board's review of the record establishes a basis for disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), (d), (e), (h), and (k).

The parties, having agreed to resolve this matter without further formal proceedings, and the Board finding this settlement is adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and for other good cause having been shown,

IT IS ON THIS 12th DAY OF September, 2011

ORDERED:

1. The license of John Graeber, D.M.D., to practice dentistry in the State of New Jersey shall be suspended effective November 1,

2011 following entry of this consent order for a period of three (3) years, the first two (2) months of which shall be served as a period of active suspension, and the remainder of which shall be stayed and served as a period of probation. Respondent shall comply with the attached Directives for licensees whose licenses have been suspended, revoked or surrendered.

2. Respondent shall not permit hygienists to perform services outside the scope of their permitted practice.

3. Respondent is assessed civil penalties pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22 totaling \$15,000. Payment of civil penalties shall be submitted by certified check or money order made payable to the State of New Jersey and shall be sent to Jonathan Eisenmenger, Executive Director, P.O. Box 45005, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07101 in three equal installments of \$5,000 each no later than 30, 60, and 90 days from the formal entry date of this Consent Order. Subsequent violations will subject Respondent to enhanced penalties pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25.

4. Respondent is assessed the costs of this investigation to the State in the amount of \$5,875.50. Payment for costs shall be submitted by certified check or money order to the Board no later than 30 days from the entry date of this Consent Order to Jonathan Eisenmenger, Executive Director at the address listed above.

5. Failure to remit any payment as required by this Order

will result in the filing of a Certificate of Debt and other proceedings as permitted by law.

6. Respondent shall fully attend and successfully complete the ProBE (Professional Problem Based Ethics) course offered by The Ethics Group, 89 Summit Avenue, Suite 185, Summit, New Jersey 07901, or the PRIME (Professional Renewal in Medicine through Ethics) course offered by the Center for Continuing Education in the Health Professions at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, 97 Paterson Street, Room 124, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903, or other ethics course of similar content that is pre-approved by the Board. Documentation of full attendance and successful completion of the course shall be provided to the Board prior to reinstatement. This course is in addition to the regularly required continuing education hours.

7. Failure to comply with any of the terms of this Consent Order may result in further disciplinary action.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

By:

Herbert B. Dolinsky, D.D.S.
Herbert B. Dolinsky, D.D.S.
President

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

John J. Graeber, DMD
John J. Graeber, DMD

Date

9/7/11

I consent to the form and entry of this order

Richard Tanner, Esq.
Richard Tanner, Esq.

Date

Order may result in further disciplinary action.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

By:

Herbert B. Dolinsky, D.D.S.
Herbert B. Dolinsky, D.D.S.
Acting President

I have read and understand the
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is hereby given to the Board to
enter this Order.

John J. Graeber, D.M.D.

Date

I consent to the form and entry
of this order 99-6-0

Richard Tanner, Esq.

Date

Sept 9, 2011

**DIRECTIVES APPLICABLE TO ANY DENTISTRY BOARD LICENSEE
WHO IS SUSPENDED, REVOKED OR WHOSE SURRENDER OF LICENSURE
HAS BEEN ACCEPTED**

A practitioner whose license is suspended or revoked or whose surrender of license has been accepted by the Board, shall conduct him/herself as follows:

1. Document Return and Agency Notification

The licensee shall promptly deliver to the Board office at 124 Halsey Street, 6th floor, Newark, New Jersey 07102, the original license and current biennial registration certificate, and if authorized to prescribe drugs, the current State and Federal Controlled Dangerous Substances Registration. 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.

2. Practice Cessation

The licensee shall cease and desist from engaging in the practice of dentistry 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 of this Board provides health care services. Unless otherwise ordered by the Board, 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 the 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 all prescription blanks and pads, 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 shall be obtained from the Office of Drug Control (973-504-6558) and filed with that office. If no other licensee is providing services at the practice location, all medications must be removed and returned to the manufacturer (if possible), or destroyed or safeguarded. In situations where the licensee has been suspended for a period of less than one year, prescription pads and medications must be secured in a locked place for safekeeping.

3. Practice Income Prohibitions/Divestiture of Equity Interest in Professional Service Corporations

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 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, and shall be required to comply with the requirements to divest him/herself of all financial interest in the professional practice pursuant to Board regulations contained in N.J.A.C. 13:30-8.21. Such divestiture shall occur within 90 days following the entry of the Board Order. Upon divestiture, a licensee shall forward to the Board a copy of documentation forwarded to the New Jersey Department of Treasury, 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. Patient 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 patient 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 patient record or asks that the record be forwarded to another health care provider, the licensee shall promptly provide the record without charge to the patient.

5. Probation/Monitoring Conditions

A disciplined practitioner whose active suspension of license has been stayed in full or in part, conditioned upon compliance with a probation or monitoring program, shall fully cooperate with the Board or 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 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 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 or facility involved in the education, treatment, monitoring or oversight of the practitioner, or maintained by the 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 by providing the designated sample.

6. Reports of Reimbursement

A disciplined practitioner shall promptly report to the Board his/her compliance with each directive requiring monies to be reimbursed to patients to other parties or third party payors or to any Court.

7. Report of Changes of Address

A disciplined practitioner shall notify the Board office in writing within ten (10) days of change of address.

**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 Dentistry 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 thereof, including the transcript and documents marked in evidence, are available for public inspection upon request.

Pursuant to Public Law 101-191, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, the Board is obligated to report to the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank any adverse action relating to a dentist:

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

In accordance with an agreement with the American Association of Dental Examiners, a report of all disciplinary orders is provided to that organization on a monthly basis.

Within the month following entry of an order, a summary of the order may appear on the public agenda for the 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.

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. In addition, the same description may appear on the Internet Website of the Division of Consumer Affairs.

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.