

**FILED**

March 10, 2014

**NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD  
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF:	:	
	:	
<b>GUNNAR KLAUSS, M.D.</b>	:	Administrative Action
<b>License No. 25MA08523000</b>	:	
	:	INTERIM
	:	CONSENT ORDER
TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY	:	
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	
	:	

This matter was opened to the State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") upon receipt of information from the Professional Assistance Program of New Jersey ("PAP") that Gunnar Klaus, M.D. ("Respondent") relapsed into his use of a controlled dangerous substance, specifically fentanyl. On or about late October 2013, Respondent admitted to the PAP that he relapsed into substance abuse, after Hackensack University Medical Center notified the PAP of its concerns regarding Respondent, who has had a history of substance abuse and involvement with the PAP since 2011.

Respondent now seeks leave to voluntarily surrender his medical license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey without prejudice and in accordance with the

**CERTIFIED TRUE COPY**

terms of this Order. The Board finding the within disposition to be adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare,

IT IS, therefore, on this 10 day of March, 2014;

ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent, Gunnar Klauss, M.D., is hereby granted leave to voluntarily surrender his medical license to perform the duties of a physician. Respondent shall immediately surrender his physician license to practice in the State of New Jersey pending demonstration of fitness and further order of the Board. Respondent will be eligible to apply for reinstatement of his license no sooner than six months after he entered inpatient rehabilitation treatment and ceased his practice of medicine and surgery on October 24, 2013.

2. Respondent shall immediately return his original New Jersey license and current biennial registration to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners, Post Office Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183.

3. Respondent shall immediately advise the Drug Enforcement Agency (the "DEA") of this Order, specifically the temporary surrender of his physician license, and provide the Board within 5 days proof of said notification to the DEA.

4. Respondent shall comply with the "Directives Applicable to any Medical Board Licensee who is Suspended, Revoked or Whose Surrender of Licensure has been Accepted," attached hereto and made a part hereof.

5. Prior to any restoration of his license, Respondent shall, at a minimum, undertake the following:

- a. Documented absolute abstinence from the use of all psychoactive substances including fentanyl for a continuous period of not less than six months, unless prescribed by a treating physician for a documented medical condition with notification from Respondent's treating physician to the PAP of the diagnosis, treatment plan, prognosis and medications prescribed.
- b. Documented attendance and involvement at a support group of Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous for a minimum of not less than three meetings a week for a continuous period until such time as the Executive Medical Director of the PAP determines that the frequency and duration of attendance is no longer required. Respondent shall, at all times, have an Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous sponsor and provide documentation of his attendance and sponsorship to the PAP.
- c. Respondent shall comply with random urine drug screens, with such frequency and duration as is required by the PAP.
- d. Respondent shall sign releases with his treating physicians, psychologists, therapists and counselors so that the PAP may ascertain his level of compliance and progress with his treatment and provide notification to the Board of any instance of noncompliance or relapse.
- e. Respondent shall be seen and monitored by the PAP in routine, face-to-face follow-ups with a clinical representative of the PAP, with a frequency consistent with Respondent's duration and status in recovery. Respondent

must fully complete treatment as recommended by the PAP. The PAP shall be sent reports from any aftercare program attended by Respondent at a frequency and duration determined by the PAP.

f. Respondent shall appear before the Board, or a committee thereof, to discuss his readiness to re-enter the practice of medicine as a physician. At that time, Respondent shall be prepared to propose his plans for future practice in New Jersey and provide the Board with:

- i. 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 suffering from any impairment or limitation resulting from the use of fentanyl or any drug or substance that could affect his practice;
- ii. Detailed discharge summaries from any substance abuse programs and reports from each and every mental health professional (including but not limited to psychologists, counselors, therapists, psychiatrists);
- iii. A report from the PAP detailing the nature and extent of his involvement with that entity, and whether he has abided by the recommendations made by the PAP and whether the PAP has determined that Respondent is ready to re-enter the practice of medicine as a physician within New Jersey;
- iv. An affirmative establishment of his fitness, competence and capacity to re-enter the active

practice of medicine as a physician within New Jersey; and

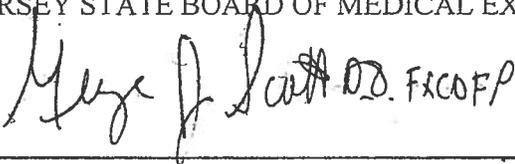
- v. A full account of his conduct during the intervening period of time from his entry into this Order to his appearance before the Board.

6. The parties hereby stipulate that entry of this Order is without prejudice to further action, investigation or restrictions upon reinstatement by this Board, the Attorney General, the Drug Control Unit, the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs or other law enforcement entities resulting from Respondent's conduct prior to the entry of this Order.

7. The Board shall retain jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Order. Upon receipt of any reliable information indicating that Respondent has violated any term of this Order, the Board reserves the right to bring further disciplinary action.

8. Respondent has been specifically advised that he has a right to retain an attorney in this matter, as the entry of this Order affects his legal rights. Respondent has voluntarily chosen to enter into this Order without the advice of counsel.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:   
George J. Scott, D.O., FACOFF  
President

I have read and understood the within Order and agree to be bound by its terms. Consent is

hereby given to the Board to enter this Order. I understand that this Order has serious professional and legal import and I have decided to enter into this agreement without legal counsel.

*Gunnar Klaus*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gunnar Klaus, M.D.

*19. February 2014*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**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.

**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.