

FILED

May 20 2014

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD  
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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

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In the matter of:

SERENA Q. LEE, M.D.

CONSENT ORDER

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This matter was opened before the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") upon the Board's receipt of a report from the Medical Practitioner Review Panel (the "Panel") detailing the results of an investigation of respondent Serena Q. Lee, M.D. Specifically, the Panel commenced an investigation of Dr. Lee's medical practice upon its receipt of notification from St. Michael's Medical Center that Dr. Lee's privileges to practice infectious disease medicine, including consultative services, were summarily suspended on March 15, 2012. St. Michael's reported that the suspension was based on patient care issues that were identified and reviewed both at the hospital level and by an external consultant. Dr. Lee's privileges to practice internal medicine at St. Michael's were not suspended, but her internal medicine privileges were made expressly contingent upon her making legible, timely entries in medical records that reflected with clarity patient assessment, acknowledgment of diagnostic testing and plan of care. Dr. Lee's practice of internal medicine was thereafter subject to a focused review by the Chairman of the

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Department of Medicine (to ascertain whether she was compliant with the above contingencies). On September 2, 2012, Dr. Lee's privileges to practice infectious disease medicine were reinstated.

The Panel reviewed available information provided by St. Michael's, to include medical records which were the predicate for the suspension of Dr. Lee's infectious disease privileges. The Panel additionally considered testimony offered by respondent when she appeared before the Panel on January 18, 2013, represented by Daniel Adelson, Esq. and additional written submissions (to include copies of patient record entries made by Dr. Lee subsequent to her appearance before the Panel).

Upon review of available information, the Panel found that respondent provided negligent care to patient S.D., a 49 year old male with end-stage COPD who was admitted to St. Michael's twice, on January 23, 2009 and March 17, 2009, with COPD exacerbations (S.D. expired on March 23, 2009 from underlying severe COPD complicated by a cardiopulmonary arrest and hypoxic brain injury). Specifically, respondent misdiagnosed S.D. as HIV positive, and treated S.D. with antiretroviral medications, without ever confirming her diagnosis.

The Panel also found that respondent engaged in negligence in her care of patient J.C., a 50 year old male patient with a history of HIV infection admitted to St. Michael's on January 11, 2011 with syncope. Dr. Lee was called as a infectious

disease consultant on the date of admission. She then evaluated J.C., diagnosed HIV and pneumocystitis and ordered testing to include a CAT scan of the chest. Thereafter, however, Dr. Lee failed to conduct any follow-up and/or secure the results of the testing she ordered.

The Board herein adopts all findings set forth above, and concludes that cause for disciplinary sanction against respondent exists pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d) (engaging in repeated acts of negligence, based on the cumulative findings in the S.D. and J.C. matters). The parties desiring to resolve this matter without the need for further administrative proceedings, and the Board being satisfied that the within disposition is adequate and appropriate, and that good cause exists for the entry of this Order;

IT IS on this            day of April, 2014

ORDERED and AGREED:

1. Respondent Serena Q. Lee is hereby formally reprimanded for having engaged in repeated acts of negligence when treating patients S.D. and J.C.

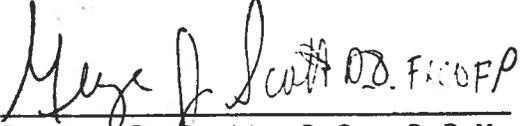
2. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$20,000, which penalty shall be due and payable in full at the time of entry of this Order.

3. Respondent shall, within nine months of the date of entry of this Order, complete courses acceptable to the Board in:

(1) medical record keeping and (2) the diagnosis and treatment of HIV. Respondent shall be required to secure written pre-approval from the Board for both courses, which she may seek by providing all available information concerning any proposed course to the consultant Medical Director of the Board, who shall review said information and then determine whether any proposed course is acceptable to the Board (for the medical record keeping course only, respondent need not secure written pre-approval if she elects to attend any medical record keeping course which is presently approved by the Board; respondent has been provided with a list of approved record keeping courses). Respondent shall thereafter be responsible to ensure that documentation of successful completion of the courses taken to satisfy the requirements of this paragraph is forwarded by the course provider(s) to the Board. In the event that respondent fails to successfully complete the course work required herein in a timely fashion (that is, in the event the Board does not receive documentation of successful completion of approved courses within nine months of the date of entry of this Order), respondent shall be deemed to have failed to comply with the requirements of this Order, and her license may then be immediately suspended by the Board for failure to comply with the terms of this Order. In the event an Order of immediate suspension for failure to comply with the terms of this Order is entered, respondent's license shall thereafter continue to be actively

suspended until such time as she successfully completes the required course work, documentation thereof is submitted to the Board, and written notice of reinstatement is provided by the Board to respondent.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF  
MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:   
George J. Scott, D.O., D.P.M.  
Board President

I represent that I have carefully read and considered this Order, agree to comply with all terms and consent to the entry of the Order by the Board.

  
Serena Q. Lee, M.D.

Dated: 4/3/2014

Consent to form of Order and entry of Order by Board.

  
David L. Adelson, Esq.  
Counsel for Respondent

Dated: 4-10-14