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FILED

December 19, 2014

**NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
OAL Docket # BDS 14114-2014 N

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF

SOUHEIL SABA, M.D.
License No. 25MA06530700

Administrative Action

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 alleging that Souheil Saba, M.D. ("Respondent") had not complied with the statutes and regulations governing the conduct of licensed physicians in the State of New Jersey. Specifically, Respondent dispensed prescription medication to a family member without

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creating the required medical record; dispensed prescription medication without proper written instructions; dispensed excessive quantities of prescription medication without controlling its use; failed to safeguard prescription drugs; and failed to satisfy his Continuing Medical Education ("CME") obligations.

Respondent appeared and testified before the Preliminary Evaluation Committee ("PEC") of the Board on October 2, 2013, where he admitted to dispensing fifteen boxes of combination Lidocaine 2.5% and Prilocaine 2.5% Cream Rx Only (a prescription legend drug) without following the proper procedures. Following the PEC appearance, Respondent submitted CME documentation to the Board that showed that he was CME deficient for the time period of July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2013, compiling only 16.5 CME credits.

A Complaint was filed on September 8, 2014, alleging dispensing of prescription medication to a family member without creating a medical record; dispensing of prescription medication without proper written instructions; dispensing excessive quantities of prescription medication without controlling its use; and failing to satisfy CME obligations. An Answer was filed on October 20, 2014, admitting the dispensing of prescription

medication without following proper procedure and the CME deficiency.

Respondent and the Board, both being desirous of resolving this matter without formal proceedings, consent and agree to each and every term of this Consent Order. The Board being satisfied that entry of the within Order is adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and being satisfied that good cause exists for entry of the within Order,

IT IS on this 19 day of December 2014 HEREBY

ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. The Board hereby imposes an Order of Reprimand upon Souheil Saba, M.D. for his violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h) arising from his failure to comply with multiple regulations administered by the Board, specifically: (a) dispensing prescription medication to a family member without creating a required medical record, in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:35-6.5(b); (b) dispensing prescription medication without proper written instruction, in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:35-7.5(d); (c) dispensing excessive quantities of prescription medication without controlling its use, in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:35-7.5(a); (d) failing to safeguard prescription drugs, in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:35-7.5(d); and (e) failing to satisfy his CME obligations, in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:35-6.15(b).

2. Respondent shall complete Board approved courses in ethics, medical recordkeeping, and the dispensing of prescription medication. Each of these three courses shall be at Respondent's own expense and he must demonstrate successful completion to the Board within nine months of the filed date of this Consent Order. Successful completion means that all sessions were attended, all assignments were properly and appropriately completed and a passing grade was achieved which was unconditional and without reservation.

3. Respondent shall additionally be responsible to ensure that the course provider(s) of each of the three courses referenced herein submits written confirmation to the Board that Respondent attended and successfully completed said courses.

4. Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25 in the amount of \$ 4500.00.

5. Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty of \$50 per credit hour of unfulfilled CME obligations in the aggregate amount of \$3,950.

6. Respondent shall reimburse the Board for attorney's fees and costs in the amount of \$1,215 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25(d).

7. Payment for all penalties and costs set forth above in paragraphs 4, 5, and 6 shall be made by wire transfer, or by

bank check, money order, or certified check and made payable to the State of New Jersey and sent to William Roeder, Executive Director, Board of Medical Examiners, P.O. Box 183, Trenton, NJ 08625-0183 within thirty days of the date of filing of this Consent Order. Any payment in a form other than those noted above will be rejected and returned to the sender. Subsequent violations will subject Respondent to enhanced penalties pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25.

8. Dr. Saba shall comply with the "Directives Applicable To Any Medical Board Licensee Who Is Disciplined Or Whose Surrender Of Licensure Has Been Accepted" (Directives) to the extent applicable. The Directives are attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

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

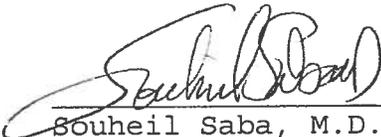
10. Failure to comply with any provision of this Consent Order may result in subsequent disciplinary proceedings pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:45C-1.1 et. seq. for failure to comply with an Order of the Board.

11. This Consent Order shall be a full and final disposition of the Administrative matter docketed as BDS 14114-2014 N. The Board shall retain jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Order.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

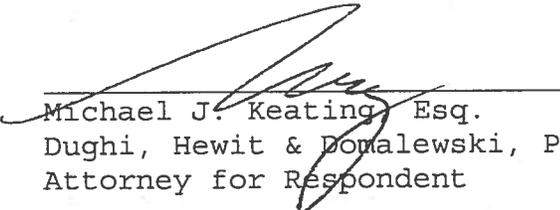
By: 
Stewart A. Berkowitz, M.D.
President

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


Souheil Saba, M.D.

Dated: 12/18/14

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


Michael J. Keating, Esq.
Dughi, Hewit & Donalewski, P.C.
Attorney for Respondent

Dated: 12/18/14

EXHIBIT A
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.

Provide the names and addresses of every person with whom you are associated in your professional practice: (You may attach a blank sheet of stationery bearing this information).

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.