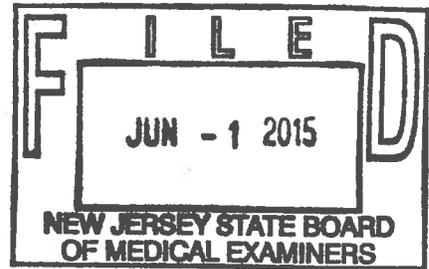


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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION :
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF : Administrative Action
:
RAVINDER SHARMA, M.D. : FINAL CONSENT ORDER
LICENSE NO. 25MA05732100 :
:
TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY :
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") upon receipt of information that on July 19, 2013, Ravinder Sharma, M.D. ("Respondent") was arrested and charged with one count of Criminal Sexual Contact in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-3B and one count of Endangering the Welfare of a Child in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4A. This arrest was predicated upon an investigation by the New Brunswick Police Department and the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office into allegations that Respondent, on two separate occasions in his office, engaged in improper and inappropriate sexual contact with an underage intern.

The allegations, if proven, would demonstrate that Respondent engaged in professional misconduct and acts constituting crimes of

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moral turpitude and crimes which relate adversely to the practice of medicine, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (f), as well as a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:35-6.3.

On August 19, 2013, Respondent signed an Interim Consent Order which was filed by the Board on August 21, 2013. Under the terms of the Order, Respondent agreed: to be supervised by a chaperone in all of his interactions with patients, staff, interns and volunteers in an office or hospital setting, not to treat any patients under the age of twenty-one, not to employ any staff in his office under the age of twenty-one and to comply with a psychosexual evaluation and any recommendations thereof.

On February 20, 2014, Respondent entered into an agreement for a two year period of Pre Trial Intervention (PTI) with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office. Respondent's conditions of PTI, as accepted by the Superior Court of New Jersey, are a \$5,000 fine, six month suspension of practice - active or inactive at the discretion of the Board, to abide by all conditions ordered by the Board, to have no unsupervised contact with females under the age of 16 and no contact with the victim (K.G.).

It appearing that Respondent has read the terms of the within Order and understands their meaning and effect and consents to be bound by same, and it further appearing that Respondent wishes to enter into an agreement without making admissions, and the Board finding the within disposition adequately protective of the public

health, safety, and welfare; and it appearing that good cause exists for the entry of the within Order;

IT IS, therefore, on this 01 day of JUN, 2015,

ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Ravinder Sharma, M.D., is hereby granted leave to voluntarily surrender his license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey, with such surrender to be deemed a suspension.

2. Respondent's license to practice medicine and surgery shall be suspended for three years, the first eleven (11) months of which shall be a period of active suspension with the remaining two years and one month to be stayed and served as a period of probation. The period of active suspension shall be tolled for any length of time that Respondent practices in another jurisdiction or is incarcerated.

3. The period of active suspension shall commence thirty days from the filed date of this Order. During this wind-down period, Respondent shall not treat any new patients and shall continue to practice under the terms of the above referenced Interim Consent Order.

4. Thirty days from the filed date of this Order, Respondent shall return his original New Jersey medical license and CDS registration to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners, Post Office Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183.

5. Upon completion of the period of active suspension, Respondent's interactions with all female patients in an office setting, and all female staff members, interns, and volunteers, either paid or unpaid in an office setting, shall take place only accompanied by and in the presence of a female chaperone. The chaperone must be a licensed healthcare professional in the State of New Jersey.

6. Respondent shall employ a chaperone on a permanent basis, as long as he practices medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey.

7. Respondent shall ensure that the chaperone initials each patient record indicating that she was present at all times during a female patient's treatment by Respondent.

8. Respondent shall employ the chaperone at his cost and she must be pre-approved by the Board of Medical Examiners.

9. Respondent shall ensure that the chaperone shall agree to report any misconduct by Dr. Sharma immediately to the Board of Medical Examiners, including any instance where the chaperone learns that Dr. Sharma has engaged in any treatment of a female patient when she was not present.

10. Respondent shall provide a copy of this executed Order to the chaperone. The chaperone is required to counter-sign a copy of this Final Consent Order and send it to the Board within five days of Respondent's resumption of practice and/or a change of Board-

approved chaperone.

11. Respondent shall not treat any patients under the age of twenty-one.

12. Respondent shall not employ any staff, interns, or volunteers, whether paid or unpaid, in his office who are under the age of twenty-one.

13. Prior to his completion of the eleven month period of active suspension, Respondent shall complete a Board approved course in Boundaries and submit proof of his successful completion of the course to the Board. 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. Respondent shall be solely responsible for the cost of this course.

14. Prior to his resumption of active practice, Respondent shall appear before a Committee of the Board. Respondent shall be permitted to appear before the Committee three months prior to the end of the active suspension period.

15. Respondent shall comply with the terms of the PTI agreement.

16. Respondent shall notify the Board within two business days if his PTI is terminated prior to its completion.

17. Respondent shall notify the Medical Director of each hospital and healthcare facility where he has privileges and/or

practices medicine and surgery, of this Final Consent Order and have that representative sign this Order. Respondent shall ensure that the signed Order is then returned to the Medical Director of the Board at the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners, Post Office Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183.

18. This agreement shall be effective upon execution, except that Respondent shall provide the Board with information as to his proposed chaperone within one month of the end date of his active suspension. Respondent shall be notified of the Board's approval or disapproval of a proposed chaperone within one week of the Board's receipt of the proposed chaperone's contact information and curriculum vitae.

19. Respondent shall comply with the Directives Applicable to Any Medical Board Licensee Who is Disciplined, which are attached hereto and incorporated herein.

20. The parties hereby stipulate that entry of this Order is without prejudice to further action by this Board or 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.

21. Proof of violation of the terms of this Final Consent Order shall be deemed professional misconduct and constitute grounds for further disciplinary action by the Board.

NEW JERSEY
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

BY:



Stewart A. Berkowitz, M.D.
Board President

I have read this Order and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions. I hereby give consent to the Board to enter this Order.



Ravinder Sharma, M.D.

05/22/2015

Date

I hereby consent to the form of this Order.



Svetlana Ros, Esq.
Law Offices of Kern Augustine
Conroy and Schoppmann, P.C.
Counsel to Ravinder Sharma, M.D.

5/29/15

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.