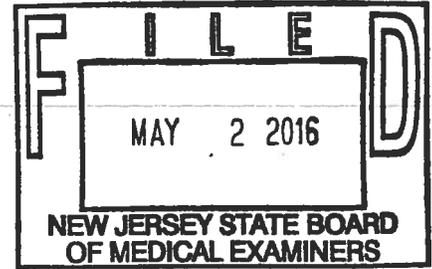


ROBERT LOUGY
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101



By: Wendy Leggett Faulk
Deputy Attorney General
Tel. (973) 648-7093
wendy.faulk@dol.lps.state.nj.us
Attorney ID: 043321996

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF

John R. Bach, M.D.
License No. 25MA04221900

TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

CONSENT ORDER

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") upon receipt of information that John R. Bach, M.D. ("Respondent"), engaged in injudicious prescribing of Controlled Dangerous Substances ("CDS"). Specifically, Respondent prescribed CDS medications to two (2) subordinate coworkers absent documented justification of medical necessity, and outside the usual course of his professional practice as Medical Director of the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Association Clinic at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (formerly University Hospital), in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45H-7.4(a). As part of the Board's investigation, Respondent appeared before a Preliminary Evaluation Committee ("Committee") of the Board on

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September 9, 2015 to testify regarding his prescribing practices as well as his overall practice of medicine.

Respondent testified that for several months in 2013 he prescribed Percocet for his secretary because she stated she suffered from back pain, and that he did not maintain a patient record for her. Respondent also admitted prescribing Percocet for another hospital employee who was a friend of the secretary, and he did not maintain a patient record for this person. Respondent testified that in the usual course of his professional practice he employs non-invasive ventilation techniques to improve the breathing of patients suffering from neuromuscular diseases, and that he does not routinely prescribe pain medications. Respondent further testified that during the relevant time period he regularly entrusted signed prescription blanks to his secretary when he planned to be out of the office for an extended period, and that he had to do this so his patients would be able to obtain prescriptions for durable medical equipment and other related services in his absence. Respondent admitted he did not require the secretary to account for the signed blank scripts once he returned. Following Respondent's appearance, the Committee expressed serious concerns with his admitted conduct.

The Board finds that Respondent's conduct, including his prescribing for two subordinate employees without documentary medical justification and outside the area of his professional expertise, and his management of prescription blanks during the relevant period, constitutes grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(m) and N.J.A.C. 13:35-7.4(a). These findings are sufficient to support the disposition herein.

Respondent desires to resolve this matter without further proceedings and, agreeing to waive any right to the same, consents to each and every term of this Consent Order. The Board, finding the within disposition to be adequately protective of the public health,

safety and welfare, and for other good cause shown, and all parties agreeing to the terms of this Order;

IT IS, therefore, on this 2nd day of May, 2016,

ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent, John R. Bach, M.D., is hereby reprimanded for his conduct as described above.

2. Respondent's New Jersey CDS registration, No. D003547800, is suspended and Respondent shall immediately cease prescribing any CDS medications. Respondent shall immediately return his original New Jersey CDS Registration to Jessica Kelley, Acting Executive Director, New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, Drug Control Unit, P.O. Box 45005, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

3. Respondent shall, within six (6) months of the filing and entry of this Order, demonstrate successful completion of a Board-approved CDS prescribing course. Respondent shall submit written verification of successful completion of the course to the Medical Director of the Board. Respondent may thereafter seek reinstatement of his registration through the Division of Consumer Affairs.

4. Respondent shall also attend and successfully complete, within six (6) months of the filing and entry of this Order, Board-approved courses in ethics and medical record-keeping and submit written verification thereof to the Board.

5. Respondent shall be entirely responsible for any and all costs or expenses relating to the courses required in this Order. "Successful completion" of any course requires that Respondent attend all course sessions, fully participate in the course, properly and appropriately complete all assignments, and, if applicable, receive an unconditional pass in the final evaluation. Any course required in this Order shall not be counted toward

the continuing medical education required by the Board for Respondent's biennial license renewal.

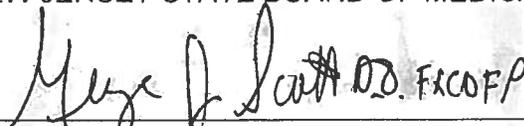
6. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22 (b), Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of Seven Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500). Payment shall be made in the form of bank check, money order, certified check, wire transfer or credit card. Payment rendered in any other form will be rejected, returned and deemed unremitted. Payment shall be made payable to the "State of New Jersey" and forwarded to the attention of the Executive Director, New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners, P.O. Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183. For any assessment not paid in full as required herein, a Certificate of Debt shall be filed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 to protect the judgment and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

7. Respondent shall comply with the Medical Board Licensee Directives attached hereto and made a part hereof.

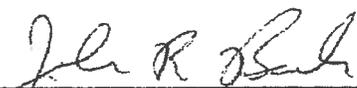
8. Failure by Respondent to comply with any provision of this Order may result in subsequent disciplinary proceedings pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.1 et seq. for failure to comply with an order of the Board. In such event, the Attorney General or the Board may commence a disciplinary proceeding seeking, among other sanctions, the suspension of Respondent's license to practice medicine.

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

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

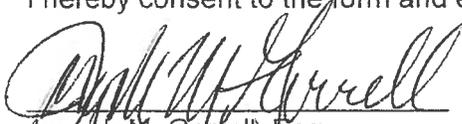
By: 
George J. Scott, D.P.M., D.O.
Board Secretary

I have read and understood the within Consent Order and agree to be bound by its contents. I hereby consent to entry of this Order.


John R. Bach, M.D.

Date: 4/26/16

I hereby consent to the form and entry of this Order.


Joseph M. Gorfell, Esq.
Attorney for Respondent

Date: 5/1/16

**DIRECTIVES APPLICABLE TO ANY MEDICAL BOARD LICENSEE
WHO IS DISCIPLINED OR WHOSE SURRENDER OF LICENSURE
OR CESSATION OF PRACTICE HAS BEEN ORDERED OR AGREED UPON**

APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON AUGUST 12, 2015

All licensees who are the subject of a disciplinary order or surrender or cessation order (herein after, "Order") of the Board shall provide the information required on the addendum to these directives. 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 licensee is suspended, revoked, has surrendered his or her license, or entered into an agreement to cease practice, with or without prejudice, whether on an interim or final basis. Paragraph 5 applies to licensees who are the subject of an order which, while permitting continued practice, contains probationary terms 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. Prior to the resumption of any prescribing of controlled dangerous substances, the licensee shall petition the Director of Consumer Affairs for a return of the CDS registration if the basis for discipline involved CDS misconduct. 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, surrender or cessation, the licensee must truthfully disclose his/her licensure status in response to inquiry.) The licensee subject to the order

is also prohibited from occupying, sharing or using office space in which another licensee provides health care services. The licensee subject to the order may contract for, accept payment from another licensee for rent at fair market value for office premises and/or equipment. In no case may the licensee subject to the order 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 subject to the order 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), subject to the order for the payment of salaries for office staff employed at the time of the Board action.

A licensee whose license has been revoked, suspended or subject to a surrender or cessation order for one (1) year or more must immediately take steps to 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 subject to the order 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.¹ 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 order.

¹This bar on the receipt of any fee for professional services is not applicable to cease and desist orders where there are no findings that would be a basis for Board action, such as those entered adjourning a hearing.

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 or who is ordered to cease practice 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 disqualified licensee who is a member of a limited liability company organized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 42:1-44, shall also divest him/herself of all financial interest. Such divestiture of the licensee's interest in the limited liability company or professional service corporation shall occur within 90 days following 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 Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services demonstrating that the interest has been terminated. If the licensee is the sole shareholder in a professional service corporation or sole member of the limited liability company, the corporation must be dissolved within 90 days of the licensee's disqualification unless it is lawfully transferred to another licensee and documentation of the valuation process and consideration paid is also provided to the Board.

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) immediately 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. If the licensee has a website, a notice shall be posted on the website as well.

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.

6. Payment of Civil and Criminal Penalties and Costs.

With respect to any licensee who is the subject of any order imposing a civil penalty and/or costs, the licensee shall satisfy the payment obligations within the time period ordered by the Board or be subject to collection efforts or the filing of a certificate of debt. The Board shall not consider any application for reinstatement nor shall any appearance before a committee of the Board seeking reinstatement be scheduled until such time as the Board ordered payments are satisfied in full. (The Board at its discretion may grant installment payments for not more than a 24 months period.)

As to the satisfaction of criminal penalties and civil forfeitures, the Board will consider a reinstatement application so long as the licensee is current in his or her payment plans.

NOTICE OF REPORTING PRACTICES OF BOARD
REGARDING DISCIPLINARY ORDERS/ACTIONS

All Orders filed by the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners are "government records" as defined under the Open Public Records Act and are available for public inspection, copying or examination. See N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1, et seq., N.J.S.A. 52:14B-3(3). Should any inquiry be made to the Board concerning the status of a licensee who has been the subject of a Board Order, the inquirer will be informed of the existence of the Order and a copy will be provided on request. Unless sealed or otherwise confidential, all documents filed in public actions taken against licensees, to include documents filed or introduced into evidence in evidentiary hearings, proceedings on motions or other applications conducted as public hearings, and the transcripts of any such proceedings, are "government records" available for public inspection, copying or examination.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:9-22, a description of any final board disciplinary action taken within the most recent ten years is included on the New Jersey Health Care Profile maintained by the Division of Consumer Affairs for all licensed physicians. Links to copies of Orders described thereon are also available on the Profile website. See <http://www.njdoctorlist.com>.

Copies of disciplinary Orders entered by the Board are additionally posted and available for inspection or download on the Board of Medical Examiners' website.

See <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/bme>.

Pursuant to federal law, the Board is required to report to the National Practitioner Data Bank (the "NPDB") certain adverse licensure actions taken against licensees related to professional competence or conduct, generally including the revocation or suspension of a license; reprimand; censure; and/or probation. Additionally, any negative action or finding by the Board that, under New Jersey law, is publicly available information is reportable to the NPDB, to include, without limitation, limitations on scope of practice and final adverse actions that occur in conjunction with settlements in which no finding of liability has been made. Additional information regarding the specific actions which the Board is required to report to the National Practitioner Data Bank can be found in the NPDB Guidebook issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in April 2015. See <http://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/resources/npdbguidebook.pdf>.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A.45:9-19.13, in any case in which the Board refuses to issue, suspends, revokes or otherwise places conditions on a license or permit, the Board is required 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 entered by the Board is provided to the Federation on a monthly basis.

From time to time, the Press Office of the Division of Consumer Affairs may issue press releases including information regarding public actions taken by the Board.

Nothing herein is intended in any way to limit the Board, the Division of Consumer Affairs or the Attorney General from disclosing any public document.