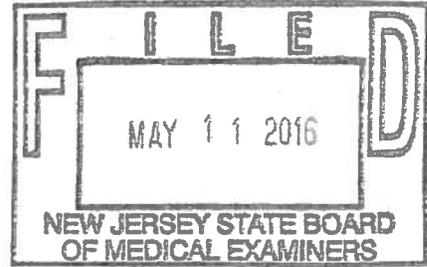


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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

In the Matter of:

NANDAVAR K. RAMACHANDRA, M.D.

CONSENT ORDER REINSTATING
LICENSURE WITH RESTRICTIONS
AND CONDITIONS

This matter was reopened before the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") upon the Board's receipt of a renewed petition, dated November 3, 2015, for the reinstatement of the license of respondent Nandavar K. Ramachandra, M.D. Dr. Ramachandra appeared before a Preliminary Evaluation Committee ("PEC") of the Board on February 24, 2016, *pro se*, and then testified in support of his petition. He was accompanied by Louis E. Baxter, M.D., Executive Medical Director of the Professional Assistance Program (the "PAP"), who testified concerning Dr. Ramachandra's participation in the PAP and offered the PAP's support for reinstatement of Dr. Ramachandra's license.

By way of background, respondent has a history of problems with alcohol abuse that date back to his medical residency. Information about Dr. Ramachandra's alcohol abuse was first reported to the Board by the PAP in December 2005, at which time respondent voluntarily surrendered his medical license in a Consent Order entered January 5, 2006. Respondent's license was conditionally reinstated by Consent Order filed on September 14, 2006, and respondent was thereafter granted an unrestricted license in an Order filed August 22, 2011.

On November 4, 2013, the Board received notification from the PAP that Dr. Ramachandra had, by his own admission, relapsed into the abuse of alcohol. Based thereon, an Order of Automatic Suspension of License was filed on December 9, 2013, wherein Dr. Ramachandra's license was once again ordered actively suspended. Respondent's license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey has remained suspended since that time. Dr. Ramachandra initially appeared before a PEC on June 4, 2014, however his petition for reinstatement was considered to be premature and was denied.

When appearing before the PEC on February 26, 2016, respondent testified that he has continued to maintain complete abstinence from use of alcohol since November 3, 2013. Respondent completed an inpatient program for treatment of alcohol dependence at Behavioral Health of the Palm Beaches, Inc. between November 7

2013 and December 6 2013. Since discharge, he has participated fully with the PAP. Dr. Ramachandra testified that he presently attends 3 to 4 meetings of the support group Alcoholics Anonymous weekly, and that he continues to see his psychiatrist, Dr. J. Calvin Chatlos, for medication management on a bimonthly basis.

Dr. Baxter testified that Dr. Ramachandra has fully complied with all recommendations made to him by the PAP. He stated that Dr. Ramachandra presently had maintained documented recovery for a period in excess of two years, and is presently in stable recovery. Dr. Ramachandra has been on random, twice-weekly urine monitoring since December 2013, with specimens collected by PAP staff, and all screens have been negative for the presence of unauthorized psychoactive substances including alcohol. Dr. Baxter testified that the PAP supported Dr. Ramachandra's petition for reinstatement, subject to continued monitoring requirements and other limitations which have been incorporated as conditions of this Order. Finally, the Board has been provided with a letter dated April 11, 2016, from respondent's treating psychiatrist, Dr. Chatlos, who states that Dr. Ramachandra continues in treatment and is functionally able to return to the active practice of medicine. Dr. Chatlos expressed support, without reservations, for Dr. Ramachandra's petition for reinstatement.¹

¹ All documentation supplied by the PAP, as well as all testimony offered before the PEC, addressing Dr. Ramachandra's treatment for

The Board is satisfied that respondent has made a demonstration of good cause to support reinstatement of his New Jersey medical license. Available evidence suggests that he has maintained abstinence from the use of alcohol and all other psychoactive substances for a period in excess of two years, and his petition for reinstatement is presently fully supported by the PAP.

The Board finding that good cause presently exists for the entry of an Order reinstating respondent's medical license, subject to all conditions and requirements set forth below, and respondent herein expressly agreeing to comply with all terms and conditions of the within Order,

IT IS on this 11th day of May, 2016

ORDERED and AGREED:

1. The license of respondent Nandavar K. Ramachandra, M.D., to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey is hereby conditionally reinstated, subject to his compliance with all conditions and restrictions set forth herein.

alcohol abuse, as well as his general participation with the PAP and/or involvement in psychiatric treatment and counseling, is considered confidential, both as a matter of federal law and based on the individual expectation of privacy. The limited citations herein to diagnoses that have been made, treatment received and opinions of treatment providers are deemed necessary to detail the basis for the Board's conclusions and actions herein, and are set forth herein without objection by respondent or the PAP. Other than to the limited extent cited herein, all documents offered in support of respondent's petition for reinstatement concerning his medical or psychiatric care, and/or his involvement with the PAP, and all testimony offered in support thereof, remain expressly confidential.

2. Respondent may practice medicine only in a Board approved office setting. Respondent shall be limited to working a maximum of forty (40) hours in any week for a minimum period of three months following his resumption of medical practice and he shall not, during that time period, engage in any medical practice other than at the approved office setting, to include without limitation practice at any hospital. After a period of three months, Dr. Ramachandra may seek authorization from the PAP to increase the maximum number of allowable hours that he may work per week and/or authorization to extend his practice to a hospital setting, however any increase in the permissible scope of his practice shall only occur upon written approval by the Executive Medical Director of the PAP, who shall provide written notification thereof to the Board.² Respondent may only practice at times when another licensed physician(s), aware of Dr. Ramachandra's history of alcohol abuse, is present at the approved office setting and able to generally observe Dr. Ramachandra, and said physician(s) must specifically agree in writing to make an immediate written report to the PAP and to the Board in the event that Dr. Ramachandra is observed to be in an impaired state and/or if he is observed to engage in any other conduct indicative of a relapse of alcohol use.

² All reports required herein to be submitted to the Board (whether from any physician who agrees to observe Dr. Ramachandra or from the PAP) shall be transmitted to the attention of the Board's Executive Director.

3. Dr. Ramachandra shall continue to fully participate with the PAP. The PAP shall provide quarterly status reports to the Board generally outlining the scope of Dr. Ramachandra's participation with the program, and attesting that Dr. Ramachandra has fully complied with any and all recommendations that may be made to him by the PAP. The PAP further expressly agrees that it shall provide immediate written notification to the Board in the event Dr. Ramachandra discontinues his participation with the PAP, fails to comply with any recommendation(s) made by the PAP, and/or upon the PAP's receipt of any information that would indicate that Dr. Ramachandra has relapsed into alcohol use.

4. Dr. Ramachandra shall maintain absolute abstinence from all psychoactive substances including alcohol, unless prescribed by a treating physician aware of his substance abuse history, for a documented medical condition, with notification to the Executive Medical Director of the PAP of the diagnosis, medications prescribed and prognosis.

5. Dr. Ramachandra shall attend a minimum of three meetings of the support group Alcoholics Anonymous weekly, with documentation of attendance to be provided to the Executive Medical Director of the PAP.

6. Dr. Ramachandra shall remain under the care of a Board approved psychiatrist, until such time as the psychiatrist, in consultation with the Executive Medical Director of the PAP,

determine that psychiatric follow-up is no longer required, notice of the determination that care is no longer required is provided to the Board in writing, and written approval for discontinuation of care is secured from the Board. The frequency of Dr. Ramachandra's psychiatric care shall be determined by the treating psychiatrist, in consultation with the PAP. For purposes of this Order, the Board approves J. Calvin Chatlos, M.D., to continue to serve as Dr. Ramachandra's psychiatrist. Any successor psychiatrist would need to be approved by the Executive Medical Director of the PAP, with written notification to be provided to the Board.

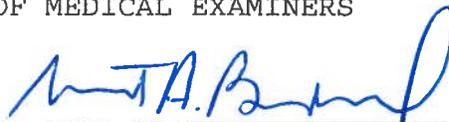
7. Dr. Ramachandra shall remain on random, twice weekly urine monitoring to be conducted by representatives of the PAP for the first six months after licensure reinstatement. Thereafter, the frequency of screening may be reduced at the discretion of the Executive Medical Director of the PAP, with notice of any reductions to be provided to the Executive Director of the Board.

8. Dr. Ramachandra shall be seen monthly in face-to-face follow-up visits with representatives of the PAP for the first six months following licensure reinstatement. Thereafter, the frequency of follow-up appointments may be reduced at the discretion of the Executive Medical Director of the PAP, to such frequency as may be deemed by the Executive Medical Director of the PAP to be consistent with Dr. Ramachandra's length of time in recovery.

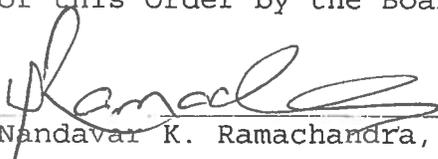
9. The Board expressly reserves the right to summarily enter an Order of Automatic Suspension of License, upon receipt of any reliable information that respondent has violated any of the terms or conditions of this Order.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:


Stewart A. Berkowitz, M.D.
Board President

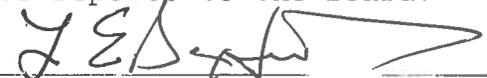
I acknowledge that I have reviewed this Order, and agree to abide with all terms and conditions set forth herein. I am aware that the Board may summarily suspend my license in the event I fail to comply with any of the terms and conditions set forth above. I agree to the entry of this Order by the Board.


Nandavar K. Ramachandra, M.D.

Dated:

5/2/14

Consent on behalf of the PAP to perform all functions detailed above, to include provision of reports to the Board.


Louis E. Baxter, M.D.
Executive Medical Director, PAP

Dated:

5/2/14