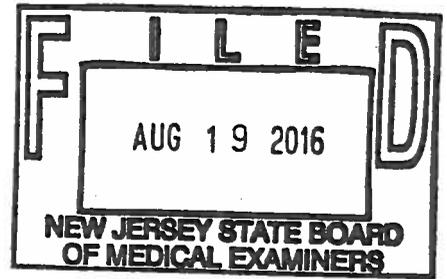


CHRISTOPHER S. PORRINO
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street, 5th Floor
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101



EFFECTIVE DATE: September 11, 2016

By: Christopher Salloum
Deputy Attorney General
Attorney ID No. 047842013
Tel. (973) 648-2779

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 :
Joseph H. Hong, M.D. :
License No. 25MA06569600 :
TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY :
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :

Administrative Action
CONSENT ORDER

This matter was opened before the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board"), by Christopher S. Porrino, Attorney General of New Jersey, by Christopher Salloum, Deputy Attorney General, appearing, upon receipt of information evidencing that the Respondent, Joseph H. Hong, M.D., committed violations of the laws, rules, and regulations governing the practice of medicine and surgery in this State, including the facilitation of the unlicensed practice of medicine at his practice, Clear Laser Skin Clinic ("CLC"), located at 244 Broad Avenue Floor 2, Palisades Park, New Jersey 07650.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

By way of background, the Respondent established CLC as an "aesthetic medicine" practice. The "aesthetic medicine" services that the Respondent offers at CLC include, among others, Botox, Thermage, laser tattoo removal, and skin brightening.

On or about December 9, 2013, patient V.R. visited CLC where he met with Respondent and Ms. Maria Kim, an unlicensed individual whom the Respondent employed, regarding the alleviation of sagging skin on his face and neck. Although Ms. Kim is not licensed to practice medicine and surgery in New Jersey, the Respondent and his staff referred to her as "doctor" and, thus, patient V.R. believed her to be a licensed physician.

After a brief consultation, the Respondent and Ms. Kim provided V.R. with a brochure for "Thermage CPT" and informed him that the procedure will cost him Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000). According to a brochure that the Respondent provided V.R., the Thermage CPT procedure involves the use of "patented radiofrequency technology to safely heat the deeper layers of [a patient's] skin, stimulating [the patient's] existing collagen and promoting new collagen growth."

On or about December 18, 2013, Ms. Kim performed a Thermage CPT procedure on V.R. The procedure lasted several hours and the Respondent was not present in the examination room while Ms. Kim performed the procedure. By permitting Ms. Kim to perform this medical procedure and to represent herself to CLC's

patients as a doctor, the Respondent facilitated the unlicensed practice of medicine.

On or about May 15, 2014, the Board conducted an inspection of CLC and obtained five (5) patient records via subpoena. A review of these records revealed that the treatment/procedures were not initialed by the individuals who performed them in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:35-6.5(b)

The Board's inspection also revealed that there was no Sharps container present on the premises at the time of the inspection. The Respondent disputes that there was no Sharps container present on the premises. When questioned about the lack of a Sharps container on the CLC premises, the Respondent explained that he personally carried the medical waste generated by CLC to FirstMed Urgent Care in Fort Lee, where he was also practicing internal medicine at the time, for proper disposal.

In late 2015, the Board requested that the Respondent provide documentation demonstrating satisfaction of his continuing medical education ("CME") obligations for the past biennial renewal period as required by N.J.S.A. 45:9-7.1 and N.J.A.C. 13:35-6.15. The documentation that Respondent submitted, however, demonstrated that he did not completely satisfy his CME obligations.

The Board finds that the Respondent's conduct, as described above, provides the Board with a basis to suspend or revoke the

Respondent's license to practice medicine and surgery pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), (h), and (n).

The parties, being desirous of resolving this matter prior to the initiation of the formal disciplinary process, and the Board, finding that the within Order is adequately protective of the public health, safety, and welfare, and being satisfied that entry of the within Order obviates the need for formal proceedings, and that good cause exists to support entry of the within Order,

IT IS, therefore, on this 19th day of AUGUST 2016,

ORDERED AND AGREED that:

1. Effective September 11, 2016, Respondent's license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey shall be, and hereby is, suspended for a period of twelve (12) months, of which at least one (1) month shall be served as a period of active suspension, and the remainder shall be stayed and served as a period of probation. Respondent's license shall be stayed and placed on probation no earlier than one (1) month from the date that this Order is filed, provided, however, that the Respondent has not been practicing medicine or surgery in another jurisdiction during the period of active suspension.

2. Effective immediately, Respondent shall cease and desist from using unlicensed individuals to perform any medical procedure, including, but not limited to, Thermage CPT.

3. Respondent shall be, and hereby is, reprimanded for his failure to complete his continuing medical education requirements.

4. Within six (6) months of the entry of this Order, Respondent shall attend, at his sole expense, and shall successfully complete courses, acceptable to the Board, in medical ethics and recordkeeping. Successful completion means that all sessions were attended, all assignments were properly and appropriately completed, and a passing grade was earned that was unconditional and without reservation whatsoever. Respondent shall additionally be responsible to ensure that the course provider(s) submits written confirmation to the Board that Respondent attended and successfully completed said courses. Respondent may satisfy the requirements of this paragraph by attending any recordkeeping or ethics courses that have previously been approved by the Board, or by obtaining written approval for any other courses that he may propose to satisfy the requirements of this paragraph from the Board's Medical Director or his/her designee.

5. Respondent shall be, and hereby is, assessed a civil penalty for the wrongful conduct noted above in the amount of Forty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$40,000).

6. Respondent shall be, and hereby is, assessed a civil penalty in the amount of Seven Hundred Fifty and 00/100 Dollars (\$750.00) for misrepresenting on his biennial renewal that he

had completed one hundred continuing medical education requirements and a civil penalty in the amount of Seventy-Five and 00/100 Dollars (\$75.00) for each credit missed, totaling Six Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$6,000.00).

7. The Respondent shall pay all civil penalties, totaling Forty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty and 00/100 Dollars (\$46,750.00) no later than sixty (60) days from the filing of this Consent Order.

8. All payments shall be made by certified check, bank order, or money order made payable to the State of New Jersey, and shall be forwarded to William Roeder, Executive Director, State Board of Medical Examiners, at 140 East Front Street, Second Floor, P.O. Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183. Any payment in a form other than those noted herein shall be rejected and returned. Failure to make timely payment shall result in the filing of a Certificate of Debt pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 for the total amount due and owing. Subsequent violations of Board statutes, regulations, and/or orders, including this Consent Order, may subject the Respondent to enhanced penalties pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25.

9. The Respondent shall comply with all terms of the Board's "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," which is attached

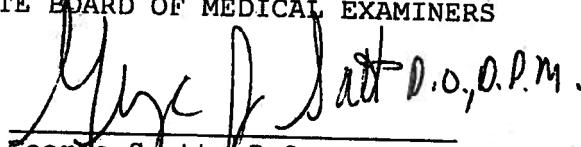
hereto and whose terms are incorporated by reference in this Order.

10. The Respondent's failure to comply with any provision of this Order shall result in subsequent disciplinary proceedings for failure to comply with an order of the Board.

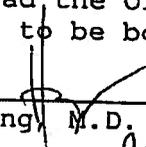
11. The entry of this Consent Order shall be without prejudice to further investigation and/or action by this Board, the Attorney General, the Division of Consumer Affairs, or any other government entities resulting from Respondent's conduct not addressed by the terms of this Order.

STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

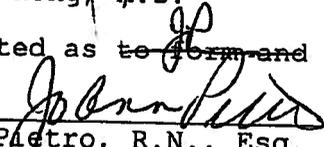
By:


George Scott, D.O.
Board President

I have read the Order. I understand and agree to be bound by its terms.


Joseph Hong, M.D.

Consented as to ~~form~~ and entry:


JoAnn Pietro, R.N., Esq.
Attorney for Respondent

**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.