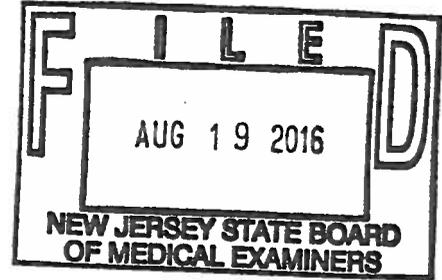


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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE	:	
SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF	:	ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION
THE LICENSE OF	:	
	:	
ROBERT CODJOE NII, P.A.	:	CONSENT ORDER
LICENSE NO. 25MP00070000	:	
	:	
TO PRACTICE AS A PHYSICIAN	:	
ASSISTANT IN THE STATE OF	:	
NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") on June 2, 2016, upon the filing of a four-count Verified Complaint by the Attorney General of New Jersey. In general terms, the Verified Complaint alleges that the Respondent, Robert Codjoe Nii, P.A., engaged in a pervasive pattern of dishonesty, misrepresentation, and fraud regarding his identity and background that resulted in several criminal convictions and that also resulted in his obtaining a license from the Board through the use of fraud, deception, and

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misrepresentation.

The Respondent's pervasive pattern of deceit first came to the Board's attention following his arrest on December 28, 2012 on charges of forgery and falsifying records arising from his possession of multiple New Jersey drivers' licenses. The Board subsequently opened an inquiry and the Respondent appeared before the Physician Assistants Advisory Committee ("Committee") of the Board on May 13, 2013.

During the course of his appearance before the Committee, the Respondent produced documentation and made sworn statements regarding his personal and educational background, his Certificates of Naturalization, and his employment history which were inconsistent and irreconcilable with the certified information and documentation he supplied to the Board in his application for licensure as a Physician Assistant in 2001 ("PA Application"). As an example, the Respondent provided one Certificate of Naturalization in his PA Application (No. 26208296) and a second (No. 24177807) to the Committee during its inquiry, each certificate identifying Respondent with a different name, date of birth and marital status. The Respondent acknowledged that he was issued and was in possession of these two Certificates.

The inquiry further revealed that the Respondent submitted an application for admission to Essex County College in 1984 and again in 1995. The Respondent utilized his Certificates of

Naturalization and the different identifying information contained in each certificate to create the appearance of separate individual applicants. In his 1995 Essex County College application, he denied ever having previously attended the college. In his PA Application, Respondent informed the Board only of his attendance at Essex County College between 1995 and 1997, asserting that he received a GED in 1995. In addition, other information provided by Respondent to Essex County College in the two applications as to his personal, educational and employment history is materially inconsistent and irreconcilable with information submitted in his PA Application.

The inquiry further revealed that Respondent made certain representations as to his personal, educational and employment background in applications for employment at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center ("NBIMC") in 1988 and at Visiting Physicians Services ("VPS") in 2011 which are materially inconsistent and irreconcilable to the certified submissions contained in his PA Application. For example, in his job application to NBIMC Respondent represented that he attended Rutgers University for four years, graduating with a "BSC Biology degree", which is not included in his PA Application. The resume Respondent submitted to VPS seeking a position as a Physician Assistant contained a list of his clinical rotations while in pursuit of his Bachelor of Science, Physician Assistant degree at City University of New

York. This list is materially different from that submitted to the Board in his PA Application.

Given the above, Respondent has engaged in a systematic pattern of misrepresentations as to his personal, educational and employment background so as to render unreliable and without credibility his certified statements in his PA Application upon which the Board relied in rendering its decision to issue the Respondent a license.

In addition, a Judgment of Conviction was entered on July 2, 2015 by the United States District Court, District of New Hampshire, in which Respondent was adjudged guilty of one count of making false statements under 18 U.S.C. 1001(a)(2). In his guilty plea, Respondent admitted to maintaining two United States passports bearing his photograph, but using two different names, social security numbers and dates of birth. He also admitted to making false statements in his renewal applications for said passports.

A Judgment of Conviction was also entered on March 13, 2015 in the Superior Court of New Jersey, in which Respondent was adjudged guilty of violating N.J.S.A. 2C:21-2.1D based on Respondent's admission in his guilty plea that he presented a false driver's license for purposes of identification, with knowledge that it was false.

In addition, on April 15, 2016, another Judgment of Conviction was entered in the Superior Court of New Jersey, in

which the Respondent was adjudged guilty of violating N.J.S.A. 2C:28-7A(2) based on his admission during a plea allocution in open court that he had defrauded the New Jersey Department of Labor by using false identifying information to obtain unemployment benefits.

Based upon the facts as detailed above, the Board finds that Respondent's conduct (1) constitutes the use of fraud, deception or misrepresentation to obtain a license; (2) constitutes the use or employment of dishonesty, fraud, deception, misrepresentation, false promise and/or false pretense; (3) constitutes professional misconduct; and (4) demonstrates the failure of good moral character, a continuing requirement for licensure as a Physician Assistant pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:9-27.13(a). In addition, the aforesaid convictions and the acts underlying those convictions are crimes of moral turpitude and/or relate adversely to the practice of medicine. These findings provide bases for the Board to suspend or revoke the Respondent's license pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(a), (b), (e), and (f).

The parties, being desirous of resolving this matter, and the Board finding the within disposition to be adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and being satisfied that good cause exists for entry of the within Order:

IT IS THEREFORE, on this 19th day of August, 2016,
ORDERED that:

1. The Respondent's license to practice as a physician assistant in the State of New Jersey shall be, and hereby is, permanently revoked.

2. The Respondent shall not submit an application for a license to practice as a physician assistant in this State in the future.

3. The Respondent shall immediately cease and desist all patient contact at any location and the rendering of any and all medical care, including the issuance of any prescription for, or dispensation of, medications of any kind, including but not limited to Controlled Dangerous Substances ("CDS"), to any patient.

4. The Respondent shall immediately surrender his original New Jersey license #25MP00070000, current biennial registration and CDS registration to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners, 140 Front Street, P.O. Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey.

5. The Respondent shall immediately send all of his remaining prescription blanks, along with a cover memorandum indicating that he no longer will be writing prescriptions and asking that his prescription blanks be destroyed pursuant to standard operating procedures, to Cathy Collins, Executive Officer, Enforcement Bureau Drug Control Unit, P.O. Box 45022, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

6. The Respondent shall immediately notify the Drug

Enforcement Administration of this Order and shall provide proof of such notice to the Board.

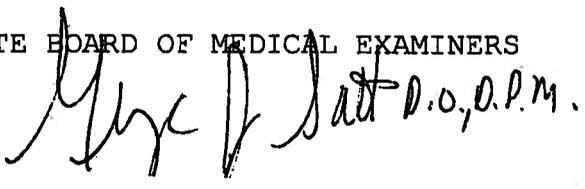
7. The entry of this Order shall constitute a complete and final resolution of the Attorney General's Verified Complaint, filed on June 2, 2016. The Board shall retain jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Order.

8. 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," to the extent applicable.

9. The entry of this Order shall be without prejudice to further action or investigation by this Board, 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.

STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:



George J. Scott, D.O.
Board President

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



Robert Codjoe Nii



Date

I consent to the form of this Order.



Debra Marcus, 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.