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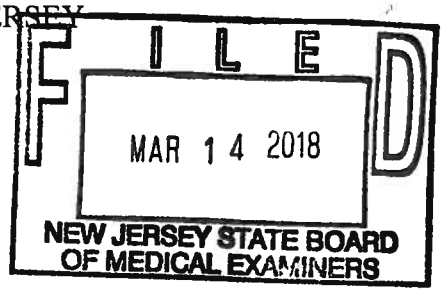

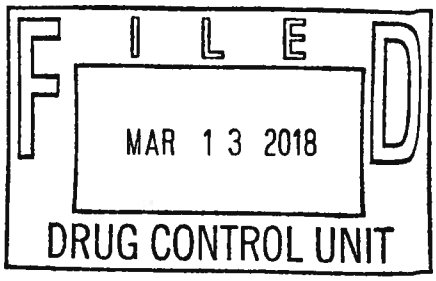

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS &
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF THE LICENSE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY AND NJ CDS REGISTRATION OF **EDDIE M. GAMAO, M.D.** **LICENSE NO. 25MA02743200** **CDS REG. NO. D01430900**	Administrative Action **CONSENT ORDER OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF LICENSE and NJ CDS REGISTRATION**

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") and Sharon M. Joyce, Acting Director of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs (the "Director") in or about February 2018, upon receipt of information that Eddie M. Gamao, M.D., License No. 25MA02743200, NJ Controlled Dangerous Substances ("CDS") Registration No. D01430900, who maintains a medical practice in Piscataway, New Jersey ("Respondent") was engaged in the indiscriminate prescribing of CDS providing the basis for Board action under N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 (e), (m) and/or (h) and was engaged in the prescribing of CDS without legitimate medical purpose in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45H-7.4 which provides the basis under N.J.S.A. 24:21-12(a)(3) for the Director to suspend or revoke Respondent's NJ CDS registration.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

Information supporting the entry of this Interim Consent Order includes that Respondent has routinely exceeded the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") published Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain ("CDC Guidelines"). The CDC Guidelines utilize a scientific evidence based approach to advise prescribers on the use and dosage of opioids for pain management. Central to the CDC Guidelines are the careful monitoring and dosing by prescribers of opioids based upon the resulting daily morphine milligram equivalents ("MME"). Pursuant to the CDC Guidelines practitioners should use caution when prescribing opioids at any dosage, should carefully reassess evidence of individual benefits and risks when considering increasing dosage to ≥ 50 morphine milligram equivalents (MME)/day, and should avoid increasing dosage to ≥ 90 MME/day or carefully justify a decision to titrate dosage to ≥ 90 MME/day.

A review of Respondent's opioid prescribing activity contained within the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program ("PMP") database for the period of February 13, 2017 to February 12, 2018 reveals that Respondent's prescribing of highly addictive opioids results in MME's many times in excess of the CDC Guidelines. For example, Respondents prescribing over the last year has resulted in the following average MME's for many of his patients:

Medication	Average MME/Day	Total Rx Count
oxycodone IR	349.8	639
morphine ER	231.1	48
fentanyl patch	228.0	40
oxycodone ER	135.4	39
oxymorphone ER	124.0	26

PMP data further reveals that more than 80 percent of Respondent's SII Opioid prescribing resulted in MME/Day of 90 or higher; over 70 percent of Respondent's SII opioid

prescribing resulted in an MME/day of 120 or higher; and more than 50 percent of Respondent's SII opioid prescribing resulted in an MME/day of 270 or higher.

Respondent having been advised that he may consult legal counsel before signing this interim order, does not admit the conduct alleged, but has expressed his consent to the temporary suspension of his license and NJ CDS Registration pending further order of the Board and the Director.

The Board and the Director, finding the within disposition adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and other good cause having been shown,

IT IS, therefore, on this 14th day of March, 2018,

ORDERED THAT:

1. The license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey, issued to Respondent is hereby temporarily suspended effective immediately, pending further order of the Board.

2. Respondent's New Jersey CDS registration is temporarily suspended pending further order of the Director.

3. Respondent shall immediately return his original New Jersey license and current biennial registration to William V. Roeder, Executive Director, New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners, P.O. Box 183, Trenton, NJ 08625-0183 and his NJ CDS registration to Cathy Collins, Executive Officer, Enforcement Bureau Drug Control Unit, P.O. Box 45022, Newark, New Jersey 07101, and shall immediately cease and desist from prescribing or dispensing medications and from the practice of medicine.

4. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 24:21-12(f), the Director shall promptly notify the DEA of the entry of this Interim Consent Order.

5. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 24:21-12(e) the Director further orders that Respondent immediately place under seal all prescription pads and any and all CDS in his possession, except for any CDS Respondent possesses for personal use pursuant to a duly issued prescription. Respondent's prescription pads and CDS shall remain under seal until such time as a final order which includes the disposition of these sealed items is entered by the Director and/or Board in this matter.

6. Respondent understands that this Interim Order is independent of, and not in lieu of, proceedings on behalf or by the DEA and further agrees that resolution of any pending DEA matters will not resolve any matter which has, or could, be brought before the Board or Director. The parties hereby stipulate that entry of this Order is without prejudice to the filing of an Administrative Complaint and/or further investigation and/or action by this Board, Director or other law enforcement entities resulting from Respondent=s conduct. The parties further stipulate that the entry of this Order is without admission of any wrongdoing by Respondent.

7. This order shall remain in effect until specifically modified by the Board and/or the Director through the entry of a subsequent order(s).

8. Respondent may apply to the Board and/or the Director to request a hearing for modification of the terms of this order. If Respondent requests a hearing to modify this Interim Order, the Board and/or Director shall convene a hearing within forty-five (45) days of Respondent's request to determine whether the restraints in the Interim Order should continue under the requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 45:1-22 and/or N.J.S.A. 24:21-12. The Board and the Director, in their sole discretion, may hold a joint hearing to address both the temporary suspension of Respondent's license and NJ CDS Registration. The Board may hear any application pursuant to this paragraph, either jointly with the Director or on its own, at its next

regularly scheduled Board meeting and/or, in its sole discretion, at a specially convened committee meeting of the Board.

9. Respondent has been specifically informed that he may consult an attorney to represent him in this matter. Respondent acknowledges that he has been advised of the ability to consult with counsel and that he chooses to voluntarily enter into this Interim Consent Order.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: _____
Paul Carniol, M.D.,
President

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

By: _____
Sharon Joyce,
Acting Director

I have read the within Order, understand its terms and agree to be bound by them. I consent to entry of the Order by the Board of Medical Examiners and the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs.

_____ Dated: 3-9-18
Eddie Gamao, M.D.

Witness: _____ Dated: 3/9/18
Thomas R. Bryant Jr.
Print Name

Witness: _____ Dated: 3-9-18
Kathleen Cefalu Rn
Print Name

I have read the within Order, understand its terms and agree to be bound by them. I consent to the entry of the Order by the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs.

Eddie Gamao, M.D.

Dated: 3-9-18

Witness:

Print Name

Dated: 3-9-18

Witness:

Print Name

Dated: 3-9-18

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.

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[1] This 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.