

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICINE

**IN RE: VERNA M. LEWIS, M.D.
 License No.: 0101-042565**

ORDER

In accordance with Sections 54.1-2400(10), 2.2-4019 and 2.2-4021 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), an informal conference was held with Verna M. Lewis, M.D., on July 27, 2006, in Roanoke, Virginia. Members of the Virginia Board of Medicine ("Board") serving on the Special Conference Committee ("Committee") were: Brent R. Lambert, M.D., Chairman; Valerie Lowe Hoffman, D.C., and Clara L. Adams-Enders, R.N., M.S.N., BG USA Ret. Dr. Lewis appeared personally and was represented by legal counsel, Monica T. Monday, Esquire. Virginia Scher, Adjudication Specialist, was present as a representative for the Administrative Proceedings Division of the Department of Health Professions. The purpose of the informal conference was to review Dr. Lewis's compliance with the terms and conditions of stayed suspension imposed upon her license to practice medicine pursuant to an Order of the Board entered December 16, 2005 ("Order"), as set forth in a Notice of Informal Conference dated June 22, 2006.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Now, having properly considered the evidence and statements presented, the Committee makes the following Findings of Fact:

1. Verna M. Lewis, M.D., was issued license number 0101-042565 by the Board on July 1, 1988. By Order entered January 4, 2000, the Department of Health Professions suspended Dr. Lewis's license to practice medicine in accordance with Section 54.1-2409 of the Code. By Consent Order entered with the Board on January 20, 2004, the suspension of Dr. Lewis's license was

stayed upon terms and conditions. By Order entered December 16, 2005, Dr. Lewis's license was continued on stayed suspension with modified terms and conditions.

2. Pursuant to Term 1 of the Order, Dr. Lewis underwent a competency assessment on March 7-8, 2006, at the Center for Personalized Education for Physicians ("CPEP"). The CPEP assessment report recommended that Dr. Lewis participate in structured, individualized education to address the identified areas of need including musculoskeletal conditions, musculoskeletal and neurological examinations, and pain management including the use of drug screening and narcotics contracts.

3. Dr. Lewis reported to the Committee that she had extensively studied principles of pain management and had derived a pain management contract for use in her practice.

4. Dr. Lewis further indicated that she had studied specific musculoskeletal conditions in three peer-reviewed professional journals. She also presented the Committee with an article on spastic dyssynergic bladder.

5. Dr. Lewis indicated that she has arranged a structured clinical experience with Howard Sherman, M.D., a neurologist in the Roanoke area.

6. Dr. Lewis indicated to the Committee that her practice plans would include a part-time position at the Veterans Administration Hospital, and the opening of a private office in which she would restrict her practice to physical medicine and rehabilitation.

7. As recommended by the CPEP assessment, Dr. Lewis underwent a neuropsychological evaluation by Jeffrey T. Barth, Ph.D., who reported that her neurocognitive functions are generally intact, with overall intellectual functioning in the high average range.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Dr. Lewis is properly before the Board and is in substantial compliance with the Order entered on December 16, 2005.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby ORDERED that the STAYED SUSPENSION imposed upon the license of Verna M. Lewis, M.D., be, and hereby is, TERMINATED. Dr. Lewis is authorized to return to the practice of medicine under the following terms and conditions:

1. Within ninety (90) days, Dr. Lewis shall complete ten full days of a structured experience with Howard Sherman, M.D. Dr. Lewis shall provide to the Board certification of completion of the experience within fourteen (14) days of completion, which shall include an assessment by Dr. Sherman of her performance.

2. a. Within five (5) days of the date Dr. Lewis returns to the practice of medicine, she shall submit written notification to the Board regarding her practice location(s) and the date(s) she returned to practice. Further, Dr. Lewis shall submit written notification of any changes to her practice location(s) within five (5) days of such change.

b. Dr. Lewis shall maintain complete and accurate records on all Schedule II-V controlled substances pursuant to the requirements of the Drug Control Act (Title 54.1, Chapter 34 of the Code).

c. Within six (6) months of Dr. Lewis's return to the practice of medicine, her practice shall be the subject of an unannounced inspection by an investigator of the Department of Health Professions. The inspection shall be conducted during normal

business hours and shall include a review of Dr. Lewis's office and equipment, and may include interviews with staff and other employees in her practice. Dr. Lewis shall make her complete medical and billing records for all patients seen or treated by her available to the investigator for inspection and copying. The investigator shall randomly select and obtain copies of ten (10) of Dr. Lewis's patient and billing records for review. Dr. Lewis shall pay an inspection fee in the amount of \$500.00 within fifteen (15) days of the date of the inspection.

d. Dr. Lewis shall maintain a log of all Schedule II, III and IV controlled substances prescribed, administered or dispensed in her medical practice on a form prescribed by the Board. The log must be maintained on the premises of Dr. Lewis's medical practice for inspection or copying during normal business hours by an investigator for the Department of Health Professions.

3. Upon receipt of the inspection report, the Committee authorizes the Executive Director of the Board to review the report and to order the termination of the terms and conditions on Dr. Lewis's license, or to schedule Dr. Lewis to appear before a Special Conference Committee of the Board for the purpose of determining whether terms or conditions shall be modified or imposed.

4. Dr. Lewis shall maintain a course of conduct in her practice of medicine commensurate with the requirements of Title 54.1, Chapter 29 of the Code and all laws of the Commonwealth.

5. Dr. Lewis shall cooperate with the Virginia Board of Medicine and the Department of Health Professions in the investigation or inspection of her practice to verify that she is in compliance with this Order.

6. Dr. Lewis shall notify the Executive Director of the Board, by certified mail, of any

change of address within ten days of such occurrence.

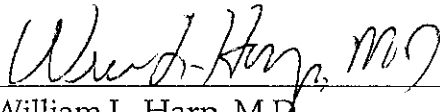
Violation of this Order may constitute grounds for suspension or revocation of Dr. Lewis's license. In the event that Dr. Lewis violates this Order, an administrative proceeding may be convened to determine whether his license shall be revoked.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400.2(F) of the Code, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Dr. Lewis may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on September 6, 2006, notify William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director, Board of Medicine, 6603 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23230, in writing that she desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated.

Therefore, this Order shall become final on September 6, 2006, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

FOR THE BOARD



William L. Harp, M.D.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Medicine

Entered: 7/31/06