

BEFORE THE
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

In re:)
)
) CONSENT ORDER
)
 Respondent)

This matter is before the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") following the Order of Summary Suspension of License of [redacted] o admits and the Board finds and concludes that:

Whereas the Board is a body duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding under the authority granted it in Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the rules and regulations promulgated thereto; and

Whereas [redacted] is a physician licensed by the Board on or about [redacted]; and

Whereas, at the times relevant hereto, [redacted] [redacted] North Carolina; and

Whereas, in the spring of [redacted] began experiencing troubling symptoms of numbness and tingling in his hands and feet; and

Whereas, during this same time, [redacted] was self-treating with testosterone which he ordered and prescribed for himself,

although it has previously been prescribed for him by other physicians; and

Whereas, in June _____ went to a neurologist for an evaluation of his symptoms, but at the time, no explanation for these symptoms was found; and

Whereas, later in _____ was concerned that these symptoms might be interfering with his ability to perform surgery, and, in consultation with his neurologist, he stopped operating and underwent further medical testing; and

Whereas, ultimately, _____ was diagnosed with a vitamin imbalance, which resolved within weeks of his changing his vitamin regimen; and

Whereas, again in consultation with his neurologist and with his neurologist's approval, _____ resumed operating; and

Whereas, during the time _____ was being evaluated for his symptoms and not performing surgery, the Board began receiving complaints from several of Dr. Drago's patients that they were dissatisfied with the results of their cosmetic surgery that Dr. Drago performed and the follow-up care that he provided; and

Whereas the Board had ten of these complainants' medical records reviewed by an outside expert who concluded that Dr. _____ care of eight of the ten patients ("Patients A through

H") failed to conform to the applicable standard of care in North Carolina; and

Whereas, on [REDACTED], the Board summarily suspended Dr. [REDACTED] license over concerns about the quality of Dr. [REDACTED] care of his patients, his fitness to practice medicine, and his self-prescribing; and

Whereas Dr. [REDACTED] medical treatment and care of Patients A through H, as described above, constitutes unprofessional conduct, including, but not limited to, departure from, or the failure to conform to, the standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice, within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6), which is grounds under that section of the North Carolina General Statutes for the Board to annul, suspend, revoke, condition, or limit Dr. [REDACTED] license to practice medicine issued by the Board; and

Whereas Dr. [REDACTED] medical condition constitutes his having been unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness or by reason of a physical or mental abnormality within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(5), and grounds exist under that section of the General Statutes for the Board to annul, suspend, revoke, condition, or limit Dr. [REDACTED] license to practice medicine issued by the Board; and

Whereas self-treating with ██████████ constitutes unprofessional conduct including, but not limited to, the failure to conform to the ethics of the medical profession, within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6), and grounds exist under that section of the General Statutes for the Board to annul, suspend, revoke, condition, or limit Dr. ██████████ license to practice medicine issued by the Board; and

Whereas Dr. ██████████ has cooperated with the Board during its investigation of him; and

Whereas Dr. ██████████ has been assessed by the North Carolina Physicians Health Program and remains under the care of his physicians; and

Whereas Dr. ██████████ has resumed prescribing ██████████ for him, finding his natural ██████████ level low; and

Whereas Dr. ██████████ acknowledges and agrees that the Board has jurisdiction over him and over the subject matter of this case; and

Whereas Dr. ██████████ knowingly waives his right to any hearing and to any judicial review or appeal in this case; and

Whereas Dr. ██████████ acknowledges that he has read and understands this Consent Order and enters into it voluntarily; and

Whereas Dr. [REDACTED] desires to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings; and

Whereas the Board has determined that it is in the public interest to resolve this case as set forth below;

Now, therefore, with Dr. [REDACTED] consent, it is ORDERED that:

1. [REDACTED] license to practice medicine and surgery is hereby SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY.

2. Dr. [REDACTED] shall meet with the Board or members of the Board at any times requested by the Board.

3. Dr. [REDACTED] shall obey all laws. Likewise, he shall obey all rules or regulations involving the practice of medicine.

4. Dr. [REDACTED] shall notify the Board in writing of any change in his residence or practice addresses within ten (10) days of the change.

5. This Consent Order shall take effect immediately upon its execution by both Dr. [REDACTED] and the Board and it shall continue in effect until specifically ordered otherwise by the Board.

6. Dr. [REDACTED] hereby waives any requirement under any law or rule that this Consent Order be served on him.

7. Upon execution by Dr. [REDACTED] and the Board, this

Consent Order shall become a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and shall be subject to public inspection and dissemination pursuant to the provisions thereof. Additionally, it will be reported to persons, entities, agencies, and clearinghouses, as required and permitted by law, including but not limited to the National Practitioners Data Bank and the Health Integrity and Protection Data Bank.

8. No provision of this consent order shall constitute an admission for any purpose other than for this and any other proceeding before the North Carolina Medical Board.

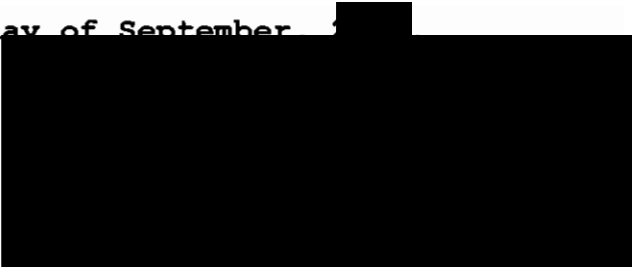
By Order of the North Carolina Medical Board this the 18 day of September, [REDACTED]

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By: [REDACTED]

President-Elect
[REDACTED]

Consented to this the 16 day of September



State of North Carolina

County of

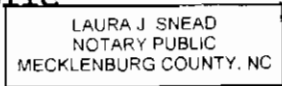


I, Laura J Sneed, a Notary Public for the above named County and State, do hereby certify that Paul Carl Drago, M.D., personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal
This the 16 day of September, 2009.

Laura J Sneed Laura J Sneed
Notary Public

(SEAL)



My Commission Expires 9-25-2010

My Commission expires: _____

