

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, SS.

Board of Registration in Medicine

Adjudicatory Case No. 2016-014

In the Matter of)
)
)
NATALIE JOSEPH, M.D.)
_____)

CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 10, Natalie Joseph, M.D. (Respondent) and the Board of Registration in Medicine (Board) (hereinafter referred to jointly as the "Parties") agree that the Board may issue this Consent Order to resolve the above-captioned adjudicatory proceeding. The Parties further agree that this Consent Order will have all the force and effect of a Final Decision within the meaning of 801 CMR 1.01(11)(d). The Respondent admits to the findings of fact specified below and agrees that the Board may make the conclusions of law and impose the sanction set forth below in resolution of investigative Docket No. 15-180.

Findings of Fact

1. The Respondent was born on September 18, 1965. She graduated from the New York Medical College in 1992. She has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts under certificate number 81595 since 1995. In 1998, she completed a fellowship in Adolescent Medicine at Children's Hospital. She is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics. She is an attending physician at the Adolescent Center in the Department of Pediatrics at Boston Medical Center (BMC).
2. In July 2014, Patient A had an appointment with Healthcare Provider 1 at BMC.
3. Patient A was known socially to the Respondent because they attend the same church.

4. The Respondent did not have a physician - patient relationship with Patient A.
5. The Respondent asked Healthcare Provider 1 about the reason for Patient A's visit. Healthcare Provider 1 told the Respondent that Patient A was diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease.
6. The Respondent told her husband about Patient A's diagnosis.
7. The Respondent's husband contacted Patient A's family and discussed Patient A's diagnosis.
8. In November 2014, Patient A returned to BMC to see Healthcare Provider 1.
9. Patient A told Healthcare Provider 1 that the Respondent had shared Patient A's protected health information with her husband.
10. Healthcare Provider 1 informed her supervisor.
11. On January 26, 2015, BMC disciplined the Respondent with a written reprimand for breaching patient confidentiality. The Respondent was also required to complete additional training regarding patient confidentiality.

Conclusion of Law

The Respondent has engaged in conduct that undermines the public confidence in the integrity of the medical profession pursuant to Levy v. Board of Registration in Medicine, 378 Mass. 519 (1979); Raymond v. Board of Registration in Medicine, 387 Mass. 708 (1982), and Sugarman v. Board of Registration in Medicine, 422 Mass. 338 (1996).

Sanction and Order

The Respondent's license is hereby REPRIMANDED and FINED \$2,500. The fine is to be paid within sixty (60) days of the date the Board approves this Consent Order. The Board will not renew the license of any physician who fails to pay a fine in a timely manner; this step will be taken automatically and no further notice or process will apply. This sanction is imposed for each violation of law listed in the Conclusion section and not a combination of any or all of them.

Execution of this Consent Order

The Respondent shall provide a complete copy of this Consent Order with all exhibits and attachments within ten (10) days by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by hand delivery to the following designated entities: any in- or out-of-state hospital, nursing home, clinic, other licensed facility, or municipal, state, or federal facility at which the Respondent practices medicine; any in- or out-of-state health maintenance organization with whom the Respondent has privileges or any other kind of association; any state agency, in- or out-of-state, with which the Respondent has a provider contract; any in- or out-of-state medical employer, whether or not the Respondent practices medicine there; the state licensing boards of all states in which the Respondent has any kind of license to practice medicine; the Drug Enforcement Administration Boston Diversion Group; and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Drug Control Program. The Respondent shall also provide this notification to any such designated entities with which the Respondent becomes associated in the year following the date of imposition of this reprimand and fine. The Respondent is further directed to certify to the Board within ten (10) days that the Respondent has complied with this directive.

The Board expressly reserves the authority to independently notify, at any time, any of the entities designated above, or any other affected entity, of any action it has taken.

Natalie Joseph

Natalie Joseph, M.D.
Licensee

3/16/2016
Date

W. Scott Liebert

W. Scott Liebert
Attorney for the Licensee

3-16-2016
Date

Tracy Morong

Tracy Morong
Complaint Counsel

3/23/16
Date

So ORDERED by the Board of Registration in Medicine this 7th day of April,
2016.

Candace Lapidus Sloane, MD

Candace Lapidus Sloane, M.D.
Board Chair