

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE

MIDDLESEX, ss

Adjudicatory Case No. 2015-020

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In the Matter of )

William E. O'Connor, M.D. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

This matter came before the Board for disposition on the basis of the Administrative Magistrate's Recommended Decision, incorporating a Stipulation by the parties, dated November 3, 2015, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference. There were no Objections to the Recommended Decision. Memoranda on Disposition were submitted by the Petitioner and the Respondent. After full consideration of the Recommended Decision and the parties' Memoranda on Disposition, the Board adopts the Recommended Decision.

Sanction

The record demonstrates that the Respondent violated 243 CMR 1.03(5)(a)16 by failing to furnish the Board, its investigators or representatives, information to which the Board is legally entitled.

"In its system of initial licensure and re-licensure, the Board depends on the accuracy and integrity of the information provided by physicians..... [R]epeated acts of providing false information deprive[d] the Board of the opportunity to review [the physician's] record in order to determine whether licensure or employment was appropriate." *In the Matter of Praven N. Adhyapak, M.D.*, Board of Registration in Medicine, Adjudicatory Case No. 2005-033 (Final Decision and Order, December 7, 2005) and cases cited therein. Although much of the information provided by physicians on their initial full license application is confirmed through independent sources (e.g. the

National Practitioner Data Bank, the court system, USMLE, among others), the Board relies almost exclusively upon a physician's honesty when renewing a license.

In situations when a physician falsely answers one or more application questions, a reprimand and fine are often imposed. *In the Matter of Franklin B. Waddell, M.D.*, Board of Registration in Medicine, Adjudicatory Case No. 2015-032 (Consent Order, November 19, 2015) (reprimand and \$2,500 fine for providing false answers in license renewal application); *In the Matter of Tushar C. Patel, M.D.*, Board of Registration in Medicine, Adjudicatory Case No. 2008-042 (Consent Order, November 19, 2008) (physician reprimanded and fined \$2,500.00 for failure to correct improper board certification designation in license renewals between 1991 and 2003).

The Respondent's license to practice medicine is hereby REPRIMANDED, he is fined \$2,500, and he must complete 25 hours of community service. The fine is payable within 30 days of the date of this 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. The sanction is imposed for each violation of the law, and not a combination of any or all of them.

The Respondent shall provide a complete copy of this Final Decision and 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 he practices medicine; any in- or out-of-state health maintenance organization with whom he has privileges or any other kind of association; any state agency, in- or out-of-state, with which he has a provider contract; any in- or out-of-state medical employer, whether or not he practices medicine there; the state licensing boards of all states in which he 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 he 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 he 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.



Date: January 21, 2016

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Michael Henry, M.D.  
Secretary  
Board of Registration in Medicine

SENT CERTIFIED MAIL 1/22/16 <sup>3</sup>MS