

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, SS.

Board of Registration in Medicine

Adjudicatory Case No. 2016-014

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In the Matter of )  
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)  
NATALIE JOSEPH, M.D. )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

**STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS**

The Board of Registration in Medicine (Board) has determined that good cause exists to believe the following acts occurred and constitute a violation for which a licensee may be sanctioned by the Board. The Board therefore alleges that Natalie Joseph, M.D. (Respondent) has practiced medicine in violation of law, regulations, or good and accepted medical practice as set forth herein. The investigative docket number associated with this order to show cause is Docket No. 15-180.

Biographical Information

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).

Factual Allegations

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.

#### Legal Basis for Proposed Relief

A. 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), the Board may discipline a physician upon proof satisfactory to a majority of the Board, that said physician has engaged in conduct that undermines the public confidence in the integrity of the medical profession.

The Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §§ 5, 61 and 62. This adjudicatory proceeding will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 30A and 801 CMR 1.01.

Nature of Relief Sought

The Board is authorized and empowered to order appropriate disciplinary action, which may include revocation or suspension of the Respondent's license to practice medicine. The Board may also order, in addition to or instead of revocation or suspension, one or more of the following: admonishment, censure, reprimand, fine, the performance of uncompensated public service, a course of education or training or other restrictions upon the Respondent's practice of medicine.

Order

Wherefore, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the Respondent show cause why the Board should not discipline the Respondent for the conduct described herein.

By the Board of Registration in Medicine,

*Candace Lapidus Sloane, MD*

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Candace Lapidus Sloane, M.D.  
Board Chair

Date: April 7, 2016