

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX, SS.

BOARD OF REGISTRATION  
IN MEDICINE

Adjudicatory Case No. 2020-020

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In the Matter of )  
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 )

EDWARD WILLIAMS, M.D. )  
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**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER**

This matter came before the Board for final disposition on the basis of the Administrative Magistrate's Recommended Decision, dated December 17, 2020, which attaches and incorporates by reference the September 24, 2020 Stipulation of the Parties. After full consideration of the Recommended Decision, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference, the Board ADOPTS the Recommended Decision and Stipulation, amending it to add:

Sanction

The record indicates that the New Hampshire Board of Medicine ("NH Board") issued a Final Decision and Order on December 8, 2017, finding that the Respondent failed to recognize that the abnormal lab results for Patient A indicated something more serious than what was diagnosed, imposing a reprimand. Specifically, NH Board concluded that the Respondent displayed medical practice that is incompatible with the basic knowledge and competence expected of persons licensed to practice medicine when he and a physician's assistant ("PA") failed to order imaging and other studies – beyond influenza and hepatitis tests which came back negative – to discover the cause of Patient A's symptoms of fever, chills, vomiting, diarrhea and upper abdominal pains when he presented to the Wentworth-Douglass Emergency Room on February 23, 2011. Patient A was treated by the Respondent and his PA for gastritis and

diagnosed with a viral syndrome and discharged by the physician's assistant with prescriptions for a cough suppressant and antinausea medication, only to return to the Emergency Department the following evening, when he was diagnosed with bilateral pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome, pleural effusions, pneumothoraxes which required surgical intervention, and a seven week hospitalization.

The Board's paramount responsibility is the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. See Levy v. Board of Registration in Medicine, 378 Mass. 519 (1979). In this matter, the Respondent engaged in substandard care involving the treatment of one patient. For this violation, he was disciplined by the NH Board. Pursuant to 243 CMR 1.03(5)(a)12, the Board has the authority to discipline a physician who has "been disciplined in another jurisdiction in any way by the proper licensing authority for reasons substantially the same as those set forth in M.G.L. c. 112, § 5 or 243 CMR 1.03(5)." The Respondent was disciplined in New Hampshire for conduct for which the Massachusetts Board may impose discipline. Specifically, the Board may impose discipline pursuant to 243 CMR 1.03(5)(a)(3), for conduct which places into question the physician's competence to practice medicine, including, but not limited to, gross misconduct in the practice of medicine, or practicing medicine fraudulently, or beyond its authorized scope, or with gross incompetence, or with gross negligence on a particular occasion or negligence on repeated occasions.

In matters involving negligence in the treatment of a single patient, the Board has often limited its sanction to a reprimand, sometimes accompanied by a fine. See In the Matter of Naiyer Imam, M.D., Board of Registration in Medicine, Adjudicatory Case No. 2021-009 (Consent Order, March 11, 2021)(reprimand for out-of-state discipline based on inaccurate reading of x-ray); In the Matter of Robert M. Shalvoy, M.D., Board of Registration in Medicine,

Adjudicatory Case No. 2009-035 (Consent Order, November 18, 2009)(reprimand for out-of-state discipline based on wrong side/knee surgery); In the Matter of John Clapp, M.D., Board of Registration in Medicine, Adjudicatory Case No. 06-014 (Consent Order, April 12, 2006)(reprimand for failure to notify patient of abnormal test results and refer him to a specialist); and In the Matter of David Chapin, M.D., Board of Registration in Medicine, Adjudicatory Case No. 04-53-XX (Consent Order, November 7, 2004) (reprimand for failure to order x-ray when advised of a missing sponge).

Pursuant to the Joint Stipulation of the Parties, the Board hereby REPRIMANDS the Respondent's license to practice medicine. 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; and 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. 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 taken.

The Respondent has the right to appeal this Final Decision and Order within thirty (30) days, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A §§14 and 15, and G.L. c. 112, § 64.

DATE: April 8, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Abraham", written over a horizontal line.

George Abraham, M.D.  
Chair