

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss

Board of Registration in Medicine,
Petitioner

v.

Debra Little, M.D.,
Respondent

Division of Administrative Law Appeals
14 Summer Street, 4th Floor
Malden, MA 02148
(781) 397-4700
www.state.ma.us/dala

Docket No. RM-17-935

Appearance for Petitioner:

James Paikos, Esq.
Board of Registration in Medicine
200 Harvard Mill Square, Suite 330
Wakefield, MA 01880

Appearance for Respondent:

Andrew L. Hyams, Esq.
Kerstein Coren & Lichtenstein, LLP
60 Walnut Street
Wellesley, MA 02481

Administrative Magistrate

James P. Rooney

Summary of Decision

Psychiatrist who failed to follow the standard of care in the intake of a patient, prescribed benzodiazepines without an assessment of risk, terminated the patient's care inappropriately, and made a false statement to the Board during its investigation is subject to discipline by the Board.

RECOMMENDED DECISION

On October 26, 2017, the Board of Registration in Medicine issued a Statement of Allegations ordering Debra M. Little, M.D., a psychiatrist, to show cause why she should not be disciplined for failing to meet the standard of care in her intake of a particular psychiatric


patient, prescribing her benzodiazepines for five months without an assessment of risk, and terminating her care in "an inappropriate manner." The Board also alleges that the doctor made at least one false statement to it during its investigation.

On June 9, 2021, by mutual agreement among the parties, Complaint Counsel filed a Joint Stipulation. The stipulation is signed by Dr. Little, her attorney, and Complaint Counsel. The Stipulation is attached as Exhibit 1. In the stipulation, the doctor concedes the Board's allegations.

Other than the Stipulation and the admissions of fact it contains, I have not taken evidence with respect to the facts of this matter. I adopt the facts as stipulated. The conclusions of law set forth in the Stipulation are warranted and I therefore adopt them as well.

Based on the foregoing, I recommend that the Board impose such discipline on Dr. Little as it deems appropriate in light of the facts and conclusions of law as stipulated by the parties. I note that the parties have recommended a reprimand as a sanction.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW APPEALS


James P. Rooney
First Administrative Magistrate

Dated: SEP -1 2021