

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss.

Board of Registration in Medicine
Adjudicatory Case No. 2024-032

In the Matter of

Laura E. Purdy, M.D.

STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS

The Board of Registration in Medicine (“Board”) has determined 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 Laura E. Purdy, 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. 23-397.

Biographical Information

1. The Respondent graduated from Uniformed Services University School of Medicine in 2011. She is certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties in Family Medicine. The Respondent has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts under license number 282282 since 2022.

Factual Allegations

2. The Respondent is licensed to practice medicine in many other states, including Mississippi. On May 18, 2023, the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure (“MS Board”) imposed discipline on the Respondent’s license in Mississippi due to Respondent’s violation of Mississippi law governing the practice of medicine.

3. Specifically, the MS Board disciplined the Respondent for failing to establish a

valid physician/patient relationship, utilizing a questionnaire in lieu of a physical examination, and unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, being guilty of any dishonorable or unethical conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public.

4. The MS Board disciplined the Respondent for the following conduct:
 - a. On or about May 23, 2022, the MS Board received a complaint from a physician alleging that Respondent was prescribing medications such as Ozempic via telehealth with no audio and/or video contact with at least one patient. It was also alleged that side effects of those drugs were not discussed with the patient prior to prescribing.
 - b. During the MS Board's investigation, it was discovered that Respondent was also prescribing medications to at least two other patients in the State of Mississippi. The investigation found that all patient encounters were conducted via instant messages through a phone application and website called "Push Health."
 - c. Communication for all patient encounters was conducted via instant messages on the website "Push Health."
 - d. Respondent testified that she only reviewed questionnaires completed by patients when they registered for "Push Health" prior to prescribing medication. Other than the instant messages, Respondent testified that she did not ask any questions or engage in any relevant communication with patients to establish the physician/patient relationship needed to practice telemedicine in the state of Mississippi.

5. The MS Board: suspended Respondent's Mississippi medical license for three months, which was immediately stayed; ordered her to complete the Center for Personalized Education for Physicians' PROBE course; prohibited her from practicing telemedicine in the

state for one month; and required her to submit her telehealth operating procedures for MS Board review prior to her returning to telehealth practice in Mississippi.

6. Based on the MS Board's action, the following medical Board's have imposed discipline on her medical license to practice there: Colorado; District of Columbia; Hawaii; Illinois; Kansas; Kentucky; Louisiana; Maine; Maryland; New Mexico; North Carolina; Pennsylvania; South Dakota; Tennessee; Vermont; Virginia; and West Virginia.

Legal Basis for Proposed Relief

A. The Board may discipline Respondent upon proof satisfactory to a majority of the Board that she violated 243 C.M.R. 1.03(5)(a)(12) by being disciplined by the MS Board for reasons substantially the same as those set forth in G.L. c. 112, § 5 or 243 C.M.R. 1.03(5). More specifically, in Massachusetts, the Board may discipline a physician upon proof satisfactory to a majority of the Board that said physician has violated the *Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine Prescribing Practices Policy and Guidelines, Policy No. 15-05* (adopted October 8, 2015), *Section 4: Internet Prescribing*, which states, "To be valid, a prescription must be in the usual course of the physician's professional practice, and within a physician-patient relationship that is for the purpose of maintaining the patient's well-being. In addition, the physician must conform to certain minimum standards of patient care, such as taking an adequate medical history, doing a physical and/or mental status examination and documenting the findings. This rule applies to any prescription, issued by any means, including the Internet or other electronic process. Prescribing that does not meet these requirements is unlawful."

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, the Respondent is hereby **ORDERED** to show cause why the Board should not discipline her for the conduct described herein.

By the Board of Registration in Medicine,



Booker T. Bush, M.D.
Board Chair

Date: 6/13/2024