

BEFORE THE  
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

In re:	)	
	)	
Karlus Cornelius Artis, M.D.,	)	CONSENT ORDER
	)	
Respondent.	)	

This matter is before the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") regarding information provided to the Board concerning Karlus Cornelius Artis, M.D. ("Dr. Artis"). Dr. Artis makes the following admissions, and the Board makes the following findings and conclusions:

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Board is a body duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding under the authority granted to it in Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the rules and regulations promulgated thereto.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Dr. Artis was first issued a license to practice medicine by the Board on or about September 21, 1991, license number 34782.

At all times relevant hereto, Dr. Artis practiced medicine in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina.

From December, 2015 to June, 2020 Dr. Artis prescribed multiple controlled substances to Patient A, an immediate family

member. Board rule 21 NCAC 32B.1001 prohibits physicians from prescribing to immediate family members except in emergency or urgent situations. Dr. Artis prescribed Schedule II and IV narcotics as well as a Schedule IV amphetamine.

Dr. Artis was able to produce records for five episodes of prescribing to Patient A. The notes state that Patient A, who had an established patient-physician relationship with a rheumatologist, could not obtain an appointment with the rheumatologist for pain medications or weight loss medication. Dr. Artis documented patient history, vital signs, physical examinations, diagnosis, and intervention prior to prescribing to Patient A. Patient A's medical records lacked evidence of urine drug screens, failure to query the North Carolina Controlled Substances Reporting System ("NCCSRS"), no controlled substance agreement, and no informed consent. The NCCSRS listed at least seven prescriptions for controlled substances to Patient A in which Dr. Artis could produce no record.

#### PRIOR DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

In November 1992, Dr. Artis surrendered his North Carolina medical license. Dr. Artis surrendered his license after a Board investigation discovered Dr. Artis had forged multiple prescriptions for himself and an immediate family member by taking another physician's prescription pad, without the physician's knowledge, and signing the physician's name on the prescriptions.

In August 2004, Dr. Artis entered into a Consent Order with the Board whereby he was found to have violated federal rules in the handling and dispensing of controlled substances. The Board also found that Dr. Artis had provided false information to a Board investigator about the matter. Dr. Artis' medical license was suspended for six months, stayed upon conditions, one of which was that he attend, at his own expense, the comprehensive prescribing of controlled substances course offered by Vanderbilt University.

In November 2013, Dr. Artis received a public letter of concern for violations of Board rules with regard to the supervision of a *locum tenens* physician assistant.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Dr. Artis acknowledges that his conduct, as described above, constitutes unprofessional conduct, within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6) and grounds exist under this section of the North Carolina General Statutes for the Board to annul, suspend, revoke, condition, or limit Dr. Artis' license to practice medicine or to deny any application he might make in the future.

Dr. Artis acknowledges that his conduct, as described above, constitutes a violation of a law involving the practice of medicine within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(7), specifically 21 NCAC 32B .1001, and grounds exist under this section of the North Carolina General Statutes for the Board to annul, suspend,

revoke, condition, or limit Dr. Artis' license to practice medicine or to deny any application he might make in the future.

#### PROCEDURAL STIPULATIONS

Dr. Artis acknowledges and agrees that the Board has jurisdiction over him and over the subject matter of this case.

Dr. Artis knowingly waives his right to any hearing and to any judicial review or appeal in this case.

Dr. Artis acknowledges that he has read and understands this Consent Order and enters into it voluntarily.

Dr. Artis desires to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings.

The Board has determined that it is in the public interest to resolve this case as set forth below.

#### ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, with Dr. Artis' consent, it is ORDERED that:

1. Dr. Artis' North Carolina license to practice medicine is hereby INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED. The SUSPENSION is hereby immediately stayed on the following terms and conditions except for a period of THREE (3) MONTHS, in which Dr. Artis shall serve an active suspension beginning on February 1, 2022 and ending on April 30, 2022.

a. Dr. Artis shall, at his own expense, take and successfully complete the Professional/Problem-Based Ethics ("ProBE") course, an education course offered by the Center

for Personalized Education for Professionals ("CPEP"), within six (6) months of the date of this Consent Order. Dr. Artis shall submit evidence of the successful completion of the ProBE course to the Board's Compliance Coordinator, North Carolina Medical Board, P.O. Box 20007, Raleigh, NC 27619-0007 or [compliance@ncmedboard.org](mailto:compliance@ncmedboard.org) within five (5) days of receiving his grade. To register for the ProBE course, Dr. Artis should contact CPEP at 303.577.3232 (Denver, CO office), 919.238.6436 (Raleigh, NC office), or visit their website, [www.cpepdoc.org](http://www.cpepdoc.org).

b. Dr. Artis may not prescribe, administer, distribute, and/or dispense controlled substances except from his current medical practices with RHA Health Services in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, and Nova Behavioral Healthcare Corporation in Goldsboro, North Carolina, without further approval of the Board.

c. Within ten (10) days from the date of this Consent Order, Dr. Artis shall schedule an appointment with the North Carolina Professionals Health Program (NCPHP) and such appointment shall take place within sixty (60) days from the date of this Consent Order. Dr. Artis shall cooperate with the NCPHP and follow all of its recommendations, including submitting to any further assessments. Furthermore, Dr. Artis shall sign all necessary releases required by the NCPHP

to communicate with the Board and to share its reports and findings.

2. Dr. Artis shall obey all laws. Likewise, he shall obey all rules and regulations involving the practice of medicine.

3. Dr. Artis shall meet with the Board or members of the Board for an investigative interview at such times as requested by the Board.

4. Upon request, Dr. Artis shall provide the Board with any information the Board deems necessary to verify compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order.

5. Upon an *ex parte* determination of probable cause by the Board that Dr. Artis has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, that determination, without further showing, shall constitute grounds for the Board to summarily suspend Dr. Artis's North Carolina medical license pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 150B-3(c).

6. If Dr. Artis fails to comply with any of the terms of this Consent Order, that failure shall constitute unprofessional conduct within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6) and shall be grounds, after any required notice and hearing, for the Board to annul, suspend or revoke his license to practice medicine and to deny any application he might make in the future or then have pending for a license to practice medicine.

7. This Consent Order shall take effect immediately upon


its execution by both Dr. Artis and the Board, and it shall continue in effect until specifically ordered otherwise by the Board.

8. Dr. Artis hereby waives any requirement under any law or rule that this Consent Order be served on him.

9. Upon execution by Dr. Artis and the Board, this Consent Order shall become a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and shall be subject to public inspection and dissemination pursuant to the provisions thereof. Additionally, it will be reported to persons, entities, agencies and clearinghouses as required and permitted by law including, but not limited to, the Federation of State Medical Boards and the National Practitioner Data Bank.

By Order of the North Carolina Medical Board this the 31st day of January, 2022.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By:   
John W. Rusher, M.D., J.D.  
President

Consented to this the 14 day of DECEMBER, 2021.

Karlus Cornelius Artis, M.D.  
Karlus Cornelius Artis, M.D.

State of NC

County of NASH

I, Justin Aycock, do hereby certify that  
Karlus Cornelius Artis, M.D. personally appeared before me this  
day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal this the 14 day of  
December, 2021.

[Signature]  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

1/15/2025

