

Public

Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

NEW YORK
state department of
HEALTH

Sue Kelly
Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 18, 2014

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Michael C. Susco, M.D.

REDACTED

Re: License No. 168413

Dear Dr. Susco:

Enclosed is a copy of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (BPMC) Order No. 14-64. This order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect March 25, 2014.

Please direct any questions to: Board for Professional Medical Conduct, 90 Church Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10007-2919, telephone # 212-417-4445.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

Katherine A. Hawkins, M.D., J.D.
Executive Secretary
Board for Professional Medical Conduct

Enclosure

cc: Lia B. Mitchell, Esq.
O'Connor, O'Connor, Bresee & First, P.C.
20 Corporate Woods Boulevard
Albany, NY 12211

**IN THE MATTER
OF
MICHAEL SUSCO, M.D.**

**CONSENT
ORDER**

Upon the application of (Respondent) MICHAEL SUSCO, M.D. in the attached Consent Agreement and Order, which is made a part of this Consent Order, it is

ORDERED, that the Consent Agreement, and its terms, are adopted and

it is further

ORDERED, that this Consent Order shall be effective upon issuance by the Board,
either

by mailing of a copy of this Consent Order, either by first class mail to Respondent at the address in the attached Consent Agreement or by certified mail to Respondent's attorney, OR

upon facsimile transmission to Respondent or Respondent's attorney,

whichever is first.

SO ORDERED.

DATE: 3/17/2014

REDACTED

ARTHUR S. HENGERER, M.D.
Chair
State Board for Professional Medical Conduct

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

**IN THE MATTER
OF
MICHAEL SUSCO, M.D.**

**CONSENT
AGREEMENT**

MICHAEL SUSCO, M.D., represents that all of the following statements are true:

That on or about October 29, 1986, I was licensed to practice as a physician in the State of New York, and issued License No. 168413 by the New York State Education Department.

My current address is REDACTED and I will advise the Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct of any change of address.

I understand that the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (Board) has charged me with four (4) specifications of professional misconduct, as set forth in a Statement of Charges, marked as Exhibit A, attached to and part of this Consent Agreement.

I admit to the Third and Fourth Specifications with regard to Factual Allegations A. 2 and B.5 only, in full satisfaction of the charges against me, and agree to the following penalty:

- 1) Pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a(1), I shall be subject to a Censure and Reprimand.
- 2) Pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a(9), I shall be placed on probation for a period of three years, subject to the terms set forth in attached Exhibit B.

I further agree that the Consent Order shall impose the following conditions:

That Respondent shall remain in continuous compliance with all requirements of N.Y. Educ Law § 6502 including but not limited to the requirements that a licensee shall register and continue to be registered with the New York State Education Department (except during periods of actual suspension) and that a licensee shall pay all registration fees. Respondent shall not exercise the option provided in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6502(4) to avoid registration and payment of fees. This condition shall take effect 120 days after the Consent Order's effective date and will continue so long as Respondent remains a licensee in New York State; and

That Respondent shall remain in continuous compliance with all requirements of N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 2995-a(4) and 10 NYCRR 1000.5, including but not limited to the requirements that a licensee shall : report to the department all information required by the Department to develop a public physician profile for the licensee; continue to notify the department of any change in profile information within 30 days of any change (or in the case of optional information, within 365 days of such change); and, in

addition to such periodic reports and notification of any changes, update his or her profile information within six months prior to the expiration date of the licensee's registration period. Licensee shall submit changes to his or her physician profile information either electronically using the department's secure web site or on forms prescribed by the department, and licensee shall attest to the truthfulness, completeness and correctness of any changes licensee submits to the department. This condition shall take effect 30 days after the Order's effective date and shall continue so long as Respondent remains a licensee in New York State. Respondent's failure to comply with this condition, if proven and found at a hearing pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230, shall constitute professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(21) and N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(29). Potential penalties for failure to comply with this condition may include all penalties for professional misconduct set forth in N.Y. Pub. Health Law §230-a, including but not limited to: revocation or suspension of license, Censure and Reprimand, probation, public service and/or fines of up to \$10,000 per specification of misconduct found; and

That Respondent shall cooperate fully with the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) in its administration and enforcement of this Consent Order and in its investigations of matters concerning Respondent. Respondent shall respond in a timely manner to all OPMC requests for written periodic verification of Respondent's compliance with this Consent Order.

Respondent shall meet with a person designated by the Director of OPMC, as directed. Respondent shall respond promptly and provide all documents and information within Respondent's control, as directed. This condition shall take effect upon the Board's issuance of the Consent Order and will continue so long as Respondent remains licensed in New York State.

I stipulate that my failure to comply with any conditions of this Consent Order shall constitute misconduct as defined by N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(29).

I agree that, if I am charged with professional misconduct in future, this Consent Agreement and Order **shall** be admitted into evidence in that proceeding.

I ask the Board to adopt this Consent Agreement.

I understand that if the Board does not adopt this Consent Agreement, none of its terms shall bind me or constitute an admission of any of the acts of alleged misconduct; this Consent Agreement shall not be used against me in any way and shall be kept in strict confidence; and the Board's denial shall be without prejudice to the pending disciplinary proceeding and the Board's final determination pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law.

I agree that, if the Board adopts this Consent Agreement, the Chair of the Board shall issue a Consent Order in accordance with its terms. I agree that this Consent Order shall take effect upon its issuance by the Board, either by mailing of a copy of the Consent Order by first class mail to me at the address in this Consent Agreement, or to my attorney by certified mail, OR upon facsimile transmission to me or my attorney, whichever is first.

The Consent Order, this agreement, and all attached Exhibits shall be public documents, with only patient identities, if any, redacted. As public documents, they may be posted on the Department's website. OPMC shall report this action to the National Practitioner Data Bank and the Federation of State Medical Boards, and any other entities that the Director of OPMC shall deem appropriate.

I stipulate that the proposed sanction and Consent Order are authorized by N.Y. Pub. Health Law §§ 230 and 230-a, and that the Board and OPMC have the requisite powers to carry out all included terms. I ask the Board to adopt this Consent Agreement of my own free will and not under duress, compulsion or restraint. In consideration of the value to me of the Board's adoption of this Consent Agreement, allowing me to resolve this matter without the various risks and burdens of a hearing on the merits, I knowingly waive my right to contest the Consent Order for which I apply, whether administratively or judicially, I agree to be bound by the Consent Order, and I ask that the Board adopt this Consent Agreement.

I understand and agree that the attorney for the Department, the Director of OPMC and the Chair of the Board each retain complete discretion either to enter into the proposed agreement and Consent Order, based upon my application, or to decline to do so. I further understand and agree that no prior or separate written or oral communication can limit that discretion.

DATE 2/28/14

REDACTED

MICHAEL SUSCO, M.D.
RESPONDENT

SUSCO



The undersigned agree to Respondent's attached Consent Agreement and to its proposed penalty, terms and conditions.

DATE: 3/10/14

REDACTED

LIA B. MITCHELL, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

DATE: 3/11/14

REDACTED

CINDY M. FASCIA
Associate Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE: 3/17/14

REDACTED

KEITH W. SERVIS
Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

EXHIBIT A
STATEMENT
OF
CHARGES

IN THE MATTER
OF
MICHAEL SUSCO, M.D.

MICHAEL SUSCO, M.D., the Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on or about October 29, 1986, by the issuance of license number 168413 by the New York State Education Department.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- A. Respondent provided psychiatric medical care to Patient A at St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie, New York from approximately November 12, 2009 through November 18, 2009. Respondent's care of Patient A failed to meet minimum standards of care, in that:
1. Respondent failed to notify the Medical Attending Physician of Patient A's decreased blood oxygen saturation level.
 2. Respondent failed to maintain an adequate record of his evaluation and treatment of Patient A, including but not limited to failing to make contemporaneous progress notes for November 15, 2009 and November 16, 2009 in Patient A's medical record.

B. Respondent provided psychiatric medical care to Patient B at St. Francis Hospital from approximately September 12, 2008 through September 22, 2008.

Respondent's care of Patient B failed to meet minimum standards of care, in that:

1. Respondent failed to see Patient B on a daily basis and/or failed to document seeing the patient.
2. Respondent prescribed Klonopin to Patient B and discharged Patient B with Klonopin, despite Patient B's history of substance abuse and/or Patient B's prior misuse of Klonopin, and/or without arranging for any type of outpatient substance abuse treatment for Patient B.
3. Respondent failed to perform and/or document an adequate suicide risk assessment of Patient B after Patient B put in a 72 hour notice for discharge and/or prior to Patient B's discharge.
4. Respondent failed to order appropriate and/or adequate psychopharmacologic treatment of Patient B's severe bipolar disorder and depression and/or failed to adequately document his reasoning for his medication choices for Patient B.
5. Respondent failed to maintain an adequate record of his evaluation and treatment of Patient B, including but not limited to failing to make contemporaneous progress notes in Patient B's medical record, and/or failing to make any progress notes until September 16, 2008, and/ or making no progress notes in Patient B's medical record from September 16, 2008 until September 22, 2008, the day of Patient B's discharge.

SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES

FIRST SPECIFICATION

GROSS NEGLIGENCE

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in New York Education Law § 6530(4) by practicing the profession of medicine with gross negligence on a particular occasion as alleged in the facts of the following:

1. The facts in Paragraph B and B.1 and/or B.2 and/or B.3 and/or B.4 and/or B.5.

SECOND SPECIFICATION

NEGLECT ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in New York Education Law § 6530(3) by practicing the profession of medicine with negligence on more than one occasion as alleged in the facts of:

2. The facts in Paragraphs A and A.1 and/or A.2; B and B.1 and/or B.2 and/or B.3 and/or B.4 and/or B.5.

THIRD AND FOURTH SPECIFICATIONS

FAILURE TO MAINTAIN RECORDS

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in New York Education Law § 6530(32) by failing to maintain a record for each patient which accurately reflects the care and treatment of the patient, as alleged in the facts of:

3. The facts in Paragraphs A and A.2.
4. The facts in Paragraphs B and B.1 and/or B.3 and/or B.4 and/or B.5

DATE: ~~January~~ ^{MARCH 11}, 2014
Albany, New York

REDACTED

MICHAEL A. HISER
Deputy Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

EXHIBIT B

Terms of Probation

- 1) Respondent's conduct shall conform to moral and professional standards of conduct and governing law. Any act of professional misconduct by Respondent as defined by N.Y. Educ. Law §§ 6530 or 6531 shall constitute a violation of probation and may subject Respondent to an action pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230(19).
- 2) Respondent shall maintain active registration of Respondent's license (except during periods of actual suspension) with the New York State Education Department Division of Professional Licensing Services, and shall pay all registration fees.
- 3) Respondent shall provide the Director, Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC), Riverview Center, 150 Broadway, Suite 355, Albany, New York 12204-2719, with the following information, in writing, and ensure that this information is kept current: a full description of Respondent's employment and practice; all professional and residential addresses and telephone numbers within and outside New York State; and all investigations, arrests, charges, convictions or disciplinary actions by any local, state or federal agency, institution or facility. Respondent shall notify OPMC, in writing, within 30 days of any additions to or changes in the required information.
- 4) Respondent shall cooperate fully with, and respond in a timely manner to, OPMC requests to provide written periodic verification of Respondent's compliance with the terms of this Consent Order. Upon the Director of OPMC's request, Respondent shall meet in person with the Director's designee.
- 5) Respondent's failure to pay any monetary penalty by the prescribed date shall subject Respondent to all provisions of law relating to debt collection by New York State, including but not limited to: the imposition of interest, late payment charges and collection fees; referral to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance for collection; and non-renewal of permits or licenses [Tax Law § 171(27); State Finance Law § 18; CPLR § 5001; Executive Law § 32].
- 6) The probation period shall toll when Respondent is not engaged in active medical practice in New York State for a period of 30 consecutive days or more. Respondent shall notify the Director of OPMC, in writing, if Respondent is not currently engaged in, or intends to leave, active medical practice in New York State for a consecutive 30 day period. Respondent shall then notify the Director again at least 14 days before returning to active practice. Upon Respondent's return to active practice in New York State, the probation period shall resume and Respondent shall fulfill any unfulfilled probation terms and such additional

requirements as the Director may impose as reasonably relate to the matters set forth in Exhibit A or as are necessary to protect the public health.

- 7) The Director of OPMC may review Respondent's professional performance. This review may include but shall not be limited to: a review of office records, patient records, hospital charts; and/or electronic records; and interviews with or periodic visits with Respondent and staff at practice locations or OPMC offices.
- 8) Respondent shall adhere to federal and state guidelines and professional standards of care with respect to infection control practices. Respondent shall ensure education, training and oversight of all office personnel involved in medical care, with respect to these practices.
- 9) Respondent shall maintain complete and legible medical records that accurately reflect the evaluation and treatment of patients and contain all information required by State rules and regulations concerning controlled substances.
- 10) Respondent shall enroll in and successfully complete a continuing education program in the area of Recordkeeping. This continuing education program is subject to the Director of OPMC's prior written approval and shall be successfully completed within the first 90 days of the probation period.
- 11) Respondent, during the three year probationary period, shall complete a total of one hundred fifty (150) hours of Category I Continuing Medical Education (CME). Said CME shall consist of courses in the area of psychiatry, with at least 50 hours to be taken in courses related to the prescribing of psychotropic medications. All CME courses are subject to the prior written approval of OPMC. Said 150 hours of CME shall be in addition to any other CME that Respondent may be required to complete to maintain board certification, or licensure in any jurisdiction, or privileges in any facility, and shall be in addition to the continuing education program in recordkeeping set forth in Paragraph 10.
- 12) Respondent shall comply with this Consent Order and all its terms, and shall bear all associated compliance costs. Upon receiving evidence of noncompliance with, or a violation of, these terms, the Director of OPMC and/or the Board may initiate a violation of probation proceeding, and/or any other such proceeding authorized by law, against Respondent.