



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

JAMES V. McDONALD, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

JOHANNE E. MORNE, M.S.
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 18, 2023

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

George Isaac, M.D.

George Isaac, M.D.
Dubuque Rheumatology
2140 JFK Road, Suite B
Dubuque, Iowa 52002

Paul Tsui, Esq.
NYS Department of Health
Corning Tower – Room 2512
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12237

RE: In the Matter of George Isaac, M.D.

Dear Parties:

Enclosed please find the Determination and Order (No. 23-270) of the Hearing Committee in the above referenced matter. This Determination and Order shall be deemed effective upon the receipt or seven (7) days after mailing by certified mail as per the provisions of §230, subdivision 10, paragraph (h) of the New York State Public Health Law.

Five days after receipt of this Order, you will be required to deliver to the Board of Professional Medical Conduct your license to practice medicine together with the registration certificate. Delivery shall be by either certified mail or in person to:

Office of Professional Medical Conduct
New York State Department of Health
Office of Professional Medical Conduct
Riverview Center
150 Broadway - Suite 355
Albany, New York 12204

If your license or registration certificate is lost, misplaced or its whereabouts is otherwise unknown, you shall submit an affidavit to that effect. If subsequently you locate the requested items, they must then be delivered to the Office of Professional Medical Conduct in the manner noted above.

As prescribed by the New York State Public Health Law §230, subdivision 10, paragraph (i), (McKinney Supp. 2015) and §230-c subdivisions 1 through 5, (McKinney Supp. 2015), "the determination of a committee on professional medical conduct may be reviewed by the Administrative Review Board for professional medical conduct." Either the licensee or the Department may seek a review of a committee determination.

Request for review of the Committee's determination by the Administrative Review Board stays penalties other than suspension or revocation until final determination by that Board. Summary orders are not stayed by Administrative Review Board reviews.

All notices of review must be served, by certified mail, upon the Administrative Review Board and the adverse party within fourteen (14) days of service and receipt of the enclosed Determination and Order.

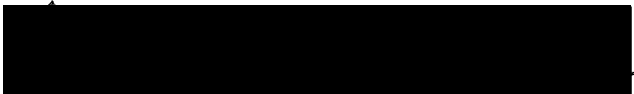
The notice of review served on the Administrative Review Board should be forwarded to:

Jean T. Carney, Administrative Law Judge
New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Adjudication
Riverview Center
150 Broadway – Suite 510
Albany, New York 12204

The parties shall have 30 days from the notice of appeal in which to file their briefs to the Administrative Review Board. Six copies of all papers must also be sent to the attention of Ms. Carney at the above address and one copy to the other party. The stipulated record in this matter shall consist of the official hearing transcript(s) and all documents in evidence.

Parties will be notified by mail of the Administrative Review Board's Determination and Order.

Sincerely,



Natalie J. Bordeaux
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Bureau of Adjudication

NJB: nm
Enclosure

COPY

**DETERMINATION
AND
ORDER**

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authorized professional agency of that state, where the conduct resulting in the disciplinary action would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York. Under PHL § 230(10), the Department had the burden of proving its case by a preponderance of the evidence.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Respondent was authorized to practice medicine in New York on August 15, 1996, under license number 204255. (Exhibit 3.)

2. Effective February 17, 2022, the Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Iowa Board of Medicine (Iowa Board) to resolve charges that he failed to provide appropriate medical care to multiple patients in Dubuque, Iowa, between 2010 and 2015. Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, the Iowa Board issued a citation for the Respondent's failure to conform to the rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. He was required to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty, complete a medical record keeping course, and submit proof of successful completion of an Iowa Board-approved chronic pain management educational program, demonstrating to the Iowa Board's satisfaction that he is able to practice chronic pain management with reasonable skill and safety. The Respondent's medical practice in Iowa is subject to monitoring for a period of two years. (Exhibit 4.)

DISCUSSION

The Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Iowa Board wherein he was cited for failing to conform to the rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa when he failed to provide appropriate medical care to patients in Dubuque, Iowa between 2010 and 2015. Those departures included a failure to maintain accurate, complete, and timely medical records for patients.

The Hearing Committee agreed that the Respondent's conduct resulting in the Iowa Board's disciplinary action would, if committed in New York, constitute misconduct pursuant to Education

Law § 6530(3), practicing the profession with negligence on more than one occasion; and Education Law § 6530(32), failing to maintain a record for each patient which accurately reflects the treatment and evaluation of the patient. The Hearing Committee thus determined that the Respondent violated Education Law § 6530(9)(d).

After determining to sustain the charge, the Hearing Committee considered all possible penalties authorized by PHL § 230-a. The Department recommended the imposition of a censure and reprimand, along with a “reasonable fine”. In addition, in the event that the Respondent decides to return to practicing medicine in the State of New York, the Department recommended the imposition of a requirement that the Respondent submit proof of compliance with the terms of the Iowa Settlement Agreement and three years’ probation with a practice monitor. The Respondent asked that the charge be dismissed in the interest of justice.

The Hearing Committee saw no justification for imposing a fine for professional misconduct that occurred in another jurisdiction, and which did not involve financial malfeasance. Nor did the Hearing Committee deem probation necessary when the Respondent’s ability to practice medicine in Iowa is already subject to two years of monitoring by the Iowa Board, and his medical practice has been exclusively within Iowa’s borders. In the event that the Respondent decides to return to practicing medicine in the State of New York, the Hearing Committee determined that the Respondent’s submission of documentation to the Director of the OPMC (Office of Professional Medical Conduct) showing that he fully complied with all terms of the Settlement Agreement would suffice to demonstrate the Respondent’s fitness to practice. The Hearing Committee also deemed a censure and reprimand warranted in this matter. Regardless of the Respondent’s refutations at the hearing regarding the Iowa Board’s ultimate findings and the basis for his entry into the Settlement Agreement, that agreement (which the Respondent entered into voluntarily) explicitly states that he

failed to provide appropriate medical care to patients during a five-year period. Deviations from the applicable standards of care, especially over the course of a considerable duration, merit admonishment.

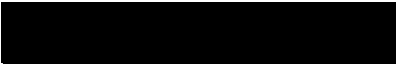
ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The charge of professional misconduct, as set forth in the Statement of Charges, is sustained.
2. A censure and reprimand is imposed on the Respondent's license pursuant to PHL § 230-a(1).
3. The Respondent's license is suspended wholly until he submits documentation that he satisfied all requirements of the Settlement Agreement entered with the Iowa Board to the Director of the OPMC, pursuant to PHL § 230-a(2)(e).
4. This Order shall be effective upon service on the Respondent in accordance with the requirements of PHL § 230(10)(h).

DATED: 12/18, 2023

Ontario Co., New York


Richard F. Kasulke, M.D., Chairperson
Reid T. Muller, M.D.
Elena M. Cottone, PA-C

To: George Isaac, M.D.



George Isaac, M.D.
Dubuque Rheumatology
2140 JFK Road, Suite B
Dubuque, Iowa 52002

Paul Tsui, Esq.
New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct
Corning Tower Building – Room 2512
Albany, New York 12237

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

IN THE MATTER

OF

GEORGE ISAAC, M.D.

STATEMENT

OF

CHARGES

George Isaac, M.D., the Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on or about August 15, 1996, by the issuance of license number 204255 by the New York State Education Department.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. On or about February 17, 2022, the Iowa Board of Medicine (hereinafter, "Iowa Board") by a Settlement Agreement (hereinafter, "Iowa Agreement"), inter alia, cited the Respondent for failing to conform to the rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa by failing to provide appropriate medical care to multiple patients between 2010 and 2015. The Iowa Board also warned the Respondent that such practice in the future may result in further formal disciplinary action against his Iowa medical license. The Respondent was ordered to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty, complete a Board-approved medical record keeping course, submit proof of successful completion of a Board-approved chronic pain management educational program and demonstrate that he is able to practice chronic pain management with reasonable skill and safety. The Iowa Board also ordered that the Respondent be monitored for a period of two years subject to certain terms and conditions.

B. The Iowa Board's disciplinary action was based upon charges that Respondent prescribed medications to patients without documenting appropriate diagnoses and monitoring; failed to maintain accurate, complete and timely medical records for

patients; treated patients who were receiving narcotics, sedatives/tranquilizers, muscle relaxants and antidepressants from other providers without coordinating and/or documenting the coordination of the patients' care with other providers; failed to explore and/or recommend available non-pharmacological treatment options for patients; and failed to provide appropriate chronic pain management to patients when he violated the standards of practice for appropriate pain management in Iowa.

C. The conduct upon which the Iowa Board's disciplinary action was based would constitute misconduct, if committed in New York State, pursuant to the following sections of New York state law:

1. New York State Education Law §6530(3) (Practicing the profession with negligence on more than one occasion); and/or
2. New York State Education Law §6530(32) (Failing to maintain a record for each patient which accurately reflects the evaluation and treatment of the patient).

SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES

FIRST SPECIFICATION

HAVING HAD DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(9)(d) by having the Respondent's license to practice medicine revoked, suspended or having other disciplinary action taken, or having the Respondent's application for a license refused, revoked or suspended or having voluntarily or otherwise surrendered the Respondent's license after a disciplinary action was instituted by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, where the conduct resulting in the revocation, suspension or other disciplinary action involving the license or refusal, revocation or suspension of an application for a license or the surrender of the license

would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York State as alleged in the facts of the following:

1. The facts of Paragraphs A, B, and C and C1, and/or C and C2.

DATE: October 18, 2023
Albany, New York


JEFFREY J. CONKLIN
Deputy Director
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct