

**NEW YORK**  
state department of  
**HEALTH**

Public

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

Sue Kelly  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

September 9, 2011

***CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED***

Walter J. Griffiths, M.D.  
REDACTED

RE: License No. 117497

Dear Dr. Griffiths:

Enclosed is a copy of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (BPMC) Order No. 11-212. This Order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect September 16, 2011.

If the penalty imposed by the Order is a fine, please write the check payable to the New York State Department of Health. Noting the BPMC Order number on your remittance will assist in proper crediting. Payments should be directed to the following address:

Bureau of Accounts Management  
New York State Department of Health  
Corning Tower, Room 1717  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12237

Please direct responses to: Board for Professional Medical Conduct, 433 River Street, Suite 303, Troy, NY 12180, telephone # (518)402-0863.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

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

cc: Mara Ginsburg, Esq.  
Hinman Straub  
121 State Street  
Albany, NY 12207-1693

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

IN THE MATTER  
OF  
WALTER JOHN GRIFFITHS, M.D.

CONSENT  
ORDER

BPMC No. 11-212

Upon the application of **WALTER JOHN GRIFFITHS, M.D.**, (Respondent), in the attached Consent Agreement, that 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 or email transmission to Respondent or Respondent's attorney, whichever is first.

SO ORDERED.

DATED: 9/8/11

REDACTED

KENDRICK A. SEARS, M.D.  
Chair  
State Board for Professional  
Medical Conduct

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

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IN THE MATTER  
OF  
WALTER JOHN GRIFFITHS, M.D.  
CO-10-10-6207-A

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CONSENT  
AGREEMENT

WALTER JOHN GRIFFITHS, M.D., (Respondent), representing that all of the following statements are true, deposes and says:

That on or about September 6, 1973, I was licensed to practice medicine in the State of New York and issued license number 117497 by the New York State Education Department.

My current address is REDACTED and I will advise the Director (Director) of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) of any change of my address within thirty (30) days, thereof.

I understand that the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (Board) has charged me with two (2) Specifications of professional misconduct.

A copy of the Amended Statement of Charges, marked as Exhibit A, is attached to and part of this Consent Agreement.

I do not contest the Second Specification in full satisfaction of the charges against me. I deny the First Specification. I agree to the following sanction:

Censure and Reprimand;

Respondent shall pay a \$1,000.00 fine, to be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the Consent Order to the NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Accounts Management, Revenue Unit, Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, Room 1717, Albany, NY 12237-0016.

Respondent shall comply fully with the Vermont Order, and any extensions or modifications thereof.

Respondent shall provide a written authorization for the Vermont Board to provide

the Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) with any/all information or documentation as requested by OPMC to enable OPMC to determine whether Respondent is in compliance with the Vermont Order.

Respondent shall submit semi-annually a signed Compliance Declaration to the Director of OPMC, which truthfully attests whether Respondent has been in compliance with the Vermont Order during the declaration period specified.

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

That Respondent shall remain in continuous compliance with all requirements of New York Education 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 New York Education Law § 6502(4) to avoid registration and payment of fees. This condition shall take effect 30 days after the effective date of the Consent Order and will continue so long as Respondent remains a licensee in New York State; and

That Respondent shall cooperate fully with the OPMC in its administration and enforcement of the 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 Agreement. Respondent shall meet with a person designated by the Director, 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 the Consent Order shall constitute misconduct as defined by New York Education Law § 6530(29).

I agree that, if I am charged with professional misconduct in future, this Consent Agreement and the Consent 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 New York Public 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 the 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 or email transmission to me or my attorney, whichever is first. The Consent Order, this Consent 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 of Health website.

I stipulate that the proposed sanction and Consent Order are authorized by New York Public 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, administratively and/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, OPMC, and the Chair of the Board each retain complete discretion either to enter into the proposed Consent 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.

AFFIRMED:

DATED: 8/23/11 0824

REDACTED

\_\_\_\_\_  
WALTER JOHN GRIFFITHS, M.D.  
Respondent

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

DATE: 8-23-11

REDACTED

MARA GINSBERG, Esq.  
Attorney for Respondent

DATE: 8-30-11

REDACTED

MICHAEL G. BASS  
Assistant Counsel  
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE: 9/8/11

REDACTED

KEITH W. SERVIS  
Director  
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

## EXHIBIT A

**IN THE MATTER**  
**OF**  
**WALTER JOHN GRIFFITHS, M.D.**  
**CO-10-10-6207-A**

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**AMENDED**  
**STATEMENT OF**  
**CHARGES**

**WALTER JOHN GRIFFITHS, M.D.**, Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York state on September 6, 1973, by the issuance of license number 117497 by the New York State Education Department.

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

A On or about September 1, 2010, the State of Vermont Board of Medical Practice, (hereinafter "Vermont Board"), by Stipulation And Consent Order (hereinafter "Vermont Order"), REPRIMANDED Respondent and CONDITIONED Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Vermont for thirty-six months or until such time Respondent can demonstrate full compliance with the following conditions; that Respondent retain the services of a "practice monitor," that Respondent successfully complete two classes at Case Western addressing Practice management and Best practices for Opiate Management within one year of entry of the Stipulation, that Respondent accept a public reprimand, that Respondent shall give his assurance to the Vermont Board that he will comply with the Board Policy for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain, that Respondent shall dispense no medication from his office or any other location, and that Respondent shall entirely cease any medication enhanced "diet practice" at his office or at any other location. In the Findings Of Fact in the Vermont Order, the Vermont Board found that there were allegations that Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct in regard to the prescription of opiate analgesics, in that in some instances, Respondent over prescribed opiate medication and failed to adequately document symptoms and treatment outcomes of patients for whom opiate medications were prescribed.

B. The allegations of conduct resulting in the Vermont Board disciplinary action against Respondent would constitute misconduct under the laws of New York State, pursuant to the following sections of New York State law:

1. New York Education Law Section 6530(3) (negligence on more than one occasion) and/or;
2. New York Education Law Section 6530(32) (failure to maintain an accurate record).

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**FIRST SPECIFICATION**

Respondent violated New York Education Law §6530(9)(b) by having been found guilty of improper professional misconduct by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state where the conduct upon which the finding was based would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York state, in that Petitioner charges:

1. The facts in Paragraphs A and B.

**SECOND SPECIFICATION**

Respondent violated New York Education Law §6530(9)(d) by having disciplinary action taken by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another 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 state, in that Petitioner charges:

2. The facts in Paragraphs A and B.

DATED: *July 19*, 2011  
Albany, New York

REDACTED

PETER D. VAN BUREN  
Deputy Counsel  
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct