



**Department
of Health**

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

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

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

September 19, 2023

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Harold Bendelstein, M.D.


RE: License No. 160938

Dear Dr. Bendelstein:

Enclosed is a copy of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (BPMC) Order No. 23-193. This Order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect September 26, 2023.

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 2784
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12237

Please direct any questions to: Board for Professional Medical Conduct, Riverview Center, 150 Broadway, Suite 355, Albany, New York, 12204, telephone # 518-402-0846.

Sincerely,


David Besser, M.D.
Executive Secretary
Board for Professional Medical Conduct

Enclosure

cc: Paul E. Walker, Esq.
Attorney at Law
315 West 106th Street, Suite 1A
New York, New York 10025

**IN THE MATTER
OF
HAROLD BENDELSTEIN, M.D.**

**CONSENT
ORDER**

Upon the application of (Respondent) HAROLD BENDELSTEIN, 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: 9/18/2023


THOMAS T. LEE, 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
HAROLD BENDELSTEIN, M.D.

CONSENT
AGREEMENT

HAROLD BENDELSTEIN, M.D., represents that all of the following statements are true:

That on or about December 10, 1984, I was licensed to practice as a physician in the State of New York and issued License No. 160938 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 one or more 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 do not contest the charges, in full satisfaction of the charges against me, and agree to the following penalty:

- Pursuant to New York Pub. Health Law § 230-a (2), my license to practice medicine in New York State shall be suspended for thirty-six months, with the entire thirty-six months stayed.
- Pursuant to New York Pub. Health Law § 230-a (9), I shall be placed on probation for thirty-six months, subject to the terms set forth in attached Exhibit "B."
- Pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law §§ 230-a (7) and (9), I shall be subject to a fine in the amount of \$2,000.00, to be paid in the following installments: \$500.00 paid in the first 60 days and then \$500.00 each 90 days thereafter from the effective date of this Order. Payments must be submitted to:

Bureau of Accounts Management
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower, Room 2784
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12237

In making such payment, Respondent shall indicate the order number of this Order both on the payment check submitted and on the cover letter accompanying payment. Additionally, Respondent shall simultaneously mail a photocopy of the check and cover letter to:

Physician Monitoring Program
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

Riverview Center
150 Broadway, Suite 355
Albany, New York 12204-2719.

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

That Respondent shall comply with each and every penalty imposed by this Order pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a; and

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 the Licensee's profile information within six months prior to the expiration date of the licensee's registration period. Licensee shall submit changes to the Licensee's 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 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. This condition shall take effect 30 days after the Order's effective date and shall continue at all times until Respondent receives written notification from the Office of Professional Medical Conduct, Physician Monitoring Program, that OPMC has determined that Respondent has fully complied with and satisfied the requirements of the Order, regardless of tolling; 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 the 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 or other confidential information, 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.

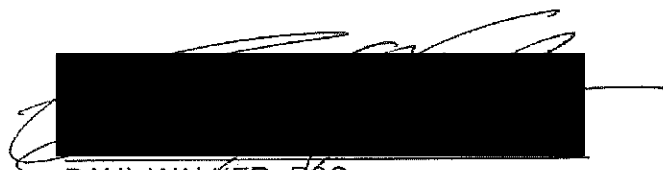
DATE 9/13/2023

81 [REDACTED]

HAROLD BENDELSTEIN, M.D.
RESPONDENT

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

DATE: 9/13/2023



PAUL WALKER, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

DATE: 9/13/23



POOJA A. RAWAL
Assistant Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE: 9/15/2023



SHELLY WANG BANDAGO
Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

EXHIBIT "A"

NEWYORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

IN THE MATTER
OF
HAROLD BENDELSTEIN, M.D.

STATEMENT
OF
CHARGES

HAROLD BENDELSTEIN, M.D., the Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on or about December 10, 1984, by the issuance of license number 160938 by the New York State Education Department.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

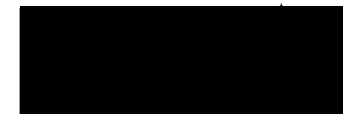
A. On or about March 16, 2023, in the United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, Respondent was convicted of one count of Healthcare Fraud and one count of False Claims in violation of 18 USC §§ 1347 and 287. Respondent was found guilty based on an Indictment that alleged from approximately January 2014 through February 2018, the Respondent executed a scheme to enrich himself and others by submitting claims to Medicare, Medicaid managed care plans and other healthcare benefit programs, which misrepresented the services performed, or for services that were not rendered. Respondent was sentenced to five years probation on each count to run concurrently and directed to pay \$126,840.90 in restitution and a \$200.00 assessment. Respondent was also directed to perform 500 hours of community service a year, for the first three years of probation, for a total of 1500 hours.

SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(9)(a)(ii) by having been convicted of committing an act constituting a crime under federal law as alleged in the facts of the following:

1. Paragraph A.

DATE: June 20, 2023
Albany, New York



HENRY WEINTRAUB
Chief 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 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.
- 3) 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].
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) No more than 30 days after the Order's effective date, Respondent shall

only practice medicine when the practice includes a billing monitor. Respondent shall make available for review by a third-party billing monitor any and all office and accounts records, as directed by OPMC. Such billing monitor shall be proposed by Respondent and approved, in writing, by the Director of OPMC. Respondent shall fully cooperate in the review process. The review will determine whether Respondent's medical billing and related documentation practices are conducted in a manner that complies with all Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations regarding billing for medical services and is accurate, under all relevant circumstances, as to the services rendered and the clinical bases for such services. No more than 30 days after learning that the approved billing monitor is no longer willing or able to serve or no more than 30 days after having been notified by the Director that the billing monitor has been discharged for cause, which shall include but not be limited to the inadequacy of the billing monitor's reports and/or performance, Respondent shall have an approved successor in place, subject to the Director's written approval. Upon approval, the new billing monitor shall perform the duties described in (b) and (c) below. Regardless of the reason necessitating a replacement, if the Director does not approve Respondent's proposed new billing monitor, Respondent shall immediately cease the practice of medicine, unless notified by the Director, in writing, of an extension, which may be granted at the Director's discretion.

In that event, Respondent shall propose another billing monitor, which the Director has 30 days to approve or disapprove until a billing monitor is accepted. Any medical practice in violation of this term shall constitute the unauthorized practice of medicine.

- a) Respondent shall be solely responsible for all expenses associated with monitoring, including fees, if any, to the billing monitoring.
 - b) Respondent shall cause the billing monitor to report quarterly, in writing, to the Director of OPMC.
 - c) Any perceived deviation from proper billing practices or refusal to cooperate with the billing monitor shall be reported within 24 hours to OPMC.
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- 8) 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.
 - 9) Respondent shall enroll in, and successfully complete continuing education as directed by the Office of Professional Medical Conduct, subject to the Director of OPMC's prior written approval.

- 10) 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.