

ANDREW M. CUOMO Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D. Commissioner

LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D. Executive Deputy Commissioner

August 11, 2021

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. John Pizzuti Denise J. Signs, M.D.

Re: License No. 166407

Dear Mr. Pizzuti:

Enclosed is a copy of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (BPMC) Modification Order No. 21-160. This order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect August 18, 2021.

You are required to deliver your license and registration within 5 days of the effective date of the surrender provision to: c/o Physician Monitoring Unit, NYS DOH - OPMC, Riverview Center, Suite 355, 150 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204-2719.

If your license is framed, please remove it from the frame and <u>only send the parchment paper</u> on which your name is printed. Our office is unable to store framed licenses.

If the document(s) are lost, misplaced or destroyed, you are required to submit to this office an affidavit to that effect. Please complete and sign the affidavit before a notary public and return it to the Office of Professional Medical Conduct.

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,

Michael S. Jakuhowski, M.D.

Michael S. Jakubowski, M.D.
Interim Executive Secretary
Board for Professional Medical Conduct

Enclosure

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

IN THE MATTER

OF

DENISE SIGNS, M.D.

BPMC No. 21-160

MODIFICATION ORDER

Upon the proposed Application for a Modification Order of Denlse Signs, M.D. (Respondent), which is made a part of this Modification Order, it is agreed to and ORDERED, that the attached Application, and its terms, are adopted and SO ORDERED, and it is further

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

- by mailing of a copy of this Modification Order, either by first class to Respondent at the address in the attached Application or by certified mail to Respondent's attorney, OR
- upon facsimile transmission to Respondent or Respondent's attorney,
 whichever is first.

SO ORDERED.

DATE: 8/10/2021

THOMAS T. LEE, M.D. Interim Chair

State Board for Professional Medical Conduct

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

IN THE MATTER OF DENISE SIGNS, M.D.

MODIFICATION AGREEMENT AND ORDER

Denise Signs, M.D., represents that all of the following statements are true:

That on or about June 19, 1986, I was licensed to practice as a physician in the State of New York and issued License No. 166407 by the New York State Education Department.

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

I am currently subject to BPMC Order # BPMC 12-69 (Attachment I) (henceforth "Original Order"), which was issued upon an Application For Consent Order signed by me on March 29, 2012 (henceforth Original Application"), adopted by the Original Order. I hereby apply to the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct for an Order (henceforth "Modification Order"), modifying the Original Order, as follows:

The sanction imposed in the Original Order was:

 Pursuant to New York Public Health Law § 230-a (9), I shall be placed on probation for a period of five (5) years, subject to the terms set forth in attached Exhibit B, and any extensions and/or modifications thereto. The conditions imposed in the Original Order were:

- Respondent shall comply fully with the State of Ohio, Medical Board (hereinafter "Ohio Board"), Consent Orders, dated August 11, 2010 and June 9, 2011;
- Respondent shall provide a written authorization for the Ohio Board to
 provide the Director of OPMC with any/all information or documentation as
 requested by OPMC to enable OPMC to determine whether Respondent is in
 compliance with the Ohio 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 Ohio Order during the declaration period specified.

The sanction imposed shall be modified to read as follows:

- to permit me to surrender my license as a physician and to preclude my practice of medicine in the State of New York;
- to substitute a surrender of my license for so much of the penalty as remains
 for me to serve, as set forth in the Original Order (attached "Attachment I");
- to release me from the condition set forth in the Original Order requiring that I register and continue to be registered with the New York State Education
 Department and pay all registration fees. By its terms, the condition
 continues so long as I remain a licensee in New York State; upon the

effective date of this Modification Order and the surrender of my license, this condition and requirement shall cease;

 to subject me to the terms and conditions set forth in the attached document entitled "Requirements for Closing a Medical Practice Following a Revocation, Surrender, Limitation or Suspension of a Medical License" (henceforth "Attachment II", which is attached);

and

All remaining Terms and Conditions will continue as written in the Original Order.

I make this Application of my own free will and accord and not under duress, compulsion or restraint, and seek the anticipated benefit of the requested Modification. In consideration of the value to me of the acceptance by the Board of this Application, I knowingly waive my right to contest the Original Order or the Modification Order for which I apply, whether administratively or judicially, and ask that the Board grant this Application.

I understand and agree that the attorney for the Department, the Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct and the Chair of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct each retain complete discretion either to enter into the proposed agreement and 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: August 2, 2021

JÓHN PIZZUTI, Power of Attorney for DENISE SIGNS, M.D. Respondent

The undersigned agree to Response proposed penalty, terms and conditions	ondent's attached Consent Agreement and to its
DATE:	, ESQ. Attorney for Respondent
DATE: <u>08/02/2021</u>	COURTNEY BERRY Associate Counsel Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct
DATE: 8-6-2021	SHELLY WANG BANDAGO Interim Director Office of Professional Medical Conduct

ATTACHMENT I



Public

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

Sue Kelly Executive Deputy Commissioner

April 9, 2012

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Denise J. Signs, M.D.
REDACTED SIGNATURE

Re: License No. 166407

Dear Dr. Signs:

Enclosed is a copy of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (BPMC) Order No. 12-69. This order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect April 16, 2012.

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

Enclosure

NEW YOR	RK STATE:	DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE BO	DARD FOR	PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

BPMC No. 12-69

IN THE MATTER

CONSENT

OF

ORDER

DENISE SIGNS CO-10-11-7044-A

Upon the application of **DENISE SIGNS**, 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: 4/6/2012

REDACTED SIGNATURE

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.

IN THE MATTER

CONSENT

OF

AGREEMENT

DENISE SIGNS, M.D. CO-10-11-7044-A

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

That on or about June 19, 1986, I was licensed to practice medicine as a physician in the State of New York and issued license number 166407 by the New York State Education Department.

My current address is REDACTED ADDRESS , 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 three (3) Specifications of professional misconduct.

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

I do not contest the Third Specification, and agree to the following sanction:

Pursuant to New York Public Health Law § 230-a (9), I shall be placed on probation for a period of five (5) years, subject to the terms set forth in attached Exhibit B, and any extensions and/or modifications thereto.

Lagree, further, that the Consent Order shall impose the following conditions:

Should Respondent return to the practice of medicine in the State of New York or in any Jurisdiction where that practice is predicated upon Respondent's New York State Medical license, Respondent shall provide ninety (90) days notice in writing to the Director, Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC). The Director, in his sole discretion, may impose whatever limitations, or further conditions, he deems

appropriate.

Respondent shall comply fully with the State of Ohio, Medical Board (hereinafter "Ohio Board"), Consent Orders (hereinafter ("Ohio Orders"), dated August 11, 2010 and June 9, 2011.

Respondent shall provide a written authorization for the Ohio Board to provide the Director of OPMC with any/all information or documentation as requested by OPMC to enable OPMC to determine whether Respondent is in compliance with the Ohio 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 Ohio Order during the declaration period specified.

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 the future, this Consent Agreement and the Consent Order shall be admitted into evidence in that proceeding.

Lask 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.

DATED: Maior 29, 2012	REDACTED SIGNATURE DENISE SIGNS, M.D. Respondent
The undersigned agree to Respondent's proposed penalty, terms and conditions.	s attached Consent Agreement and to its
DATE: 4/2/12	REDACTED SIGNATURE JUDE B. MULVEY Associate Counsel Bureau of Professional Medical Conduc
DATE: 7/5-/12	REDACTED SIGNATURE KEITH W. SERVIS Director Office of Professional Medical Conduct

AFFIRMED:



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

IN THE MATTER

STATEMENT

OF

OF

DENISE SIGNS, M.D. CO-10-11-7044-A

CHARGES

DENISE SIGNS, M.D., Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York state on June 19, 1986, by the issuance of license number 166407 by the New York State Education Department.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- A. On or about August 11, 2010, the State Medical Board of Ohio, (hereinafter "Ohio Board"), by a Consent Order (hereinafter "Ohio Order"), inter alia, suspended Respondent's license to practice medicine for an indefinite period of time but not less than 270 days, and ordered Respondent to, among others, abstain from drugs or alcohol, be subject to random testing and attend a rehabilitation program, based on her failure to report she had been found guilty of Driving Under the Influence in 2004, Operating a Vehicle While Impaired in 2005 and Driving While Intoxicated in 2008, and upon her treatment for chemical and alcohol dependency.
- B. On or about June 9, 2011, Respondent's medical license was reinstated by the Ohio Board by Consent Order (hereinafter Ohio Order II) with conditions including a five year term of probation, continue with psychlatric treatment and quarterly reports, participate in rehabilitation program, comply with impaired physician aftercare program, log all controlled substances prescribed to patients and provide the log to the Board, have a practice monitor in place prior to returning to practice and comply with all reporting requirements.
- C. On or about December 8, 2010, in Onslow County District Court, Onslow, North Carolina, Respondent was found guilty based on her guilty plea to Impaired Driving, a misdemeanor in violation of North Carolina General Statutes 20-138.1. Respondent was sentenced, among others, to unsupervised probation for twelve months, a fine of \$100, and

other costs and fees.

- D. The conduct resulting in the Ohio Board disciplinary actions 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 §6530(8) (habitual abuse of alcohol).
 - New York Education Law §6530(21) (failing to file a report required by law).

SPECIFICATIONS FIRST SPECIFICATION

Respondent violated New York Education Law §6530(9)(b) by having been found guilty of improper professional practice or 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/or B and/or D.

SECOND SPECIFICATION

Respondent violated New York State Education Law §6530 (9)(d) by having his license to practice medicine suspended and/or having other disciplinary action taken by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, where the conduct resulting in the suspension and/or other 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/or B and/or D.

THIRD SPECIFICATION

Respondent violated New York Education Law §6530 (9)(a)(iii) by being convicted of an act constituting a crime under the law of another jurisdiction and which, if committed within this state, would have constituted a crime under New York state law, in that Petitioner charges:

3. The facts in Paragraph C.

DATED: February 16, 2012
Albany, New York

REDACTED SIGNATURE

PETER D. VAN BUREN
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.
- Respondent shall provide the Director, Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC), Hedley Park Place, 433 River Street Suite 303, Troy, New York 12180-2299 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; all current and past affiliations and/or privileges, with hospitals, institutions, facilities, medical practices, and managed care organizations, and/or applications for such affiliations, and/or privileges; and all investigations, arrests, charges, convictions and/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 request of the Director, OPMC, Respondent shall meet in person with the Director's designee.
- 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].
- 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, 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 or more. 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, 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 remain free from alcohol and all other mood altering substances other than those prescribed for Respondent's treatment by a licensed health care professional aware of Respondent's history of chemical dependency and mental illness. Respondent shall not self-prescribe any medications.
- Respondent shall remain active in self-help groups such as, but not limited to, Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous and Caduceus.
- Respondent shall notify all treating physicians of Respondent's history of substance abuse. Respondent shall advise OPMC of any controlled or mood-altering substance given or prescribed by treating physicians.
- 13. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the Consent Order, Respondent shall practice only when monitored by qualified health care professional monitors: a Sobriety Monitor, a Practice Supervisor and a Therapist. Any medical practice in violation of this term shall constitute the unauthorized practice of medicine.

All monitors shall be proposed by Respondent and approved, in writing, by the Director of OPMC before Respondent may practice after the effective date of this Order. Within 7 days of learning the approved monitor is no longer willing or able to serve, Respondent shall submit the name of a proposed successor to the Director of OPMC. Monitors shall not be family members or personal friends or be in professional relationships that would pose a conflict with monitoring responsibilities. All monitors shall execute acknowledgment forms provided by OPMC certifying familiarity with Respondent's history of substance abuse, with this Order and its terms, and acknowledging a willingness to comply with the monitor's reporting responsibilities regarding Respondent's compliance with the terms of this Order.

- A. Respondent shall ensure that the monitors are familiar with Respondent's history of substance abuse and with the terms of this Order. Respondent shall cause the monitors to report any deviation from compliance with the terms of this Order to OPMC. Respondent shall cause the monitors to submit required reports on a timely basis.
- B. Respondent shall submit to random, unannounced observed blood, breath and/or urine screens for the presence of drugs and alcohol (hereafter "drug screen"), when requested by a monitor. The monitoring shall be on a random, unannounced, directly-observed, 7-day-a-week, 24-hour-a-day basis.

 Respondent shall report for a drug screen within 4 hours of being contacted by a monitor. Monitors shall report to OPMC immediately if Respondent refuses or delays a test or if a test is positive for alcohol, or any other unauthorized drug or substance. Respondent shall avoid all substances that may cause positive urine drug screens, such as poppy seeds, mouthwash or cough medicine. Any positive test result shall constitute a violation of the terms of this Order.

- C. Respondent shall meet regularly with a Sobriety Monitor. During the first 12 months of monitoring, the Sobriety Monitor shall obtain drug screens at a frequency of no less than 6 times per month. If Respondent is compliant throughout the first 12-month period, subsequent drug screens shall be obtained at a frequency to be proposed by the Sobriety Monitor and approved by OPMC. The Sobriety Monitor shall submit quarterly reports to OPMC certifying Respondent's sobriety or lack of sobriety. These reports are to include forensically valid results of all drug screens performed and an assessment of self-help group (e.g., AA/NA/Caduceus) attendance and 12-step progress.
- D. Respondent shall practice only when supervised in medical practice by a licensed physician (hereafter "Practice Supervisor"). The Practice Supervisor shall be on-site at all locations, unless determined otherwise by the Director of OPMC, and shall be in a position to regularly observe and assess Respondent's medical practice. The Practice Supervisor shall oversee Respondent's compliance with the terms of practice imposed by the Order and Respondent's prescribing, administering, dispensing, inventorying, wasting and disposal of controlled substances. The Practice Supervisor shall report to OPMC immediately any suspected impairment, inappropriate behavior, questionable medical practice, possible misconduct, or violation by Respondent of any of the terms of this Order. The Practice Supervisor shall submit quarterly reports to OPMC regarding the quality of Respondent's medical practice and prescribing practices, any unexplained absences from work, and certifying Respondent's compliance or detailing Respondent's failure to comply with each term imposed.
- E. Respondent shall engage and continue in therapy with a treating health care professional (hereafter "Therapist"). Respondent shall cause the Therapist to submit a proposed treatment plan and quarterly reports to OPMC certifying whether Respondent is in compliance with the treatment plan. OPMC, at its discretion, may provide information or documentation from its investigative files concerning Respondent to Respondent's Therapist. The Therapist shall report to OPMC immediately if Respondent leaves treatment against medical advice or displays any symptoms of a suspected or actual relapse.
- At the direction of the Director of OPMC, Respondent shall submit to evaluations by a board-certified psychiatrist, licensed mental health practitioner or other health care professional or program designated by the Director (hereafter "Evaluator.") Respondent shall provide the Evaluator with a copy of this Order and copies of all previous treatment records. OPMC, at its discretion, may provide information or documentation from its investigative files concerning Respondent to Respondent's Evaluator. The Evaluator shall report to the Director regarding Respondent's condition and fitness or incapacity to practice medicine. Respondent shall comply with all treatment recommendations based upon the evaluation; failure to comply with such treatment recommendations shall constitute professional misconduct.
- 15. Respondent shall enroll, or continue enrollment, in the Committee for Physician Health (CPH) and shall engage in a contract with CPH that defines the terms, conditions and duration of Respondent's recovery program. Respondent shall comply with the contract. Respondent shall give written authorization for CPH to provide the Director of OPMC with all information or documentation requested by OPMC to determine whether

Respondent is in compliance with the contract and with this Order, including full access to all records maintained by CPH will respect to Respondent;

- A. Respondent shall cause CPH to report to OPMC promptly if Respondent refuses to comply with the contract, refuses to submit to treatment or if Respondent's impairment is not substantially alleviated by treatment;
- B. Respondent shall cause CPH to report immediately to OPMC if Respondent is regarded at any time to be an imminent danger to the public.
- 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, OPMC, and/or the Board may initiate a violation of probation proceeding, and/or any other such proceeding authorized by law, against Respondent.

EXHIBIT "B"

Requirements for Closing a N.Y. Medical Practice Following a Revocation, Surrender, Limitation or Suspension of a Medical License

- Licensee shall immediately cease and desist from engaging in the practice of medicine in New York State, or under Licensee's New York license, in accordance with the terms of the Order. In addition, Licensee shall refrain from providing an opinion as to professional practice or its application and from representing that Licensee is eligible to practice medicine.
- 2. Within 5 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shall deliver Licensee's original license to practice medicine in New York State and current biennial registration to the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) at Riverview Center, 150 Broadway, Suite 355, Albany, New York 12204-2719.
- 3. Within 15 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shall notify all patients of the cessation or limitation of Licensee's medical practice, and shall refer all patients to another licensed practicing physician for continued care, as appropriate. Licensee shall notify, in writing, each health care plan with which the Licensee contracts or is employed, and each hospital where Licensee has privileges, that Licensee has ceased medical practice. Within 45 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shall provide OPMC with written documentation that all patients and hospitals have been notified of the cessation of Licensee's medical practice.
- 4. Licensee shall make arrangements for the transfer and maintenance of all patient medical records. Within 30 days of the Order's effective date. Licensee shall notify OPMC of these arrangements, including the name, address, and telephone number of an appropriate and acceptable contact persons who shall have access to these records. Original records shall be retained for at least 6 years after the last date of service rendered to a patient or, in the case of a minor, for at least 6 years after the last date of service or 3 years after the patient reaches the age of majority, whichever time period is longer. Records shall be maintained in a safe and secure place that is reasonably accessible to former patients. The arrangements shall include provisions to ensure that the information in the record is kept confidential and is available only to authorized persons. When a patient or a patient's representative requests a copy of the patient's medical record, or requests that the original medical record be sent to another health care provider, a copy of the record shall be promptly provided or forwarded at a reasonable cost to the patient (not to exceed 75 cents per page.) Radiographic. sonographic and similar materials shall be provided at cost. A qualified person shall not be denied access to patient information solely because of an inability to pay.

- 5. In the event that Licensee holds a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) certificate for New York State, Licensee shall, within fifteen (15) days of the Order's effective date, advise the DEA, in writing, of the licensure action and shall surrender Licensee's DEA controlled substance privileges for New York State to the DEA. Licensee shall promptly surrender any unused DEA #222 U.S. Official Order Forms Schedules 1 and 2 for New York State to the DEA. All submissions to the DEA shall be addressed to Diversion Program Manager, New York Field Division, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, 99 Tenth Avenue, New York, NY 10011.
- 6. Within 15 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shall return any unused New York State official prescription forms to the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement of the New York State Department of Health. Licensee shall destroy all prescription pads bearing Licensee's name. If no other licensee is providing services at Licensee's practice location, Licensee shall properly dispose of all medications.
- 7. Within 15 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shall remove from the public domain any representation that Licensee is eligible to practice medicine, including all related signs, advertisements, professional listings (whether in telephone directories, internet or otherwise), professional stationery or billings. Licensee shall not share, occupy, or use office space in which another licensee provides health care services.
- 8. Licensee shall not charge, receive or share any fee or distribution of dividends for professional services rendered by Licensee or others while Licensee is barred from engaging in the practice of medicine. Licensee may be compensated for the reasonable value of services lawfully rendered, and disbursements incurred on a patient's behalf, prior to the Order's effective date.
- 9. If Licensee is a shareholder in any professional service corporation organized to engage in the practice of medicine, Licensee shall divest all financial interest in the professional services corporation, in accordance with New York Business Corporation Law. Such divestiture shall occur within 90 days. If Licensee is the sole shareholder in a professional services corporation, the corporation must be dissolved or sold within 90 days of the Order's effective date.
- 10. Failure to comply with the above directives may result in a civil penalty or criminal penalties as may be authorized by governing law. Under N.Y. Educ. Law § 6512, it is a Class E Felony, punishable by imprisonment of up to 4 years, to practice the profession of medicine when a professional license has been suspended, revoked or annulled. Such punishment is in addition to the penalties for professional misconduct set forth in N.Y. Pub. Health Law §

230-a, which include fines of up to \$10,000 for each specification of charges of which the Licensee is found guilty, and may include revocation of a suspended license.