

Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL Governor MARY T. BASSETT, M.D., M.P.H. Commissioner

KRISTIN M. PROUD
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

April 4, 2022

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Kent Lieber, M.D.

Re: License No. 170279

Dear Dr. Lieber:

Enclosed is a copy of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (BPMC) Order No. 22-065. This order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect April 11, 2022.

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

Enclosure

CC:

Kathleen Sweet, Esq.

Gibson McAskill & Crosby, LLP. 69 Delaware Avenue, Suite 900 Buffalo, New York 14202

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

BPMC No. 22-065

IN THE MATTER

OF

KENT LIEBER, M.D.

CONSENT ORDER

Upon the application of (Respondent) KENT LIEBER, 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: 4/02/2022

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 KENT LIEBER, M.D.

CONSENT AGREEMENT

KENT LIEBER, M.D., represents that all of the following statements are true:

That on or about June 3, 1987, I was licensed to practice as a physician in the State of New York and issued License No. 170279 by the New York State Education Department.

My current address is 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 shall agree not to contest the Statement of Charges in full satisfaction of the charges against me, and agree to the following penalty:

 Pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a(1), I shall be subject to a Censure and Reprimand. Pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a(9), I shall be placed on probation for a period of twelve months, 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 comply with each and every penalty imposed by this

Order pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a.

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 3/25/22

KENT LIEBER, M.D. RESPONDENT The undersigned agree to Respondent's attached Consent Agreement and to its proposed penalty, terms and conditions.

DATE: <u>3/28/2</u>2

KATHLEEN SWEET, ESQ. Attorney for Respondent

DATE; 03/30/22

POOJAA, RAWAV Senior Attorney Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE: 4/01/2022

SHELLY WANG BANDAGO
Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

EXHIBIT "A"

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

IN THE MATTER

OF

KENT LIEBER, M.D.

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

KENT LIEBER, M.D., the Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on or about June 3, 1987 by the issuance of license number 170279 by the New York State Education Department.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. On or about January 29, 2018, Patient A (all patients are identified in the Appendix), an 89-year old female, fell at the Chautauqua Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Her history included dementia, coronary artery disease, myocardial infarction, atherosclerotic heart disease, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, transient ischemic attacks, cerebral infarct, lung cancer, osteoarthritis and bladder disease. She was transferred to another facility for evaluation after her fall. Patient A was readmitted to Chautauqua Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on January 31, 2018. On or about February 3, 2018, Patient A died. On or about February 3, 2018, the Chautauqua County Coroner ("Coroner") completed a death certificate ("Death Certificate 1") on Patient A. The immediate cause of death was listed as acute left intertrochanteric fracture due to or as a consequence of a fall. On or about February 5, 2018, the Respondent completed a death certificate ("Death Certificate 2") for Patient A. The immediate cause of death was listed as myocardial infarction, due to or as a consequence of atherosclerotic heart disease, due to or as a consequence of hyperlipidemia. Left leg fracture was listed as another significant condition contributing to her death. The Respondent checked "no" for Box 28

which asked whether the case was referred to a coroner or medical examiner. A third

death certificate was prepared on March 6, 2018 to correct errors on Death Certificate 2.

On or about April 2, 2018, the Respondent signed a Medical/Burial Death Correction

Report which amended Death Certificate 2 to list the cause of death as accidental from a

probable pulmonary embolism due to an acute left intertrochanteric fracture due to a fall.

Box 28 was also amended to confirm that the case had been referred to a coroner.

Advanced dementia and probable lung cancer were also added as significant conditions

contributing to the death.

1. Respondent initially failed to document that the case had been referred to a

coroner and that a death certificate had been completed by the coroner.

SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES
FAILURE TO MAINTAIN RECORDS

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in

N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(32) for failing to maintain a record for each patient which

accurately reflects the evaluation and treatment of the patient, as alleged in the facts

of:

Paragraph A and A1.

DATE:

March 30, 2022 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.
- 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.
- 4) 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.
- No more than 30 days after the Consent Order's effective date, Respondent shall complete death certificates only when monitored by a licensed physician, board-certified in an appropriate specialty, ("practice monitor") proposed by Respondent and subject to the Director of OPMC's written approval. No more than 30 days after learning that the approved practice monitor is no longer willing or able to serve or no more than 30 days after having been notified by the Director that the practice monitor has been discharged for cause, which shall include but not be limited to the inadequacy of the practice 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 practice monitor shall perform the duties described in (a) and (c) below. Regardless of the reason necessitating a replacement, if the Director does not approve Respondent's proposed new practice monitor, the Respondent shall immediately cease completion of death certificates, 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 practice monitor, which the Director has 30 days to approve or disapprove until a practice monitor is accepted. Any completion of death certificates in violation of this term shall constitute the unauthorized practice of medicine.

- a) Respondent shall make available to the monitor any and all records or access to the practice requested by the monitor, including on-site observation. The practice monitor shall visit Respondent's medical practice at each and every location, on a random unannounced basis at least monthly and shall examine all death certificate records maintained by Respondent. The review will determine whether the Respondent's completion of death certificates is conducted in accordance with the generally accepted standards of professional medical care. Any perceived deviation of accepted standards of medical care or refusal to cooperate with the monitor shall be reported within 24 hours to OPMC.
- b) Respondent shall be solely responsible for all expenses associated with monitoring, including fees, if any, to the monitoring physician.
- Respondent shall cause the practice monitor to report quarterly, in writing, to the Director of OPMC.
- d) Respondent shall maintain medical malpractice insurance coverage with limits no less than \$2 million per occurrence and \$6 million per policy year, in accordance with Section 230(18)(b) of the Public Health Law. Proof of coverage shall be submitted to the Director of OPMC prior to Respondent's practice after the effective date of this Order.
- 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.
- 7) 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.