

Public

NEW YORK
state department of
HEALTH

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

Sue Kelly
Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 19, 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dhanraj J. Soogree, M.D.
144 West 4th Street
Oswego, NY 13126

Re: License No. 210443

Dear Dr. Soogree:

Enclosed is a copy of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (BPMC) Order No. 13-75. This order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect March 26, 2013.

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

Enclosure

cc: Thomas F. Currie, Esq.
Martin, Ganotis, Brown, Mould & Currie, P.C.
5790 Widewaters Parkway
Dewitt, NY 13214

**IN THE MATTER
OF
DHANRAJ SOOGREE, M.D.**

**CONSENT
ORDER**

Upon the application of (Respondent) DHANRAJ SOOGREE, 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: 3/15/2013

REDACTED

ARTHUR S. HENGERER, M.D.

Chair

State Board for Professional Medical Conduct

**IN THE MATTER
OF
DHANRAJ SOOGREE, M.D.**

**CONSENT
AGREEMENT
AND
ORDER**

DHANRAJ SOOGREE, M.D., represents that all of the following statements are true:

That on or about May 21, 1998, I was licensed to practice as a physician in the State of New York, and issued License No. 210443 by the New York State Education Department.

My current address is 144 West 4th Street, Oswego, New York 13126, 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 admit the Seventh Specification (failing to maintain an adequate record), and I do not contest the Third Specification (negligence on more than one occasion) in full satisfaction of the charges against me, and agree to the following penalty:

Pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a(3), my license to practice medicine in New York State shall be limited to preclude me from practicing in an emergency department setting, and to permit me to work only in a family practice setting.

Pursuant to New York Pub. Health Law § 230-a(2), my license to practice medicine in New York State shall be actually suspended until such time as I complete the Clinical Competency Assessment ("CCA") described in the attached Exhibit "B", the written report of such assessment has been received by the Director of OPMC, and I have complied with all other requirements related to the CCA.

Pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a(9), after I complete the Clinical Competency Assessment described in the attached Exhibit "B" and the written report of such assessment has been received by the Director of OPMC, I shall be placed on probation for a period of thirty six months, subject to the terms set forth in attached Exhibit "B." I shall have the right to request termination of probation after 24 months, which may be granted or denied in the full and absolute discretion of the Director.

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

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 his or her profile information within six months prior to the expiration date of the licensee's registration period. Licensee shall submit changes to his or her

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 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 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, 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 3/3/13

REDACTED

DHANRAJ SOOGREE, M.D.
RESPONDENT

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

DATE:

2/25/13

REDACTED

THOMAS F. CURRIE, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

DATE:

3/8/13

REDACTED

MICHAEL A. HISER, ESQ.
Associate Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE:

3/14/13

REDACTED

KEITH W. SERVIS
Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

EXHIBIT A

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

IN THE MATTER
OF
DHANRAJ SOOGREE, M.D.

STATEMENT
OF
CHARGES

DHANRAJ SOOGREE, M.D., the Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on or about May 21, 1998, by the issuance of license number 210443 by the New York State Education Department.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- A. Respondent provided medical care to Patient A [patients are identified only in the attached appendix], a female patient 84 years old at the relevant time, on or about November 5, 2011, in the emergency department of Schuyler Hospital, 220 Steuben Street, Montour Falls, New York 14865 [hereafter, "Schuyler Hospital"]. Patient A presented to the emergency department at approximately 9:00 a.m. with complaints of abdominal pain and anemia. Respondent's care of Patient A was contrary to accepted standards of practice, in that:
1. Respondent failed to obtain an adequate medical history of the patient and/or document that he obtained an adequate medical history of the patient.
 2. Respondent failed to perform an adequate physical examination of the patient and/or document that he obtained an adequate medical history of the patient.

3. Respondent attempted to intubate the patient during the time from approximately 1738 to 1850. Respondent's actions during this time were medically inappropriate in terms of medication choice, and intubation protocol.

B. Respondent provided medical care to Patient B, a female patient 59 years old at the relevant time, on or about November 20, 2011, in the emergency department of Schuyler Hospital. Patient B presented to the emergency department at approximately 1930 with complaints of becoming increasingly short of breath. Respondent's care of Patient B was contrary to accepted standards of practice, in that:

1. Respondent failed to obtain an adequate medical history of the patient and/or document that he obtained an adequate medical history of the patient.
2. Respondent failed to perform an adequate physical examination of the patient and/or document that he obtained an adequate medical history of the patient.
3. Respondent ordered the patient to be intubated without adequate medical indication, and/or without documenting such adequate medical indication.
4. Respondent attempted to intubate the patient during the time from approximately 1940 to 2000. Respondent's actions during this time were medically inappropriate in terms of medication choice, and intubation protocol.

SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES
FIRST AND SECOND SPECIFICATIONS

GROSS NEGLIGENCE

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(4) by practicing the profession of medicine with gross negligence on a particular occasion as alleged in the facts of:

1. The facts in paragraph A and A.3.
2. The facts in paragraph B and B.4.

THIRD SPECIFICATION

NEGLIGENCE ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(3) by practicing the profession of medicine with negligence on more than one occasion as alleged in the facts of:

3. The facts in paragraphs A and A.1, A and A.2, A and A.3, B and B.1, B and B.2, B and B.3, and/or B and B.4.

FOURTH AND FIFTH SPECIFICATIONS

GROSS INCOMPETENCE

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(6) by practicing the profession of medicine with incompetence as alleged in the facts of:

4. The facts in paragraph A and A.3.
5. The facts in paragraph B and B.4.

SIXTH SPECIFICATION

INCOMPETENCE ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(5) by practicing the profession of medicine with incompetence on more than one occasion as alleged in the facts of:

6. The facts in paragraphs A and A.1, A and A.2, A and A.3, B and B.1, B and B.2, B and B.3, and/or B and B.4.

SEVENTH SPECIFICATION

FAILURE TO MAINTAIN RECORDS

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(32) by failing to maintain a record for each patient which accurately reflects the evaluation and treatment of the patient, as alleged in the facts of:

7. The facts in paragraphs A and A.1, A and A.2, B and B.1, B and B.2, and/or B and B.3.

DATE: March 8, 2013
Albany, New York

REDACTED

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.
- 3) 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.
- 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 Director of OPMC's request, Respondent shall meet in person with the Director's designee.
- 5) 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].
- 6) 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.

- 7) 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.
- 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.

CLINICAL COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

- 10) Respondent shall obtain a clinical competency assessment performed by a program for such assessment as directed and approved by the Director of OPMC. Respondent shall complete the assessment to the satisfaction of the Director of OPMC, and shall cause a written report of such assessment to be provided directly to the Director of OPMC within one hundred eighty (180) days of the effective date of this Order.
 - a) Respondent shall be responsible for all expenses related to the clinical competency assessment and shall provide to the Director of OPMC proof of full payment of all costs that may be charged. This term of probation shall not be satisfied in the absence of actual receipt, by the Director, of such documentation, and any failure to satisfy shall provide a basis for a Violation of Probation proceeding.
- 11) At the direction of the Board and within 60 days following the completion of the clinical competency assessment (CCA) the Respondent shall identify a Preceptor, preferably a physician who is board certified in the same specialty, to be approved in writing, by the Director of OPMC. The Respondent shall cause the Preceptor to:
 - a) Develop and submit to the Director of OPMC for written approval a remediation plan, which addresses the deficiencies /retraining recommendations identified in the CCA. Additionally, this proposal shall establish a timeframe for completion of the remediation program.
 - b) Submit progress reports at periods identified by OPMC certifying whether the Respondent is fully participating in the personalized continuing

medical education program and is making satisfactory progress towards the completion of the approved remediation plan.

- c) Report immediately to the Director of OPMC if the Respondent withdraws from the program and report promptly to OPMC any significant pattern of non-compliance by the Respondent.
 - d) At the conclusion of the program, submit to the Director of OPMC a detailed assessment of the progress made by the Respondent toward remediation of all identified deficiencies.
- 12) Once Respondent completes the CCA, and for a period of thirty six months thereafter, Respondent shall practice medicine only when monitored by a licensed physician, board certified in an appropriate specialty, ("practice monitor") proposed by Respondent and subject to the written approval of the Director of OPMC. Any medical practice 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 a selection (no fewer than 20) of records maintained by Respondent, including patient records, prescribing information and office records. The review will determine whether the Respondent's medical practice 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.
 - c) 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.

- 13) Respondent shall be solely responsible for all expenses associated with these terms, including fees, if any, for the clinical competency assessment, the personalized continuing medical education program, or to the monitoring physician.
- 14) Respondent shall enroll in and successfully complete a continuing education program in the area of accurate medical record documentation. This continuing education program is subject to the Director of OPMC's prior written approval and shall be successfully completed within the first year of the probation period.
- 15) 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.

EXHIBIT "C"

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

1. 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 Respondent shall provide the Director, Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC), 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,

EXHIBIT "C"

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 his/her 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. 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.