BPMC No. 17-176

IN THE MATTER

OF

ROBERT CHARLAP, M.D.

COMMISSIONER'S
ORDER OF
SUMMARY
ACTION

TO: ROBERT CHARLAP, M.D.

The undersigned, Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D., Commissioner of Health, after an investigation, upon the recommendation of a Committee on Professional Medical Conduct of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct, and upon the Statement of Charges attached hereto and made a part hereof, that the duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another jurisdiction, Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California, has made a finding substantially equivalent to a finding that the practice of medicine by ROBERT CHARLAP, M.D. (the Respondent) in that jurisdiction constitutes an imminent danger to the health of its people.

It is therefore:

ORDERED, pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law §230(12)(b), that effective immediately, Respondent shall not practice medicine in the State of New York, or practice in any setting under the authority of Respondent's New York license.

Any practice of medicine in violation of this Order shall constitute Professional Misconduct within the meaning of N.Y. Educ. Law §6530(29) and may constitute unauthorized medical practice, a Felony defined by N.Y. Educ. Law §6512.

This Order shall remain in effect until the final conclusion of a hearing which shall commence within ninety days of the service of this order and shall end within ninety days thereafter. The hearing will be held pursuant to the provisions of N.Y. Pub. Health Law §230, and N.Y. State Admin. Proc. Act §§301-307 and 401. The hearing will be conducted before a committee on professional conduct of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct on a date and at a location to be set forth in a written Notice of Hearing or Notice of Referral Proceeding provided to the Respondent contemporaneously with this Order.

THESE PROCEEDINGS MAY RESULT IN A

DETERMINATION THAT YOUR LICENSE TO PRACTICE

MEDICINE IN NEW YORK STATE BE REVOKED OR

SUSPENDED, AND/OR THAT YOU BE FINED OR SUBJECT

TO OTHER SANCTIONS SET FORTH IN NEW YORK

PUBLIC HEALTH LAW §230-a. YOU ARE URGED TO

OBTAIN AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU IN THIS

MATTER.

DATED: Albany, New York

June 20, 2017

Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D. Commissioner of Health

New York State Health Department

Inquiries should be directed to:

Pooja A. Rawal Senior Attorney 2512 Coming Tower N.Y.S. Department of Health Division of Legal Affairs Albany, New York 12237

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

# IN THE MATTER OF ROBERT CHARLAP, M.D.

NOTICE OF REFERRAL PROCEEDING

TO: ROBERT CHARLAP, M.D.



An adjudicatory proceeding will be held pursuant to the provisions of N.Y. Pub. Health Law §230(10)(p) and N.Y. State Admin. Proc. Act §§301-307 and 401. The proceeding will be conducted before a committee on professional conduct of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (Committee) on September 13, 2017, at 10:30 a.m., at the offices of the New York State Department of Health, 259 Monroe Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607.

At the proceeding, evidence will be received concerning the allegations set forth in the Statement of Charges, which is attached. A stenographic record of the proceeding will be made and the witnesses at the proceeding will be sworn and examined.

You may appear in person at the proceeding and may be represented by counsel who shall be an attorney admitted to practice in New York state. You may produce evidence or sworn testimony on your behalf. Such evidence or sworn testimony shall be strictly limited to evidence and testimony relating to the nature and severity of the penalty to be imposed upon the licensee. Where the charges are based on the conviction of state law crimes in other jurisdictions, evidence may be offered which would show that the conviction would not be a crime in New York State. The Committee also may limit the number of witnesses whose testimony will be received, as well as the length of time any witness will be permitted to testify.

If you intend to present sworn testimony, the number of witnesses and an estimate of the time necessary for their direct examination must be submitted to the New York State

Department of Health, Division of Legal Affairs, Bureau of Adjudication, Riverview Center, 150

Broadway - Suite 510, Albany, NY 12204-2719, ATTENTION: HON. JAMES HORAN,

DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ADJUDICATION (Telephone: (518-402-0748), (henceforth "Bureau

of Adjudication") as well as the Department of Health attorney indicated below, no later than twenty days prior to the scheduled date of the Referral Proceeding, as indicated above.

Pursuant to the provisions of N.Y. Pub. Health Law §230(10)(p), you shall file a written answer to each of the charges and allegations in the Statement of Charges at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing. Any charge or allegation not so answered shall be deemed admitted. You may wish to seek the advice of counsel prior to filing such answer. You may also file a written brief and affidavits with the Committee. All such documents shall be filed with the Bureau of Adjudication, at the address indicated above, and a copy shall be forwarded to the attorney for the Department of Health whose name appears below, at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing. Should the parties have objection(s) to proposed witnesses or documentary evidence, the party raising the objection(s) shall contact the Bureau of Adjudication at least three days prior to the hearing date to arrange for a pre-hearing conference with the Administrative Law Judge, prior to the hearing date.

Not later than ten days prior to the date of the hearing, you are required to file one copy of your proposed exhibits (if any) with the Bureau of Adjudication at the address indicated above, and a copy of all such documents/exhibits must be served on the same date on the Department of Health attorney indicated below. On the day of the hearing, you are also required to provide the original of such exhibits and three copies, for use by the Committee.

Pursuant to §301(5) of the State Administrative Procedure Act, the Department, upon reasonable notice, will provide at no charge a qualified interpreter of the deaf to interpret the proceedings to, and the testimony of, any deaf person. Pursuant to the terms of N.Y. State Admin. Proc. Act §401 and 10 N.Y.C.R.R. §51.8(b), the Petitioner hereby demands disclosure of the evidence that the Respondent intends to introduce at the hearing, including the names of witnesses, a list of and copies of documentary evidence and a description of physical or other evidence which cannot be photocopied.

YOU ARE HEREBY ADVISED THAT THE ATTACHED CHARGES WILL BE MADE PUBLIC FIVE BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THEY ARE SERVED.

Department attorney: Initial here\_

The proceeding may be held whether or not you appear. Please note that requests for adjournments must be made in writing to the Bureau of Adjudication, at the address indicated above, with a copy of the request to the attorney for the Department of Health, whose name

appears below, at least five days prior to the scheduled date of the proceeding. Adjournment requests are not routinely granted. Claims of court engagement will require detailed affidavits of actual engagement. Claims of illness will require medical documentation. Failure to obtain an attorney within a reasonable period of time prior to the proceeding will not be grounds for an adjournment.

The Committee will make a written report of its findings, conclusions as to guilt, and a determination. Such determination may be reviewed by the administrative review board for professional medical conduct.

THESE PROCEEDINGS MAY RESULT IN A
DETERMINATION THAT YOUR LICENSE TO PRACTICE
MEDICINE IN NEW YORK STATE BE REVOKED OR
SUSPENDED, AND/OR THAT YOU BE FINED OR
SUBJECT TO OTHER SANCTIONS SET OUT IN NEW
YORK PUBLIC HEALTH LAW §§230-a. YOU ARE URGED
TO OBTAIN AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU IN
THIS MATTER.

DATED:

Albany, New York June, 20 2017

MICHAEL A. HISER
Deputy Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

Inquiries should be addressed to:

Pooja A. Rawal Senior Attorney Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct Corning Tower – Room 2512 Empire State Plaza Albany, NY 12237 (518) 473-4282

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

IN THE MATTER

OF

ROBERT CHARLAP, M.D.

STATEMENT OF

CHARGES

ROBERT CHARLAP, M.D., the Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on or about May 14, 2004, by the issuance of license number 232405 by the New York State Education Department.

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. On or about April 15, 2016, the Respondent signed a Stipulated Surrender of License and Order with the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California ("CMB") relating to a January 22, 2015 Interim Order of Suspension. The Order stated the Respondent admitted the truth of every charge and allegation and that cause existed for discipline. The Order was based on allegations of the Respondent being unable to practice safely due to mental disorder, gross negligence, repeated negligent actions, prescribing without medical indication, excessive prescribing and general unprofessional conduct in connection with the Respondent's involvement in a purported pill mill. The Order was also based on an investigation by the CMB for impairment due to a review of his own prescription medication records that indicated he had filled prescriptions for Xanax, Vicodin, Klonopin, and Ritalin.

It was determined that he was not able to

practice medicine safely and that he represented a danger to the public and his patients.

- B. The conduct resulting in the CMB's disciplinary action against the Respondent would constitute misconduct under the laws of New York State pursuant to the following section of New York State Law:
  - 1. New York State Education Law § 6530(2) (Practicing the profession fraudulently or beyond its authorized scope).
  - 2. New York State Education Law § 6530(3) (Practicing the profession with negligence on more than one occasion).
  - 3. New York State Education Law § 6530(4) (Practicing the profession with gross negligence on a particular occasion).
  - 4. New York State Education Law § 6530(8) (Being a habitual abuser of alcohol, or being dependent on or a habitual user of narcotics, barbiturates, amphetamines, hallucinogens, or other drugs having similar effects, except for a licensee who is maintained on an approved therapeutic regimen which does not impair the ability to practice, or having a psychiatric condition which impairs the licensee's ability to practice).
  - 5. New York State Education Law § 6530(35) (Ordering of excessive tests, treatment, or use of treatment facilities not warranted by the condition of the patient).

#### SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES

## FIRST SPECIFICATION HAVING HAD DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(9)(d) by having his or her license to practice medicine revoked, suspended or having other disciplinary action taken, or having his or her application for a

license refused, revoked or suspended or having voluntarily or otherwise surrendered his or her license after a disciplinary action was instituted by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, where the conduct resulting in the revocation, suspension or other disciplinary action involving the license or refusal, revocation or suspension of an application for a license or the surrender of the license would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York state as alleged in the facts of the following:

The facts in Paragraphs A and B and B1; and/or Paragraphs A and B and B2; and/or Paragraphs A and B and B3; and/or Paragraphs A and B and B4; and/or Paragraphs A and B and B5.

#### SECOND SPECIFICATION

#### HAVING BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. 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 as alleged in the facts of the following:

2. The facts in Paragraphs A and B and B1; and/or Paragraphs A and B and B2; and/or Paragraphs A and B and B3; and/or Paragraphs A and B and B4; and/or Paragraphs A and B and B5.

DATE:June 20, 2017 Albany, New York

MICHAEL A. HISER

Deputy Counsel

Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct