



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

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

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

July 29, 2020

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

John Halkias, M.D.
31-28 41st Street
Astoria, New York 11103

Re: License No. 178120

Dear Dr. Halkias:

Enclosed is a copy of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (BPMC) Order No. 20-192. This order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect August 5, 2020.

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 only send the parchment paper 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: NYS DOH - OPMC, Riverview Center, Suite 355, 150 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204-2719, telephone # (518) 402-0846.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

cc: Donald W. Henderson, Esq.
6800 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 202E
Syosset, New York 11791

**IN THE MATTER
JOHN HALKIAS, M.D.**

**SURRENDER
ORDER**

Upon the application of (Respondent) JOHN HALKIAS, M.D. to surrender his license as a physician in the State of New York, which is made a part of this Surrender Order, it is

ORDERED, that the Surrender, and its terms, are adopted and it is further

ORDERED, that effective close of business September 30, 2020, Respondent's name be stricken from the roster of physicians in the State of New York; it is further

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

- by mailing of a copy of this Surrender Order, either by first class mail to Respondent at the address in the attached Surrender of License application or by certified mail to Respondent's attorney, OR
- upon facsimile transmission to Respondent or Respondent's attorney, whichever is first, providing that the Surrender of License shall be effective close of business September 30, 2020.

SO ORDERED.

DATE: 7/24/2020


THOMAS T. LEE, M.D.
Interim Chair
State Board for Professional Medical Conduct

**IN THE MATTER
OF
JOHN HALKIAS, M.D.**

**SURRENDER
OF
LICENSE
AND
ORDER**

JOHN HALKIAS, M.D., represents that all of the following statements are true:

That on or about May 2, 1989, I was licensed to practice as a physician in the State of New York and issued License No. 178120 by the New York State Education Department.

My current address is 3128 41st Street, Astoria, New York 11103.

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", which is attached to and part of this Surrender of License.

I am applying to the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct for permission to surrender my license as a physician in the State of New York on the grounds that I cannot successfully defend against at least one of the acts of misconduct alleged in the Statement of Charges and agree to the following penalty in full satisfaction of those charges against me, which penalty shall as well satisfy the allegations in the May 28, 2020, Violation of Probation action, same which are not admitted herein."

I ask the Board to accept my Surrender of License, and I agree to be bound by all of the terms set forth in attached Exhibit "C," by close of business September 30, 2020.

Pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a (9), from the effective date of this Order until the effective date of License Surrender, I agree to be subject to the terms set forth in attached Exhibit "B."

I further agree that I will not accept any new patients from the effective date of this Order through the effective date of License Surrender.

I understand that, if the Board does not accept my Surrender of License, none of its terms shall bind me or constitute an admission of any of the acts of misconduct alleged; this application 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 Public Health Law.

I agree that, if the Board accepts my Surrender of License, the Chair of the Board shall issue a Surrender Order in accordance with its terms. I agree that this Order shall take effect upon its issuance by the Board, either by mailing of a copy of the Surrender Order by first class mail to me at the address in this Surrender of License, or to my attorney by certified mail, or upon facsimile transmission to me or my attorney, whichever is first. The Surrender 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(s). OPMC shall

report this action to the National Practitioner Data Bank, the Federation of State Medical Boards, and any other entities that the Director of OPMC shall deem appropriate.

I ask the Board to accept this Surrender of License, which I submit of my own free will and not under duress, compulsion or restraint. In consideration of the value to me of the Board's acceptance of this Surrender of License, 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 Surrender Order for which I apply, whether administratively or judicially, and I agree to be bound by the Surrender Order.

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

July 23, 2020


JOHN HALKIAS, M.D.
RESPONDENT

The undersigned agree to Respondent's attached Surrender of License and Order and to its proposed penalty, terms and conditions.

DATE: 7/23/20


DONALD W. HENDERSON, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

DATE: 7/24/20


CHRISTINE M. RADMAN
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE: 7/28/2020


PAULA M. BREEN
Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

EXHIBIT "A"

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

IN THE MATTER
JOHN HALKIAS, M.D.

STATEMENT
OF
CHARGES

JOHN HALKIAS, M.D., the Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on or about May 2, 1989, by the issuance of license number 178120 by the New York State Education Department.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- A. During periods between on or about May 12, 2015 and March 26, 2019, Respondent evaluated and treated Patients A - F, and deviated from minimally acceptable standards of care in that he:
1. Failed to appropriately perform and document examinations and failed to appropriately order and perform and document appropriate tests thereby failing to properly direct efficacious treatment.

SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES

FIRST 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:

1. Paragraphs A and A (1).

SECOND 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 care and treatment of the patient, as alleged in the facts of:

1. Paragraphs A and A (1).

DATE: July 24, 2020
New York, New York


for 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 maintain active registration of Respondent's license 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 Surrender Order. Upon the Director of OPMC's request, Respondent shall meet in person with the Director's designee.
- 5) The Director of OPMC may review Respondent's professional performance. This review may include but shall not be limited to: a review of office records, patient records, hospital charts, and/or electronic records; and interviews with or periodic visits with Respondent and staff at practice locations or OPMC offices.
- 6) Respondent shall adhere to federal and state guidelines and professional standards of care with respect to infection control practices. Respondent shall ensure education, training and oversight of all office personnel involved in medical care, with respect to these practices.

- 7) 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.

- 8) Respondent shall comply with all requirements of Article 33 of the Public Health Law and of New York State Department of Health regulations, including but not limited to all requirements related to consultation of the iStop / Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Registry when writing prescriptions for Schedule II, III, and/or IV controlled substances, pursuant to Public Health Law Section 3343-a and 10 NYCRR 80.63. Respondent shall meet as requested with OPMC to provide proof of compliance.

9) **REVIEW OF PRESCRIBING PRACTICES**

Respondent shall comply with all requirements of Article 33 of the Public Health Law and of New York State Department of Health regulations, including but not limited to all requirements related to consultation of the iStop / Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Registry when writing prescriptions for Schedule II, III, and/or IV controlled substances, pursuant to Public Health Law Section 3343-a and 10 NYCRR 80.63. Respondent shall meet as requested with OPMC to provide proof of compliance.

Respondent shall maintain, in a format that is acceptable to OPMC which shall be submitted weekly, a log of all ordering, prescribing, administering and/or dispensing of all controlled substances.

This log shall include the following information: the drug, the dose, the patient, the diagnosis, the date that the drug was prescribed, and such other information related to ordering, prescribing, administering and/or dispensing as may be requested by OPMC. The log shall also include all information related to compliance with iStop /PMP Registry consultation requirements, as set forth in paragraph eight above, including a notation of all iStop / PMP Registry consultations performed, including the date and time performed, and the information contained in the registry upon each consultation. The log entry shall not, by itself, satisfy Respondent's obligation to document consultation with the iStop / PMP Registry in a patient's medical chart.

- 10) Respondent shall comply with this Surrender 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, upon the effective date of License Surrender, 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 effective date of License Surrender, 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 30 days of this Order's effective date, Licensee shall notify all patients of the cessation or limitation of Licensee's medical practice, effective close of business on September 30, 2020 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 effective date of License Surrender, 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 effective date of License Surrender, Licensee shall notify OPMC of these arrangements, including the name, address, and telephone number of an appropriate and acceptable contact person 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 15 days of the effective date of License Surrender, 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. Immediately upon the effective date of License Surrender, Licensee shall no longer issue prescriptions in any form, including orally, on paper, by telephone, by fax machine, electronically, or by any other means. Within 15 days of the effective date of License Surrender, 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. As part of the agreement to no longer prescribe electronically, Licensee shall, within 15 days of the effective date of License Surrender, entirely relinquish the ability to electronically prescribe, where applicable, including but not limited to surrendering Licensee's hard token, disabling Licensee's biometric reader, deactivating Licensee's electronic prescribing account, and uninstalling Licensee's electronic prescribing software, as approved by the Director of BNE. Licensee shall furnish proof of same, where applicable, to the satisfaction of the Director of BNE within 30 days of the effective date of License Surrender.
7. Within 15 days of the effective date of License Surrender, 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 effective date of License Surrender.
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 of the effective date of license Surrender. If Licensee is the sole shareholder in a professional services corporation, the corporation must be dissolved or sold within 90 days of the effective date of License Surrender.

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 for 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.