



New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct

433 River Street, Suite 303 • Troy, New York 12180-2299 • (518) 402-0863

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H.
Commissioner
NYS Department of Health

Dennis P. Whalen
Executive Deputy Commissioner
NYS Department of Health

Dennis J. Graziano, Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

Kendrick A. Sears, M.D.
Chairman

Michael A. Gonzalez, R.P.A.
Vice Chair

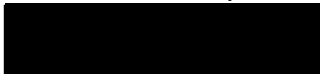
Ansel R. Marks, M.D., J.D.
Executive Secretary

Public

May 16, 2005

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

David P. Nichols, M.D.



Re: License No. 132972

Dear Dr. Nichols:

Enclosed is a copy of Order #BPMC 05-100 of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct. This order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect May 23, 2005.

If the penalty imposed by the Order is a surrender, revocation or suspension of this license, you are required to deliver to the Board the license and registration within five (5) days of receipt of the Order to the Board for Professional Medical Conduct, New York State Department of Health, Hedley Park Place, Suite 303, 433 River Street, Troy, New York 12180.

Sincerely,



Ansel R. Marks, M.D., J.D.
Executive Secretary
Board for Professional Medical Conduct

Enclosure

cc: Joseph V. McCarthy, Esq.
Roach, Brown, McCarthy & Gruber, P.C.
1620 Liberty Building
420 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14202-0400

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

IN THE MATTER
OF
DAVID P. NICHOLS, M.D.

CONSENT
ORDER

BPMC No. #05-100

Upon the application of David P. Nichols, M.D., Respondent, 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 SO ORDERED; and it is further

- ORDERED, that this 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.

DATED: 5-16-05


KENDRICK A SEARS, M.D.
Chair
State Board for Professional Medical Conduct

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

IN THE MATTER
OF
DAVID P. NICHOLS, M.D.

CONSENT
AGREEMENT
AND
ORDER

David P. Nichols, M.D., Respondent, representing that all of the following statements are true, deposes and says:

That on or about October 28, 1977, I was licensed to practice as a physician in the State of New York, and issued License No. 132972 by the New York State Education Department.

My current address is [REDACTED], 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 has charged me with one specification of professional misconduct.

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

I agree to plead guilty to the First, Fourth, Seventh and Tenth Specifications, in full satisfaction of the charges against me, and agree to the following penalty:

Pursuant to § 230-a(3) of the Public Health Law of the State of New York, I shall be permanently restricted from performing nerve conduction studies.

Pursuant to §230-a(9) of the Public Health Law of the State of New York, I shall be placed on probation for a period of thirty-six (36) months, subject to the terms set forth in Exhibit "B."

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

- a. That Respondent shall maintain current registration of licensure with the New York State Education Department Division of Professional Licensing Services (except during periods of actual suspension), and shall pay all registration fees. This condition shall take effect thirty (30) days after the Consent Order's effective date and will continue so long as Respondent remains licensed in New York State; and
- b. That Respondent shall cooperate fully with the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) in its administration and enforcement of this 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 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; and

I stipulate that my failure to comply with any conditions of this Order shall constitute misconduct as defined by New York State Education 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 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 this 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.



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 ask that the Board adopt this Consent Agreement.

DATED: 3/10/05



DAVID P. NICHOLS, M.D.
RESPONDENT

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

DATED: 3/16/05

By: 
ROACH, BROWN, MCCARTHY & GRUBER, P.C.

JOSEPH V. MCCARTHY, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

DATED: February 25, 2005


JEFFREY J. CONKLIN, ESQ.
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATED: May 9, 2005


DENNIS J. GRAZIANO
Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

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

IN THE MATTER
OF
DAVID P. NICHOLS, M.D.

STATEMENT
OF
CHARGES

DAVID P. NICHOLS, M.D., the Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on or about October 28, 1977, by the issuance of license number 132972 by the New York State Education Department. The Respondent is currently registered with the New York State Education Department to practice medicine.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- A. Respondent provided medical care to Patient A (hereinafter identified in the attached Appendix) from August 24, 1998, through October 29, 1998, at said Respondent's office, 5875 Transit Road, Lockport, New York, and at Lockport Memorial Hospital, Lockport, New York. Respondent's care and treatment of Patient A did not meet minimum standards of care in that:
1. Respondent failed to perform adequate nerve conduction studies of Patient A;
 2. Respondent diagnosed bilateral ulnar entrapment at the elbows based upon inadequate nerve conduction studies; and
 3. Respondent performed bilateral surgical releases without the appropriate indications for such procedures.

B. Respondent provided medical care to Patient B (hereinafter identified in the attached Appendix A) from December 16, 1998, through March 20, 1999, at said Respondent's office and at Lockport Memorial Hospital. Respondent's care and treatment of Patient B did not meet minimum standards of care in that:

1. Respondent failed to perform adequate nerve conduction studies of Patient B;
2. Respondent diagnosed bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome based upon inadequate nerve conduction studies; and
3. Respondent performed bilateral carpal tunnel surgeries without the appropriate indications for such procedures.

C. Respondent treated Patient C (hereinafter identified in the attached Appendix) from February 24, 1999, through May 19, 1999, at said Respondent's office and at Lockport Memorial Hospital. Respondent's care and treatment of Patient C did not meet minimum standards of care in that:

1. Respondent failed to perform adequate nerve conduction studies of Patient C;
2. Respondent diagnosed right-sided carpal tunnel syndrome based upon inadequate nerve conduction studies; and
3. Respondent performed carpal tunnel surgery without the appropriate indications for such procedure.

D. Respondent treated Patient D (hereinafter identified in the attached Appendix) from November 23, 1998, through December 21, 1998, at said Respondent's office and at Lockport Memorial Hospital. Respondent's care and treatment of Patient D did not meet minimum standards of care in that:

1. Respondent failed to perform adequate nerve conduction studies of Patient D; and
2. Respondent diagnosed bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome based upon inadequate nerve conduction studies;

SPECIFICATIONS OF CHARGES
FIRST THROUGH ELEVENTH SPECIFICATIONS
(Negligence on More than One Occasion)

Respondent is charged with professional misconduct as defined by New York Education Law § 6530(3) by practicing the profession of medicine with negligence on more than one occasion as alleged in the facts two or more of the following:

1. The facts set forth in Paragraphs A and A1;
2. The facts set forth in Paragraphs A and A2;
3. The facts set forth in Paragraphs A and A3;
4. The facts set forth in Paragraphs B and B1;
5. The facts set forth in Paragraphs B and B2;
6. The facts set forth in Paragraphs B and B3;
7. The facts set forth in Paragraphs C and C1;
8. The facts set forth in Paragraphs C and C2;
9. The facts set forth in Paragraphs C and C3;
10. The facts set forth in Paragraphs D and D1; and
11. The facts set forth in Paragraphs D and D2.

DATED: March 22, 2005
Albany, New York



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 New York State Education Law §6530 or §6531 shall constitute a violation of probation and may subject Respondent to an action pursuant to New York State Public Health Law §230(19).
2. Respondent shall maintain current registration of licensure with the New York State Education Department Division of Professional Licensing Services (except during periods of actual suspension), and shall pay all registration fees.
3. 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 such 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, charges, convictions or disciplinary actions by any local, state or federal agency, institution or facility, within thirty (30) days of each action.
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 section 171(27)]; State Finance Law section 18; CPLR section 5001; Executive Law section 32].
6. The probation period shall toll when Respondent is not engaged in active medical practice in New York State for a period of thirty (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 thirty (30) day period. Respondent shall then notify the Director again at least fourteen (14) days before returning to active practice. Upon Respondent's return to active practice in New York State, the probation period will resume and Respondent shall fulfill any unfulfilled probation terms.
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 and/or hospital charts; and interviews with or periodic visits with Respondent and staff at practice locations or OPMC offices.
8. 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.

PRACTICE MONITOR

9. Within thirty days of the effective date of the order, 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.
 - 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 practice monitor shall also review any and all office and hospital records regarding carpal tunnel surgeries and ulnar surgical releases performed by the Respondent. 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.
10. Respondent shall comply with this Order and all its terms, and shall bear all a associated compliance costs. Upon receiving evidence of noncompliance with, or 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.