



New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct

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

Richard F. Daines, M.D.
Commissioner
NYS Department of Health
James W. Clyne, Jr.
Executive Deputy Commissioner
Keith W. Servis, Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

Public

Kendrick A. Sears, M.D.
Chair
Carmela Torrelli
Vice Chair
Katherine A. Hawkins, M.D., J.D.
Executive Secretary

November 18, 2009

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Christopher Puca, M.D

Redacted Address

Re: License No. 147733

Dear Dr. Puca:

Enclosed is a copy of BPMC #09-206 of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct. This order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect November 25, 2009.

If the penalty imposed by this Order is a surrender, revocation or suspension, you are required to deliver your license and registration within five (5) days of receipt of this Order and return it to the Office of Professional Medical Conduct, New York State Department of Health, 433 River Street, Suite 303, Troy, NY 12180-2299

Sincerely,

Redacted Signature

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

Enclosure

IN THE MATTER
OF
CHRISTOHPER PUCA, M.D.

CONSENT
ORDER

BPMC No. #09-206

Upon the application of **CHRISTOPHER PUCA, M.D.**, (Respondent), in the attached Consent Agreement and Order, that 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.

DATED: 11-17-2009

Redacted Signature

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

IN THE MATTER

CONSENT

OF

AGREEMENT

CHRISTOPHER PUCA, M.D.
CO-08-12-7931-A

CHRISTOPHER PUCA, M.D., (Respondent), representing that all of the following statements are true, deposes and says:

That on or about September 25, 1981, I was licensed to practice medicine as a physician in the State of New York, and issued license number 147733 by the New York State Education Department.

My current address is Redacted Address, and I will advise the Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct of any change of my address within thirty (30) days, thereof.

I understand that the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (Board) has charged me with two (2) Specifications of professional misconduct, based solely on the December 14, 2008, Arizona Medical Board, Consent Agreement for Letter of Reprimand.

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

I do not contest Factual Allegations A and B(1) and the Second Specification, in full satisfaction of the charges against me, and agree to the following penalty:

Censure and Reprimand.

Respondent shall comply fully with the December 14, 2008, Arizona Medical Board, Consent Agreement for Letter of Reprimand, and any extension or modification thereof.

Respondent shall provide a written authorization for the Arizona Board to provide the Director of OPMC with any/all information or documentation as requested by OPMC to enable OPMC to determine whether Respondent is in compliance with the Arizona Agreement.

Respondent shall submit semi-annually a signed Compliance Declaration to the Director of OPMC, which truthfully attests whether Respondent has been in compliance with the Arizona Agreement during the declaration period specified.

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

That Respondent shall remain in continuous compliance with all requirements of New York Education 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 New York Education Law § 6502(4) to avoid registration and payment of fees. This condition shall take effect 30 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 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, 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 New York Education Law § 6530(29).

I agree that, if I am charged with professional misconduct in future, this Consent Agreement and Consent 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 New York 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 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 Consent 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.

I stipulate that the proposed sanction and Consent Order are authorized by New York Public 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, OPMC, and the Chair of the Board each retain complete discretion either to enter into the proposed Consent 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.

AFFIRMED:

DATED: 12.11.2009


Redacted Signature

✓ CHRISTOPHER PUCA, M.D.
Respondent

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

DATE: 13 November 2009

Redacted Signature

ROBERT BOGAN
Associate Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE: 11/16/09

Redacted Signature

KEITH W. SERVIS
Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

IN THE MATTER
OF
CHRISTOPHER PUCA, M.D.
CO-08-12-7931-A

STATEMENT
OF
CHARGES

CHRISTOPHER PUCA, M.D., Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York state on September 25, 1981, by the issuance of license number 147733 by the New York State Education Department.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A On or about December 14, 2008, the Arizona Medical Board (hereinafter "Arizona Board"), by a Consent Agreement for Letter of Reprimand (hereinafter "Arizona Agreement"), inter alia, issued Respondent a Letter of Reprimand, and required him to complete fifteen (15) to twenty (20) hours of CME in pain management/opioid prescribing, based on any conduct or practice that is or might be harmful or dangerous to the health of the patient or the public.

B. The conduct resulting in the Arizona Board disciplinary actions against Respondent would constitute misconduct under the laws of New York State, pursuant to the following sections of New York State law:

1. New York Education Law §6530(3) (negligence on more than one occasion);
 2. New York Education Law §6530(4) (gross negligence);
 3. New York Education Law §6530(5) (incompetence on more than one occasion);
- and/or
4. New York Education Law §6530(6) (gross incompetence).

SPECIFICATIONS
FIRST SPECIFICATION

Respondent violated New York Education Law §6530(9)(b) by having been found guilty of improper professional practice or professional misconduct by a duly 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, in that Petitioner charges:

1. The facts in Paragraphs A and/or B.

SECOND SPECIFICATION

Respondent violated New York Education Law §6530(9)(d) by having disciplinary action taken by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, where the conduct resulting in the disciplinary action would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York state, in that Petitioner charges:

2. The facts in Paragraphs A and/or B.

DATED: *August 21*, 2009
Albany, New York

Redacted Signature

PETER D. VAN BUREN
Deputy Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct