



*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.*  
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*NYS Department of Health*  
*James W. Clyne, Jr.*  
*Executive Deputy Commissioner*  
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*Office of Professional Medical Conduct*

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*Vice Chair*  
*Katherine A. Hawkins, M.D., J.D.*  
*Executive Secretary*

September 15, 2010

***CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED***

Richard H. Etkin, M.D.  
REDACTED

Re: License No. 137524

Dear Dr. Etkin:

Enclosed is a copy of Order BPMC #10-165 of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct. This order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect September 22, 2010.

**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 to: Office of Professional Medical Conduct, c/o Physician Monitoring Unit, New York State Department of Health, 433 River Street, Suite 303, Troy, NY 12180-2299.**

If the document(s) are lost, misplaced or destroyed, you are required to submit to this office an affidavit to that effect. Enclosed for your convenience is an affidavit. Please complete and sign the affidavit before a notary public and return it to the Office of Professional Medical Conduct.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

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

Enclosure

**IN THE MATTER  
OF  
RICHARD ETKIN, M.D.**

**SURRENDER  
ORDER**

BPMC No. #10-165

Upon the application of (Respondent) Richard Etkin, 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 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 Application or by certified mail to Respondent's attorney, OR
- upon facsimile transmission to Respondent or Respondent's attorney,

Whichever is first.

SO ORDERED.

DATE: 9-14-2010

REDACTED

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  
RICHARD ETKIN, M.D.**

**SURRENDER  
of  
LICENSE**

Richard Etkin, M.D., represents that all of the following statements are true:

That on or about March 30, 1979, I was licensed to practice as a physician in the State of New York and issued License No. 137524 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 Twenty-Eight Specifications of Professional Misconduct.

A copy of the Statement of Charges, marked as Exhibit "A", 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 do not contest the Twenty-Eight Specifications in full satisfaction of the charges against me.

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 "B".

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, if any, redacted. As public documents, they may be posted on the Department's website(s).

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 8/28/2010

REDACTED

~~RICHARD ETKIN, M.D.~~  
RESPONDENT

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

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Attorney for Respondent

DATE: 9/1/10

REDACTED

~~RICHARD J. ZAHNLEUTER~~  
Associate Counsel  
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE: 9/14/10

REDACTED

~~KEITH W. SERVIS~~  
Director  
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

**EXHIBIT "A"**

**IN THE MATTER  
OF  
RICHARD ETKIN, M.D.**

**STATEMENT  
OF  
CHARGES**

RICHARD ETKIN, M.D. (hereinafter, the "Respondent"), was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on March 30, 1979, by the issuance of license number 137524 by the New York State Education Department. The Respondent's current address, upon information and belief, is REDACTED

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

**THE RESPONDENT'S MARCH 25, 2003  
CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER**

- A. In a Consent Agreement and Order entered into pursuant to Section 230 of the Public Health Law, effective March 25, 2003, the Respondent's New York medical license was "limited ... to preclude patient contact and any practice of medicine, clinical or otherwise." Other specific language "precluded" the Respondent from "diagnosing, treating, operating, or prescribing for any human disease, pain, injury, deformity, or physical condition."



## THE RESPONDENT'S SUBSEQUENT 28 PRESCRIPTIONS

- B. Between March 25, 2003 and the present, the Respondent prescribed and/or authorized a pharmacy to dispense prescription drugs on 28 occasions, individually and/or collectively, as set forth in the following table in paragraphs C through DD:

PARAGRAPH OF STATEMENT OF CHARGES	PATIENT NAME	DATE	PRESCRIPTION DRUG	PRESCRIPTION NUMBER
C	Respondent	11/30/09	Prozac	167589
D	Respondent	11/30/09	Naproxen	167590
E	Respondent	7/29/09	Cipro	161717
F	Respondent	7/29/09	Prozac	161719
G	Respondent	7/29/09	Z-Pak	161714
H	Respondent	7/29/09	Zantac	161716
I	Respondent	4/22/09	Z-Pak	156963
J	Respondent	11/1/08	Prozac	148359
K	Respondent	9/8/08	Hyoscy	145809
L	Respondent	7/21/08	Z-Pak	143865
M	Respondent	11/21/07	Nexium	132695
N	Respondent	10/2/07	Nexium	130210
O	Respondent	9/5/07	Ibu	128793
P	Respondent	8/16/07	Diclofenac	127988
Q	Respondent	9/29/06	Flexeril	109482
R	Respondent	1/19/06	Tamiflu	93570
S	Respondent	11/23/05	Dextro	90209

PARAGRAPH OF STATEMENT OF CHARGES	PATIENT NAME	DATE	PRESCRIPTION DRUG	PRESCRIPTION NUMBER
T	Respondent	10/18/05	Danazol	87945
U	Respondent	9/26/05	Dextro	86422
V	Respondent	8/18/05	Hydrocortisone	84297
W	Respondent	8/15/05	Aldara	84300
X	Respondent	12/24/04	Naproxen	70415
Y	Respondent	12/26/03	Pred	50546
Z	Respondent	12/26/03	Nexium	50547
AA	Respondent	11/25/03	Levsin	48921
BB	Respondent	11/24/03	Urocit	48913
CC	Respondent	6/20/03	Viagra	40287
DD	Respondent	6/20/03	Zantac	40288

**SPECIFICATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT**

**FIRST THROUGH TWENTY-EIGHTH SPECIFICATIONS  
(VIOLATION OF CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER)**

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Education. Law §6530(29) by violating a limitation imposed on the Respondent pursuant to Section 230 of the Public Health Law, as alleged in the following:

1. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or C.
2. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or D.
3. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or E.
4. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or F.
5. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or G.
6. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or H.
7. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or I.
8. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or J.
9. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or K.
10. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or L.
11. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or M.
12. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or N.
13. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or O.
14. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or P.
15. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or Q.
16. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or R.
17. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or S.
18. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or T.
19. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or U.
20. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or V.

21. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or W.
22. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or X.
23. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or Y.
24. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or Z.
25. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or AA.
26. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or BB.
27. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or CC.
28. The facts set forth in paragraphs A, B, and/or DD.

DATED: *September 1*, 2010  
Albany, New York

REDACTED

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Peter D. Van Buren  
Deputy Counsel  
Bureau of Professional  
Medical Conduct

## **EXHIBIT "B"**

### **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 Hedley Park Place, 433 River Street 4th Floor, Troy, NY 12180-2299.
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, 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. If Licensee holds a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) certificate, within 15 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shall advise the DEA in writing of the licensure action and shall surrender to the DEA any DEA controlled substance privileges issued pursuant to Licensee's New York license. Licensee shall promptly surrender to the DEA any unused DEA #222 U.S. Official Order Forms Schedules 1 and 2.

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. Licensee shall destroy all prescription pads bearing Licensee's name. 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.