



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

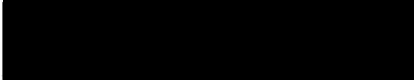
HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 14, 2015

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Joan M. McElwain, R.P.A.



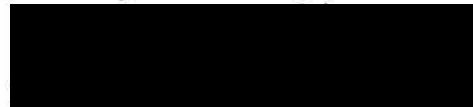
Re: License No. 000719

Dear Ms. McElwain:

Enclosed is a copy of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (BPMC) Order No. 15-298. This order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect December 21, 2015.

Please direct any questions to: Board for Professional Medical Conduct, 90 Church Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10007-2919, telephone # 212-417-4445.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosure

cc: Robin B. Phelan, Esq.
Phelan Phelan & Danek, LLP
300 Great Oaks Boulevard, Suite 315
Albany, New York 12203

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

IN THE MATTER
OF
JOAN M. MCELWAIN, R.P.A.

CONSENT
ORDER

Upon the application of (Respondent) JOAN M. MCELWAIN, R.P.A. 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

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.

DATE: 12/12/2015


ARTHUR S. HENGERER, 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
JOAN M. MCELWAIN, R.P.A.

CONSENT
AGREEMENT

JOAN M. MCELWAIN, R.P.A., represents that all of the following statements are true:

That on or about August 19, 1977, I was licensed to practice as a physician assistant in the State of New York, and issued License No. 000719 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 (Board) has charged me with one or more specifications 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 not to contest the allegations, in full satisfaction of the charges against me, and agree to the following penalty:

Pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a(6), Respondent shall be subject to a limitation precluding registration or issuance of any further license.

I further agree that the Consent Order for which I apply shall impose the following conditions:

That Respondent shall comply with each and every penalty imposed by this Order pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a; and

That Respondent shall be precluded from practicing as a physician assistant in New York State, from practicing in any setting where her practice is based solely on her New York license, and from further reliance upon Respondent's New York license to practice as a physician assistant to exempt Respondent from the licensure, certification or other requirements set forth in statute or regulation for the practice of any other profession licensed, regulated or certified by the Board of Regents, Department of Education, Department of Health or the Department of State; and

That if Respondent is currently registered to practice as a physician assistant in New York State, Respondent shall, within 30 days of the issuance of the Consent Order, notify the New York State Education Department, Division of Professional Licensing Services, that Respondent's license status is "inactive," and shall provide proof of such notification to the Director of OPMC immediately upon having done so; and

That 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. This condition shall take effect 30 days after the Order's effective date and shall continue at all times until Respondent receives written notification from the Office of Professional Medical Conduct, Physician Monitoring Program, that OPMC has determined that Respondent has fully complied with and satisfied the requirements of the Order, regardless of tolling; and

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

That Respondent shall comply with all conditions set forth in attached Exhibit "B" ("Requirements for Closing a Physician Assistant Practice").

I stipulate that my failure to comply with any conditions of this Order shall constitute misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. 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. The 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. OPMC shall report this action to the National Practitioner Data Bank and the Federation of State Medical Boards, and any other entities that the Director of OPMC shall deem appropriate.

I stipulate that the proposed sanction and Order are authorized by N.Y. Pub. Health Law §§ 230 and 230-a, and that the Board for Professional Medical Conduct and the Office of Professional Medical Conduct 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 ask that the Board adopt this Consent Agreement.

I am aware and agree that, regardless of prior communication, the attorney for the Department, the Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct, and the Chairperson of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct each reserve full discretion to enter into the Consent Agreement that I propose in this application, or to decline to do so.

DATE 11/27/15


JOAN M. MCELWAIN, R.P.A.,
RESPONDENT

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

DATE: December 1, 2015 [Redacted]
ROBIN B. PHELAN, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

DATE: 12/1/2015 [Redacted]
DAVID W. QUIST
Associate Attorney
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE: 12/7/15 [Redacted]
KEITH W. SERVIS
Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

EXHIBIT "A"

IN THE MATTER

OF

JOAN M. MCELWAIN, R.P.A.

STATEMENT
OF
CHARGES

JOAN M. MCELWAIN, R.P.A., the Respondent, was licensed to practice as a physician assistant in New York State on or about August 19, 1977 by the issuance of license number 000719 by the New York State Education Department.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. Respondent provided medical care to Patient A, a 4-year-old female, in the Emergency Department of Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center on or about June 28, 2011 for injuries to her nose and forehead. Respondent's medical care of Patient A deviated from accepted standards of care as follows:

1. Respondent failed to adequately examine Patient A and/or to adequately document such examination.
2. Respondent failed to adequately document the basis for her diagnosis of nasal bone fracture.
3. Respondent failed to maintain an adequate medical record for Patient A.

B. Respondent provided medical care to Patient B, a 75-year-old female, in the Emergency Department of Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center on or about January 5, 2008 for complaints of epigastric and suprapubic pain. Respondent's medical care of Patient B deviated from accepted standards of care as follows:

1. Respondent failed to adequately evaluate Patient B's condition.

2. Respondent failed to adequately diagnose Patient B's condition and/or document the basis for her diagnosis.
3. Respondent failed to adequately treat Patient B's condition.
4. Respondent failed to admit Patient B in light of her symptoms to permit evaluation beyond the capabilities of the emergency department.
5. Respondent failed to maintain an adequate medical record for Patient B.

C. Respondent provided pre-operative medical clearance for Patient C, a 65-year-old male, in Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center on or about January 3, 2012. Respondent's medical care of Patient C deviated from accepted standards of care as follows:

1. Respondent failed to adequately examine Patient C, in that Respondent failed to obtain an appropriate family history, medication list, allergy assessment, formal past medical history, and/or social history in conjunction with Respondent's pre-operative assessment.
2. Respondent failed to adequately examine Patient C, in that Respondent failed to obtain an appropriate cardiac evaluation, despite medical indications.
3. Respondent failed to maintain an adequate medical record for Patient C.

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. The facts in paragraphs A and A.1, A and A.2, A and A.3, B and B.1, B and B.2, B and B.3, B and B.4, B and B.5, C and C.1, C and C.2 and/or C and C.3.

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 evaluation and treatment of the patient, as alleged in the facts of:

2. The facts in paragraphs A and A1, A and A.2, A and A.3, B and B.2, B and B.5 and/or C and C.3.

DATE: ^{December 3}~~November~~, 2015
Albany, New York



MICHAEL A. HISER, ESQ.
Deputy Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

EXHIBIT "B"

**Requirements for Closing a Physician Assistant Practice
(Following Agreement to Never Register/Never Practice)**

1. Licensee shall immediately cease and desist from practicing as a physician assistant 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 as a physician assistant.
2. Within 5 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shall deliver Licensee's original license to practice as a physician assistant in New York State and current biennial registration, if any, to the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) at Riverview Center, 150 Broadway, Suite 355, Albany, New York 12204-2719.
3. Within 15 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shall, with regard to New York practice or practice anywhere pursuant to Licensee's New York license, notify all patients of the cessation of Licensee's physician assistant practice, and shall refer all patients to another licensed practicing physician assistant 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 practice as a physician assistant. 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 practice as a physician assistant.
4. Licensee shall, with regard to New York practice or practice anywhere pursuant to Licensee's New York license, 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. In the event that Licensee holds a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) certificate for New York State, Licensee shall, within fifteen (15) days of the Order's effective date, advise the DEA, in writing, of the licensure action and shall surrender his/her 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. 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. 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, with regard to New York practice or practice anywhere pursuant to Licensee's New York license, remove from the public domain any representation that Licensee is eligible to practice as a physician assistant, 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, with regard to New York practice or practice anywhere pursuant to Licensee's New York license, 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 practice as a physician assistant. 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 practice as a physician assistant in New York, 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 as a physician assistant 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.