



# Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

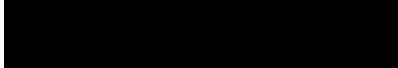
HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.  
Commissioner

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

August 25, 2016

**CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Vitalis Ojiegbe, M.D.



Re: License No. 236335

Dear Dr. Ojiegbe:

Enclosed is a copy of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (BPMC) Order No. 16-296. This order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect September 1, 2016.

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,



Henry Spector, M.D.  
Acting Executive Secretary  
Board for Professional Medical Conduct

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Ginikanwa C. Okedi, Esq.  
Okedi, Ndi and Associates  
7410 George Avenue NW, Suite 4  
Washington, District of Columbia 20012

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

IN THE MATTER  
OF  
VITALIS OJIEGBE, M.D.

BPMC No. 16-296  
CONSENT  
ORDER

Upon the application of (Respondent) VITALIS OJIEGBE, M.D., 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: 8/24/2016

  
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  
VITALIS OJIEGBE, M.D.

CONSENT  
AGREEMENT

VITALIS OJIEGBE, M.D., represents that all of the following statements are true:

That on or about May 26, 2005, I was licensed to practice as a physician in the State of New York, and issued License No. 236335 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 two Specifications of professional misconduct, as set forth in a Statement of Charges, marked as Exhibit "A", attached to and part of this Consent Agreement.

I plead no contest to the Specifications, in full satisfaction of the charges against me, and agree to the following penalties:

Pursuant to New York Public Health Law §230-a (1), my license to practice medicine in New York State shall be subject to a censure and reprimand.

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

Pursuant to New York Public Health Law §230-a (8), I shall be required to comply with the Consent Order of the Maryland State Board of Physicians, and any amendments thereto, requiring, among other things, successful completion of CME in the areas of pain management, bariatric medicine, and medical record keeping.

Respondent, by making this application, asserts that Respondent does not currently practice medicine in New York State or in any setting or jurisdiction where that practice is predicated upon Respondent's New York State medical license ("New York Practice"). As a Condition of this Order, should Respondent decide to resume practicing medicine in New York, Respondent shall, before beginning such practice, provide 90 days advance written notice to the Director of OPMC. Respondent may not begin practicing medicine in New York until after Respondent receives the Director's written acknowledgment that this Condition has been satisfied, and shall be subject to any further Conditions the Director may impose upon Respondent's New York Practice based on matters underlying this Consent Agreement and/or any circumstances or information known to the Director at the time of Respondent's proposed return to New York Practice. Respondent, by making this Application, stipulates that the Director shall be authorized in his or her sole discretion to

impose whatever further Conditions the Director deems appropriate upon Respondent's return to practice in New York, and Respondent further stipulates that Respondent's failure to comply with these Conditions shall constitute misconduct as defined by New York Education Law §6530(29).

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

That Respondent shall comply with each and every penalty imposed by this Order pursuant to New York Public Health Law §230-a; and

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 120 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 remain in continuous compliance with all requirements of New York Public Health Law §2995-a(4) and 10 NYCRR 1000.5, including but not limited to the requirements that a licensee shall: report to the department all information required by the Department to develop a public

physician profile for the licensee; continue to notify the department of any change in profile information within 30 days of any change (or in the case of optional information, within 365 days of such change); and, in addition to such periodic reports and notification of any changes, update his or her profile information within six months prior to the expiration date of the licensee's registration period. Licensee shall submit changes to his or her physician profile information either electronically using the department's secure web site or on forms prescribed by the department, and licensee shall attest to the truthfulness, completeness and correctness of any changes licensee submits to the department. This condition shall take effect 30 days after the Order's effective date and shall continue so long as Respondent remains a licensee in New York State. Respondent's failure to comply with this condition, if proven and found at a hearing pursuant to New York Public Health Law §230, shall constitute professional misconduct as defined in New York Education Law §6530(21) and New York Education Law §6530(29). Potential penalties for failure to comply with this condition may include all penalties for professional misconduct set forth in New York Public Health Law §230-a, including but not limited to: revocation or suspension of license, Censure and Reprimand, probation, public service and/or fines of up to \$10,000 per specification of misconduct found; 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 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 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.

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 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 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 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 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 of OPMC and the Chair of the Board each retain complete discretion either to enter into the proposed 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.


DATE: August 15, 2016

  
VITALIS OJIEGBE, M.D.  
Respondent

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

OKEDI, NDI AND ASSOCIATES

DATE: August 15, 2016

By:   
GINIKANWA C. OKEDI, ESQ.  
Attorney for Respondent

DATE: August 18, 2016

  
JEFFREY J. CONKLIN, ESQ.  
Associate Counsel  
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE: 8/23/16

  
KEITH W. SERVIS  
Director  
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

IN THE MATTER  
  
OF  
  
VITALIS OJIEGBE, M.D.

STATEMENT  
  
OF  
  
CHARGES

VITALIS OJIEGBE, M.D., the Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on May 26, 2005, by the issuance of license number 236335 by the New York State Education Department.

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

A. On or about March 12, 2015, the Maryland State Board of Physicians (Maryland Board) issued a Consent Order which found the Respondent guilty of violating Maryland Medical Practice Act, Maryland Code Annotated, Health Occupations Article §§ 14-404(a)(22), (28), and (40), and §§ 12-102 and 12-105; and Maryland Code of Regulations §§ 10.13.01.04, 10.19.03.05, and 10.19.03.12. The Respondent inappropriately prescribed opioids and other controlled substances; failed to provide quality medical care to patients which met the applicable standards of care; and failed to maintain appropriate medical records. The Maryland Board ordered that the Respondent be reprimanded; imposed probation for two years with a physician monitor; and required the successful completion of continuing medical education courses acceptable to the Maryland Board in the areas of pain management, bariatric medicine and medical record keeping. The Respondent was prohibited from practicing pain management until completion of the continuing medical education course in such area.

B. Respondent's conduct is described in paragraph "A" upon which the finding of unprofessional conduct in the State of Maryland was based would, if committed in New York State, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of the New York State as follows:

1. New York Education Law Section 6530(3) (practicing the profession with negligence on more than one occasion); and/or
2. New York Education Law Section 6530(5) (practicing the profession with incompetence on more than one occasion); and/or
3. New York Education Law Section 6530(32) (failing to maintain a record for each patient which accurately reflects the evaluation and treatment of the patient).

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**SPECIFICATIONS OF MISCONDUCT**

**First Specification**

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in New York Education Law Section 6530(9)(b) by having been found guilty of improper professional practice or professional misconduct by a duly authorized 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 the facts of the following:

1. The facts of Paragraphs "A" and "B".

**Second Specification**

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in New York Education Law Section 6530(9)(d) by having his license to practice medicine revoked, suspended or having other disciplinary action taken; or having his or her application for a license refused, revoked or suspended or having voluntarily or otherwise surrendered his or her license after disciplinary action was instituted by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, where the conduct resulting in the revocation, suspension or other disciplinary action involving the license or refusal, revocation or suspension of an application for a license or the surrender of the license would, if committed in New York State, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York State in the facts of the following:

2. The facts of Paragraphs "A" and "B".

DATE: Albany, New York  
May 31, 2016

  
MICHAEL A. HISER, ESQ.  
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 Education Law §§6530 or 6531 shall constitute a violation of probation and may subject Respondent to an action pursuant to New York Public Health Law §230(19).
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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 §171(27); State Finance Law §18; CPLR §5001; Executive Law §32].
- 4) The probation period shall toll when Respondent is not engaged in active medical practice in New York State for a period of 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 30 day period. Respondent shall then notify the Director again at least 14 days before returning to active practice. Upon Respondent's return to active practice in New York State, the probation period shall resume and Respondent shall fulfill any unfulfilled probation terms and such additional requirements as the Director may impose as reasonably relate to the matters set forth in Exhibit "A" or as are necessary to protect the public health.
- 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) Within thirty days of the Consent Order's effective date, 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. Any medical practice in violation of this term shall constitute the unauthorized practice of medicine.
  - 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 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 §230(18)(b) of the New York 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.
- 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.
- 9) Respondent shall comply with this Consent 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.