BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

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| In The Matter of Charges and |) | Case No. 12-7067-1 |
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| Complaint Against |) | · · |
| MAURICE DUBOIS GREGORY, JR., M.D., Respondent. | | FILED |
| | | MAY 1 1 2012 |
| | | NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS By: |
| COMPLAINT | <u>-</u> | |

The Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board"), comprised of Theodore B. Berndt, M.D., Chairman, Valerie J. Clark, BSN, RHU, LUTCF, Member, and Michael J. Fischer, M.D., Member, by and through its counsel, Bradley O. Van Ry, Esq., Deputy General Counsel, having a reasonable basis to believe that Maurice DuBois Gregory, Jr., M.D., hereinafter referred to as "Respondent," has violated the provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 630, the Medical Practice Act ("MPA"), hereby issues its formal Complaint, stating the Investigative Committee's charges and allegations, as follows:

- 1. Respondent is currently licensed in active status (License No. 4894), and he has been so licensed since July 9, 1983, by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners pursuant to the provisions of NRS 630.
- 2. From 2005 to 2011, Respondent provided medical care, including diagnosis of chronic pain and treatment of chronic pain for Patients A-E. The medical care and treatment of Patients A-E outlined below was a deviation from the applicable standard of care.
- 3. Relatedly, the MPA and related regulations establish standards of practice for the treatment of pain patients and adopt by reference the "Model Guidelines¹ for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain" published by the Federation of State Medical Boards of the

¹ In 2004, the Federation of State Medical Boards changed the title of the guidelines to the "Model Policy for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain."

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United States, Inc. ("Model Policy"). This policy establishes adequate treatment policies for the treatment of chronic pain, including the use of opioids. It establishes that physicians have a responsibility to minimize the potential for abuse and diversion of controlled substances and to follow related pain-treatment policies. Respondent, unfortunately, failed to follow the Model Policy as to Patients A-E.

- Patient A was a fifty-eight (58) year-old male at the time of the incidents in question. 4. His true identity is not disclosed to protect his privacy, but his identity is disclosed in the Patient Designation served on Respondent along with a copy of this Complaint.
- 5. Upon information and belief, Patient A sought medical care and treatment for back and shoulder pain with Respondent from August 10, 2007 to November 9, 2010.
- On or about September 8, 2008, Patient A produced a negative Urine Drug Test 6. ("UDT") for prescribed medications, controlled substances and/or illegal drugs, even though he prescribed Oxycontin, 80 m.g., 120 count, every thirty had been hydrocodone, 500 m.g./7.5 m.g., 120 count, every thirty (30) to sixty (60) days, and Soma, 350 m.g., 120 count, every thirty (30) days for pain and muscle relaxing by Respondent. Patient A again had negative UDTs on or about February 22, 2009 and February 24, 2009. All the while, Respondent was still prescribing the above described Oxycontin, hydrocodone and Soma to Patient A.
- 7. Patient A should have been discharged for the failed UDTs, or at a minimum, should not have been prescribed more opioids under the standard of care.
- 8. Patient B was a fifty-nine (59) year-old female at the time of the incidents in question. Her true identity is not disclosed to protect her privacy, but her identity is disclosed in the Patient Designation served on Respondent along with a copy of this Complaint.
- 9. Upon information and belief, Patient B sought medical care and treatment for right leg and hip pain with Respondent from March 12, 2007 to June 9, 2010.
- 10. Respondent routinely prescribed Patient B two (2) long acting pain medications on monthly basis, Oxycontin, 80 180 count, every thirty (30) days; and m.g., ///

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methadone, 10 m.g., 120 count, every thirty (30) days. This was improper due to the extremely long and variable half-life of methadone and its combination with the Oxycontin.

- 11. The Oxycontin and methadone should have never been prescribed together, unless transitioning from one medication to the other, under the standard of care.
- 12. Patient C was a twenty-three (23) year-old male at the time of the incidents in question. His true identity is not disclosed to protect his privacy, but his identity is disclosed in the Patient Designation served on Respondent along with a copy of this Complaint.
- 13. Upon information and belief, Patient C sought medical care and treatment for pain and multiple conditions related to incomplete quadriplegia with Respondent from September 4, 2008 to May 5, 2010.
- Respondent improperly prescribed morphine, 100 m.g., 90 count, every thirty (30) 14. days, and Oxycontin, 80 m.g., 105 count, every 21 days, together for Patient C. The Oxycontin should have been tapered slowly while adding the morphine over a period of weeks under the standard of care.
- 15. Patient D was a forty-two (42) year-old male at the time of the incidents in question. His true identity is not disclosed to protect his privacy, but his identity is disclosed in the Patient Designation served on Respondent along with a copy of this formal Complaint.
- 16. Upon information and belief, Patient D sought medical care and treatment for pain with Respondent from August, 2005 to September, 2005.
- 17. Respondent improperly prescribed Oxycontin, 120 m.g., 30 count, every 15 days, along with methadone, 40 m.g., 30 count, every seven (7) days. Again, these two (2) long acting medications should not have been prescribed together due to the variable half-life of methadone and its combination with the Oxycontin, under the standard of care.
- 18. Patient E was a fifty-four (54) year-old male at the time of the incidents in question. His true identity is not disclosed to protect his privacy, but his identity is disclosed in the Patient Designation served on Respondent along with a copy of this formal Complaint.
- 19. Upon information and belief, Patient E sought medical care and treatment for leg, feet and back pain with Respondent from January 13, 2004 to January 20, 2011.

| THE OF THE OPINION COLLEGE | Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners | 1105 Terminal Way #301 | Reno, Nevada 89502 | (775) 688-2559 | |
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| 20 | 0. | Re | espond | lent p | rescribe | d meth | nadone | , 10 n | n.g., 12 | 20 co | unt, eve | ry thir | ty (30) | days, | , as a |
|------------|-------|-----|--------|--------|----------|---------|--------|--------|----------|-------|----------|---------|---------|-------|--------|
| "p.r.n." (| as n | eed | ed) me | edicat | ion alo | ng witl | h Som | ia, 35 | 0 m.g. | , 120 | count, | every | thirty | (30) | days |
| Oxycodo | ne, | 30 | m.g., | 360 | count, | every | forty | (40) | days, | and | hydroc | odone | with | ibupr | ofen |
| 7.5/200 n | n.g., | 240 | count | , evei | y thirty | (30) da | ays. | | | | | | | | |

Methadone should never be prescribed as a "p.r.n." medication under the standard 21. of care.

Count I

(Five counts-Patients A-E)

- 22. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 23. Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 630.040 defines malpractice as the failure of a physician, in treating a patient, to use the reasonable care, skill, or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances.
- 24. NRS 630.301(4) provides that malpractice of a physician is grounds for initiating disciplinary action against a licensee.
- 25. Respondent's care and treatment of Patients A-E as described above shows a failure to use reasonable care, skill, or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances.
- 26. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners as provided in NRS 630.352.

Count II

- 27. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 28. NRS 630.306(7) provides that the continual failure to exercise the skill or diligence or use the methods ordinarily exercised under the same circumstances by physicians in good standing practicing in the same specialty or field is grounds for initiating disciplinary action against a licensee.
- 29. Respondent's care and treatment of Patients A-E, as described above, shows a continual failure to exercise the skill or diligence or use the methods ordinarily exercised under the

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same circumstances by physicians in good standing practicing in the same specialty or field under NRS 630.306(7).

30. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners as provided in NRS 630.352.

Count III

- 31. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 32. NRS 630.306(2)(b) provides that the engaging in any conduct which the Board has determined is a violation of the standards of practice established by regulation of the Board is grounds for initiating disciplinary action against a licensee.
- 33. NAC 630.187 establishes standards of practice applicable to the treatment of pain patients and adopts by reference the Model Policy for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain published by the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, Inc.
- NAC 630.230(1)(k) provides that the engaging in the practice of writing prescriptions for controlled substances to treat acute pain or chronic pain in a manner that deviates from the guidelines set forth in the Model Policy is grounds for initiating disciplinary action against a licensee.
- 35. Respondent's care and treatment of Patients A-E, as described above, constitutes a violation of the Model Policy.
- 36. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners as provided in NRS 630.352.

WHEREFORE, the Investigative Committee prays:

- 1. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners give Respondent notice of the charges herein against him and give him notice that he may file an answer to the formal Complaint herein as set forth in NRS 630.339 within twenty (20) days of service of the formal Complaint;
- 2. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners set a time and place for a formal hearing after holding an Early Case Conference pursuant to NRS 630.339(3);

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- 3. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners determine what sanctions it will impose if it determines there has been a violation or violations of the Medical Practice Act (NRS Chapter 630) committed by Respondent;
- 4. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners make, issue and serve on Respondent its findings of fact, conclusions of law and order, in writing, that includes the sanctions imposed; and,
- 5. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners take such other and further action as may be just and proper in these premises.

DATED this day of May, 2012.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: Bradley O. Van Ry, Esq.
Deputy General Counsel

Attorney for the Investigative Committee

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

VERIFICATION

| STATE OF NEVADA |) |
|------------------|-------|
| COUNTY OF WASHOE | : ss. |

Theodore B. Berndt, M.D., hereby deposes and states under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Nevada that he is the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners that authorized the formal Complaint against the Respondent herein; that he has read the foregoing formal Complaint; and that based upon information discovered during the course of the investigation into a complaint against Respondent, he believes the allegations and charges in the foregoing formal Complaint against Respondent are true, accurate and correct.

Dated this $\mathcal{L}^{\mu\gamma}$ day of May, 2012.

THEODORE B. BERNDT, M.D.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners 1105 Terminal Way #301 Reno, Nevada 89502 (775) 688-2559

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that I am employed by Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners and that on 11th day of May 2012; I served a filed copy of the Complaint, Patient Designation & Fingerprint information, via USPS e-certified mail to the following:

Maurice DuBois Gregory Jr., M.D. 2020 Goldring Ave., Ste. 503 Las Vegas, NV 89106

Dated this 11th day of May 2012.

Angelia L. Donohoe Legal Assistant