OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners 8600 Gateway Drive Reno, Newada 89521

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

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In the Matter of Charges and

Case No. 19-38522-1

Complaint Against

FILED

ROGER R. MEHTA, M.D.,

JAN 1 5 2019

Respondent.

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NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

COMPLAINT

The Investigative Committee¹ (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board) hereby issues this formal Complaint (Complaint) against Roger R. Mehta, M.D. (Respondent), a physician licensed in Nevada. After investigating this matter, the IC has a reasonable basis to believe that Respondent has violated provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 630 and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 630 (collectively, the Medical Practice Act). The IC alleges the following facts:

- 1. Respondent is licensed in Nevada in active status (License No. 14004) and was licensed by the Board on July 6, 2011.
- 2. Patient A's true identity is not disclosed herein to protect his privacy, but is disclosed in the Patient Designation served upon Respondent along with a copy of this Complaint.
- 3. On June 30, 2012, Patient A, a 57-old-year male with an initial complaint of a one-month history of right hip pain radiating to the leg, was seen in urgent care, wherein an X-Ray was ordered. Patient A was referred to Orthopedics. An MRI result led to an evaluation and a referral to pain management. The patient was seen by Respondent, wherein labs were ordered, including findings of an abnormal elevated liver function test. Patient A was told of a need to repeat the lab test in a year. Patient A returned in three months with rapid weight loss and neurologic

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¹ The Investigative Committee (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board) at the time this formal Complaint was authorized for filing, was composed of Board members Wayne Hardwick, M.D., Chairman, Mr. M. Neil Duxbury and Aury Nagy, M.D..

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abnormality leading to an evaluation by a Neurologist, who ordered additional labs and MRIs. Prior to Neurologist evaluation, Patient A was admitted to the hospital and diagnosed with metastatic cancer leading to admission to hospice.

- 4. On October 16, 2012, Patient A was seen by Respondent with a complaint of nocturia, continued his treatment of lower back pain, requested a referral to physical therapy for knee pain, and wanted medicine for insomnia. Patient A's weight was 209 lbs; Plan: PT referral, Trazodone; Labs: ordered and returned-results were normal except AST 0, ALT 97, ALKP 132, PSA 4.2.
- 5. On October 18, 2012, Patient A was sent a letter, which stated the PSA was mildly elevated - no action required and LFT elevated - not clinically significant - repeat in one year.
- 6. On December 17, 2012, Patient A was seen by Respondent with a complaint of rapid weight loss, bilateral feet edema, and lethargy. Patient A's was weight 200 lbs - physical exam was within normal limits except neurologic examination with a positive Romberg.
- 7. On December 26, 2012, pursuant to a previous referral, Patient A was seen by Neurologist with progressive weight loss, leg weakness and gait difficulty. Reviewed labs: LFT elevated, TSH, B12, CBC w/in limits.
- 8. On December 27, 2012, Patient A was admitted into St. Rose Siena with an inability to stand for a prolonged time due to weakness and reported a 50lb. weight loss in two months. Patient A was evaluated with continued elevated LFT. A CT scan of the head showed a destructive bone lesion in the right frontal lobe - suspected metastatic disease. A CT scan of the chest, abdomen and pelvis indicated a necrotic mass centered in the right kidney measuring greater than 25 cm diameter, which encompassed the entire right kidney and suprarenal space, invading the right hepatic lobe of the liver, porta hepaticus and pancreatic head. There was continuous bulky retroperitonal adenopathy and an obstruction of the infra renal inferior vena cava. Overall, the findings were most compatible with renal cell carcinoma.
- 9. Previous to the preparation of this Complaint, the Board solicited the services of an independent medical expert (IME) to review Patient A's medical records and the care provided to such patient by Respondent. This IME opined that Respondent's care of Patient A violated the Medical Practice Act due to his acts and omissions when rendering care to Patient A.

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Count I

(Malpractice)

- 10. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 11. NRS 630.301(4) provides that malpractice of a physician is grounds for initiating disciplinary action against a licensee.
- 12. 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.
- 13. As demonstrated by, but not limited to, the above-outlined facts, Respondent failed to use the reasonable care, skill or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances when he rendered medical services to Patient A.
- By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as 14. provided in NRS 630.352.

Count II

(Failure to Maintain Complete Medical Records)

- 15. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 16. NRS 630.3062(1)(a) provides that the failure to maintain timely, legible, accurate and complete medical records relating to the diagnosis, treatment and care of a patient is grounds for initiating discipline against a licensee.
- 17. Respondent failed to maintain complete medical records relating to the diagnosis, treatment and care of Patient A, by failing to document his actions when he treated Patient A, whose medical records were not timely, legible, accurate and complete.
- 18. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

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OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners 9600 Gareway Drive Reno, Nevada 89521

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 Complaint herein as set forth in NRS 630.339(2) within twenty (20) days of service of the 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);
- 3. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners determine what sanctions to impose if it determines there has been a violation or violations of the Medical Practice Act 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 4 day of January, 2019.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

Robert Kilroy, Esq., General Counsel Attorney for the Investigative Committee

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

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VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEVADA) : ss. COUNTY OF WASHOE)

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Wayne Hardwick, 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 foregoing Complaint against the Respondent herein; that he has read the foregoing Complaint; and based upon information discovered during the course of the investigation into a complaint against Respondent, he believes the allegations and charges in the foregoing Complaint against Respondent are true, accurate and correct.

Dated this 147 day of January, 2019.

Wayne Hardwick, M.D.

Chairman, Investigative Committee Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that I am employed by Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners and that on the 15th day of January, 2019, I served a filed copy of the COMPLAINT, via USPS e-certified return receipt mail to the following:

Roger R. Mehta, M.D. 3211 Bluegill Way, Unit C Henderson, NV 89014

Dated this 15th day of January, 2019.

Sheri L. Quigley
Legal Assistant