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## THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

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In the Matter of Charges and Complaint Against:

TERRANCE J. KWIATKOWSKI, M.D., Respondent.

Case No. 19-21834-1

FILED

FEB 1 2 2021

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDIZAR EXAMINERS

#### FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

The Investigative Committee (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board) hereby issues this First Amended Complaint (Complaint) against Terrance J. Kwiatkowski, M.D. (Respondent), a licensed physician in Nevada. After investigating this matter, the IC1 has a reasonable basis to believe that Respondent has violated provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 630 and the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 630 (collectively, the Medical Practice Act). The IC alleges the following facts:

- Respondent was licensed by the Board, pursuant to the provisions of the Medical 1. Practice Act, on August 27, 2001, and is currently licensed in active status (License No. 9962).
- Patient A's true identity is not disclosed herein to protect his privacy, but was 2. disclosed in the Patient Designation served upon Respondent along with a copy of the Complaint filed January 31, 2019.
- On July 1, 2014, Patient A presented to the Desert Springs Hospital Emergency Room (ER) with a complaint of right facial swelling and a diagnosis of parotitis, and was subsequently discharged with oral antibiotics (Amoxicillin) and pain medications. On July 2, 2014, Patient A returned to Desert Springs Hospital ER with a complaint of worsening symptoms, and was transferred to Sunrise Hospital for an ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist

<sup>1</sup> At the time filing of the Complaint was approved, the IC was composed of Theodore B. Berndt, M.D., Chairman, Michael J. Fischer, M.D., and Ms. Valerie J. Clark.

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consult. Patient A was started on IV antibiotics (Clindamycin) and a CT scan indicated a parotid edema on the right side and a three (3) millimeter stone in the parotid duct on the same side.

- 4. On July 5, 2014, Patient A presented to Respondent, who recommended intravenous steroids and antibiotics overnight, and he also recommended Patient A be discharged with oral antibiotics for ten (10) days and a steroid taper. On July 6, 2014, Patient A was discharged, based on Respondent's treatment plan, with oral Clindamycin and pain medications. Steroids were prescribed by Respondent on July 7, 2014. On July 8, 2014, Patient A presented to St. Rose Siena Hospital Emergency Room with no improvement in his symptoms and with difficulty opening his mouth. He was admitted after ENT and Infectious Disease (ID) specialist consultations. Patient A was started on intravenous antibiotics (Vancomycin & Zosyn), pursuant to the ID doctor's order. On July 9, 2014, Patient A was evaluated by Respondent, who recommended that the current treatment of IV antibiotics be continued, but did not recommend sialogogues (drugs that increase saliva production), which Respondent believed would have worsened Patient A's parotitis condition. Respondent recommended to staff that he be informed if Patient A's condition declined.
- 5. Respondent did not follow-up or further examine Patient A's parotid condition from July 9, 2014 through July 14, 2014, and did not perform any consultations relating to Patient's medical condition.
- On July 14, 2014, Patient A received another CT scan due to a lack of 6. improvement and worsening symptoms. This CT scan indicated "wall thickening, rim enhancing collection occupying the parotid, spacing measuring 3 x 2.3 cm as well as calcifications within the parotid gland consistent with an abscess." Respondent evaluated Patient A and reviewed the CT scan with a Radiologist. Respondent's recommendation was to continue IV antibiotics and determined that Patient A's condition was not an abscess.
- Again, Respondent did not follow-up or further examine Patient A's parotid 7. condition from July 15, 2014 through July 18, 2014 and did not conduct any consultations relating to Patient's medical condition.

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- 8. On July 18, 2014, another CT scan was conducted because of Patient A's condition with worsening symptoms. This CT scan stated "increase in right parotid hypodensity," measuring 3.6 x 4.6 centimeters compared to the July 9, 2014 CT scan, which measured 2 x 2.7 centimeters. The diagnosis was an abscess with a compression of the jugular vein or thrombosis and some airway compromise.
- 9. On July 19, 2014, Respondent was contacted by the staff at 4:00 a.m., with information that Patient A was experiencing increased difficulty breathing and providing the results of the CT scan performed on July 18, 2014. Respondent did not see Patient A after the information was conveyed to him. Four (4) hours later, at 8:00 a.m., Respondent called the staff nurse and instructed her to place Patient A on an NPO diet (no food or liquids), with plans to later take Patient A to the operating room to drain the previously non-diagnosed abscess. At 8:10 a.m., a nurse informed Respondent that Patient A was experiencing respiratory distress. Respondent recommended the nurse call the code team. Patient A coded for approximately ninety (90) minutes and several unsuccessful attempts were made to secure a clear airway; ultimately an emergent airway was placed.

#### **COUNT I**

## NRS 630.306(1)(b)(2) (Violation of Standards of Practice Established by Regulation)

- All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by 10. reference as though fully set forth herein.
- Violation of a standard of practice adopted by the Board is grounds for initiating 11. disciplinary action pursuant to NRS 630.306(1)(b)(2).
- NAC 630.210 requires a physician to seek consultation with another provider of 12. health care in doubtful or difficult cases whenever it appears that consultation may enhance the quality of medical services.
- Respondent failed to timely seek consultation with regard to Patient A's medical 13. condition of a parotid gland infection. Respondent further failed to have consulted with an appropriate care provider to address the doubtfulness of his diagnosis of non-abscess swollen parotid gland and such a consultation would have confirmed or denied such a diagnosis during the

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time between July 10, 2014 through July 13, 2014, and during the time between July 15, 2014 through July 18, 2014.

14. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

#### **COUNT II**

#### NRS 630.3062(1)(a) (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.
- By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as 18. provided in NRS 630.352.

### WHEREFORE, the IC prays:

- That the Board give Respondent notice of the charges herein against him and give ١. 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 Board set a time and place for a formal hearing after holding an Early Case Conference pursuant to NRS 630.339(3);
- That the Board determine what sanctions to impose if it finds and concludes that 3. there has been a violation or violations of the Medical Practice Act committed by Respondent;
- That the Board make, issue and serve on Respondent its findings of fact, 4. conclusions of law and order, in writing, to include sanctions to be imposed;
- That the Board award such fees and costs as outlined in NRS 622.400 for the 5. investigation and prosecution of this disciplinary action; and

6. That the Board takes such other and further action as may be just and proper in these premises.

DATED this day of February, 2021.

# INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: Mak

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

#### VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEVADA	)
	: ss
COUNTY OF WASHOE	)

Mr. M. Neil Duxbury, 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 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 Complaint against Respondent are true, accurate and correct.

DATED this Lay day of February, 2021.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

M. Neil Duxbury, M.D., Chairman