

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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IN THE MATTER OF:

MITUL NATU PATEL, M.D.
Applicant

No. 19-I-061

CONSENT ORDER FOR ISSUANCE OF MEDICAL LICENSE ON PROBATION

The above-entitled proceeding was docketed for investigation by the Investigating Officer of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") following receipt of Mitul Natu Patel's application for licensure by the Board to practice as a physician in this state. While it appears from information available as supplied by Dr. Patel's application and otherwise that he is generally qualified for issuance of such license, as acknowledged by him in his application, he also reported that due to a history of alcohol dependence he has an order from the State of Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations effective through November 15, 2019. Currently the status of his Illinois license is inactive.

On his own behalf, Dr. Patel advised the Board that he is currently in a monitoring program in the state of Montana and is agreeable to monitoring with the Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of Louisiana Inc.'s Physicians' Health Program (the "PHP").

As evidenced by his subscription to this Order, Dr. Patel acknowledges the substantial accuracy of the forgoing information and that such acknowledgment and the reported information would provide the Investigating Officer ("I/O") assigned to this matter by the Board with probable cause to pursue administrative proceedings against him for violation of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act, La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285 (A) (5), and (25)¹, constituting sufficient cause for action against his license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana. On the basis of apparently reliable information, however, the Board is persuaded that the condition from which Dr. Patel suffers may be susceptible to effective medical treatment, resulting in the maintenance of his capacity to engage in the practice of medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients, provided that he strictly observes and complies with appropriate restrictions on and conditions to maintenance of his medical license. In consideration of this finding, accordingly, and on the recommendation of the I/O respecting the pending investigation, the Board has concluded that its

¹ The Board may take action against the license of a physician as a result of La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285A: (5) "[H]abitual or recurring abuse of drugs, including alcohol, which affect the central nervous system and which are capable of inducing physiological or psychological dependence;" and (25) "[I]nability to practice medicine with reasonable skill or safety to patients because of mental illness or deficiency; physical illness, including but not limited to deterioration through the aging process or loss of motor skills; and/or excessive use or abuse of drugs, including alcohol";

CONSENT ORDER

In the Matter of:
Mitul Natu Patel, M.D.

Page 2

responsibility to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this state against the unprofessional, unqualified and unsafe practice of medicine, La. Rev. Stat. §37:1261, will be effectively served by entry of the Order set forth hereinafter by consent.

Recognizing his right to written notification of any charges that may be asserted against him as a result of this investigation, as well as the right to administrative adjudication of such charges, at which time he would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses and to present evidence in defense or in mitigation of the charges made and to a decision thereon by the Board based upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §§49:951 et seq. Dr. Patel, nonetheless, hereby waives his rights to notice, formal adjudication and written decision and, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D), consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. Furthermore, Dr. Patel acknowledges that he hereby waives any right to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. Rev. Stat. §§49:951 et seq., or to which he otherwise may be afforded by any law to contest his agreement to or the force and effect of the Board's investigation or this document in any court or other forum. By his subscription hereto, Dr. Patel also hereby authorizes the I/O to present this Consent Order to the Board for its consideration and to fully disclose to and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation and he waives any objection to such disclosures under La. Rev. Stat. §49:960. Dr. Patel expressly acknowledges that the disclosure of such information to the Board by the I/O shall be without prejudice to the I/O's authority to proceed with the filing and adjudication of any administrative charges that may subsequently be filed in this matter against him, or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such complaint should the Board decline to approve this Consent Order. Accordingly, in consideration of the forgoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D);

IT IS ORDERED that licensure for the practice of medicine in the state of Louisiana shall be issued to Mitul Natu Patel, M.D. and the same is hereby, placed on ***Indefinite Probation*** (the "probationary period") *for a minimum of one (1) year provided, however,* that Dr. Patel's continuing exercise of rights and privileges granted thereby, shall be conditioned upon and subject to his acceptance of and strict compliance with the following terms and conditions and restrictions:

- (1) **Personal Appearance before the Board.** Dr. Patel shall personally appear before the Board or its designee to permit the Board to consider his intent to comply with the terms of this Order and to advise the Board or its designee of his intentions with respect to his continued practice of medicine.
- (2) **Maintenance of Complete Abstinence.** Dr. Patel shall maintain complete and total abstinence from the use of alcohol, controlled and any other mood-altering substance for as long as he holds a license to practice medicine in this state, except as may be prescribed by a treating physician other than himself for a *bona fide* medical condition. Dr. Patel shall personally inform the PHP and the Board's Compliance Officer, both orally and in writing, within forty-eight (48) hours of the prescription or administration of any controlled or mood-altering substance received by him from any physician for treatment of a *bona fide* medical

condition. If the prescription is from another physician, he shall also inform his treating/monitoring physician in this same manner.

- (3) Continuing Treatment, Participation in the PHP/Reports to Board.** Dr. Patel shall enter into and execute a monitoring agreement with the PHP. Dr. Patel shall continue in, abide by and strictly adhere to all recommendations for ongoing treatment and monitoring of his condition, which have or may be contained in his PHP monitoring agreement, or any subsequent agreement which may be recommended by the PHP, as well as those recommended by his treating physicians and those prescribed by any other health care provider involved in his care to the extent that they continue to follow him. Dr. Patel shall, in addition, authorize and cause his treating and monitoring physicians and/or the PHP to submit to the Board, not less frequently than quarterly throughout the probationary period, written reports and/or verbal reports, should the Board desire the latter, on his then-current treatment diagnosis, prognosis, course of treatment, maintenance of abstinence from controlled and mood-altering substances, his fitness and ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients, and his compliance with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Order and his PHP monitoring agreement.
- (4) Drug Screens.** Dr. Patel shall submit to periodic, unannounced blood, urine, saliva and/or hair collection for testing for the presence of alcohol and/or controlled and other mood-altering substances by the PHP or its designee. Unless and until this condition is modified or rescinded by the Board, he shall authorize and cause such physician or testing facility and/or the PHP to report the results of such drug screens to the Board not less frequently than quarterly throughout the probationary period.
- (5) Board Access to Treatment Records and Reports.** Dr. Patel shall, and does by his subscription hereto, authorize any physician or any institution at which he undergoes treatment for alcohol or other chemical abuse or dependency from which he may suffer or be diagnosed, as well as any physician under whose care he may come at such an institution who has or may hereafter evaluate, diagnose, treat or monitor him, to provide the Board with copies of all medical reports relating to Dr. Patel's history, examination, evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis and to provide the Board with written and verbal reports relative thereto. Dr. Patel expressly waives any privilege that may otherwise be afforded the disclosure of such records pursuant to state or federal law and shall immediately execute any authorization or release that may be necessary to permit the Board access to such records.
- (6) Continuing Medical Education.** Dr. Patel shall obtain not less than fifty (50) credit hours per year for the one (1) year of his probationary period through attendance at and participation in continuing medical education ("CME") programs accredited by the American Medical Association. On or before the anniversary date of the effective date of this Consent Order, Dr. Patel shall cause to be submitted

to the Board written certification of the CME programs and credits completed by him during the preceding twelve (12) months.

- (7) **Absence from the State/Practice/Effect on Probation.** Should Dr. Patel at any time during the period of probation ordered herein be absent from the state of Louisiana, relocate to and/or take up residency in another state or country, or discontinue practicing as a physician, for a period of thirty (30) days or more, he will so advise the Board in writing. In such instance, the probationary period ordered herein shall be deemed interrupted and extended for no less than the period of time during which he was not engaged in practice or was absent from the state of Louisiana; however, all terms and conditions may continue to be in effect as ordered or may be modified or altered as needed at the Board's discretion.
- (8) **Notification.** Dr. Patel shall provide a complete copy of this Order to each hospital, clinic, facility or other employer or prospective employer at which or for whom he provides services as a physician in this state.
- (9) **Cooperation with Board's Probation and Compliance Officer.** Dr. Patel shall immediately notify the Board's Probation and Compliance Officer of any change in his current home and professional addresses and telephone numbers and he shall direct all matters required pursuant to this Consent Order to the attention of the Probation and Compliance Officer, with whom he shall cooperate on all matters and inquiries pertaining to his compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order.
- (10) **Probation Monitoring Fee.** For each year of the probationary period Dr. Patel shall pay the Board a probation monitoring fee of Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars. Payment of the initial fee shall be due not later than sixty (60) days from the effective date of this Order. All subsequent annual payments shall be due on or before the anniversary date of the initial fee payment.
- (11) **Effect of Violation/Sanction/Resolution.** By his subscription hereto, Dr. Patel acknowledges that his receipt of written notification that the Board has received apparently reliable information which indicates his failure to comply with the requirements set forth by this Order in any respect shall, without the need for formal hearing or for providing him with any right to which he may otherwise be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. Rev. Stat. §§ 49:951 et seq., or which otherwise may be afforded to him by law, constitute his irrevocable consent to the immediate suspension of his license to practice medicine as a physician in this state pending a hearing before the Board and the conclusion of the administrative proceedings by issuance of a final decision following administrative adjudication of such charges; provided, however, that after the receipt of the written notification of suspension as provided for by this paragraph, on written motion to the Board filed by the suspended physician within 7 days of his or her receipt of the written notification, the suspended physician may request

CONSENT ORDER

In the Matter of:
Mitul Natu Patel, M.D.

Page 5

a preliminary hearing regarding the suspension order, which hearing shall be conducted according to the following procedures by a single member of the Board designated for this purpose. Upon such motion by the suspended physician requesting a hearing, the designated Board member shall schedule a hearing within 10 days of the motion by the suspended physician. Said hearing shall be conducted on written submissions by the parties filed 5 days before the telephonic hearing, and a telephonic hearing conducted by the designated Board member who shall, based on the written submissions and the telephonic hearing, issue a decision either sustaining or vacating the suspension order pending the issuance of a final order by the Board at the conclusion of the administrative proceedings."

(12) Certification of Compliance with Probationary Terms/Personal

Appearance. At least sixty (60) days prior to the conclusion of the probationary period imposed herein, Dr. Patel shall provide the Board with an affidavit certifying that he has complied with each of the terms of probation imposed by this Order and he shall contact the Board and arrange for a personal appearance before the Board or its designee at its meeting preceding the expiration of his probationary period. The probationary period and all of its terms and conditions shall be, and shall be deemed to be, extended and continued in full force and effect pending Dr. Patel's compliance with the requirements of this provision.

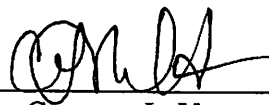
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms and conditions set forth by this Order by Dr. Patel shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the revocation and cancellation of Dr. Patel's license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana or for such other action as the Board may deem appropriate, as if such violations were enumerated among the causes provided in La. Rev. Stat. § 37:1285.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Consent Order shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a public record.

Signed at New Orleans, Louisiana, and effective on this 15th day of April, 2019.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

BY:



CHRISTY L. VALENTINE, M.D.
President

CONSENT ORDER

In the Matter of:
Mitul Natu Patel, M.D.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT

STATE OF ^{Montana} ~~LOUISIANA~~
PARISH OF Yellowstone

I, MITUL NATU PATEL, M.D., hereby acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to seek the advice and guidance of legal counsel with respect to this Consent Order and that all of its terms and conditions have been fully explained to me and/or that I fully understand them. I further acknowledge that I approve, accept and consent to entry of the above and foregoing Order without duress and of my own free will and accord, this 5 day of April, 2019.

Mitul Patel
MITUL NATU PATEL, M.D.

WITNESSES:

Rose Moore
Signature

ROSE MOORE
Typed Name

130 ALDERSON
Address

BILLINGS, MT 59101
City/State/Zip Code

R. Curt Simpson
Signature

R. Curt Simpson
Typed Name

2440 Village Lane #104A
Address

BILLINGS, MT 59102
City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5 day of April, 2019, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.

Hannah Martell
Notary Public (Signature and Seal)

Hannah Martell
Printed Name/Notary or Bar Number

