



LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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Web site: <http://www.lsbme.la.gov>

BEFORE THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

No. 2022-I-978

IN THE MATTER OF:

CONSENT ORDER

GIANLUCA CERRI, M.D.
(Credential No. MD.023597),
Respondent

Gianluca Cerri, M.D. ("Dr. Cerri") is a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana as evidenced by Credential No. MD.023597, who at all relevant times was engaged in the practice of emergency medicine in and around Lake Charles and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The above-entitled proceeding was docketed for investigation by the Investigating Officer of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") upon receipt of information alleging that Dr. Cerri, who has a prior history of alcohol dependence, may have had a return to use.

Specifically, a facility where Dr. Cerri was serving as a locum tenens physician reported to the Board that Dr. Cerri appeared intoxicated during a shift. Dr. Cerri subsequently completed an evaluation at a Board-approved facility, the results of which did not indicate that Dr. Cerri had in fact relapsed or had a return to use involving alcohol. However, the evaluation and related information obtained during this investigation indicated that Dr. Cerri was subject to a voluntary confidential monitoring contract with the Healthcare Professionals Foundation of Louisiana (the "HPFL") Physicians' Health Program (the "PHP") from March 2, 2012 through March 2, 2017, after being initially diagnosed with an alcohol dependence disorder in 2011. On February 15, 2017, prior to the expiration of that HPFL monitoring contract, Dr. Cerri was issued a prescription for Ambien by his primary care provider, which prescription was not reported to the HPFL as required by his HPFL monitoring contract. Dr. Cerri filled the prescription on March 3, 2017. Dr. Cerri was subsequently prescribed Adderall, Ambien, and Diazepam. The evaluators expressed concerns regarding Dr. Cerri's use of these prescriptions based on his prior history of alcohol dependence and failure to notify the HPFL regarding the issuance of a prescription for Ambien while his monitoring contract remained in effect. The evaluators recommended that Dr. Cerri consult with the HPFL regarding treatment options for possible substance use disorder relapse and continue to refrain from the use of any and all mood- and mind-altering substances including alcohol, Adderall, and Diazepam.

Dr. Cerri thereafter voluntarily attended an approved treatment facility and met with the Director of Investigations (“DOI”) for the Board to discuss these recommendations and his plans to resume practice. An addendum to the discharge report from the treatment facility stated that Dr. Cerri can practice medicine with safety and recommended that, following discharge, he refrain from practicing for a few weeks to establish his recovery program before returning to work. Dr. Cerri executed an appropriate HPFL monitoring agreement and established a recovery program. Subsequent addendums to the discharge report from the treatment facility clarified that no evidence indicated that Dr. Cerri filled or used prescribed controlled substances in an inappropriate manner while his previous HPFL contract was in effect and all his medications were prescribed and monitored by his primary care provider, who denied any concern for abuse. They further stated that Dr. Cerri showed no signs of dependence or withdrawal during treatment and that there were no benzodiazepines or amphetamines in his urine, blood or hair. Dr. Cerri discontinued use of the prescribed medication immediately upon request of the HPFL without any withdrawal symptoms.

Based on the above, and provided that he complies with all of the terms and conditions in his HPFL monitoring agreement and otherwise outlined below, the Board finds sufficient support for the conclusion that Dr. Cerri is capable of practicing medicine with skill and safety to patients.

As evidenced by his subscription hereto, Dr. Cerri acknowledges the substantial accuracy of the foregoing information and that the reported information would provide the Investigating Officer with probable cause to pursue administrative proceedings against him for violations of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act (the “Act”), La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(25),¹ and that such information, if proven upon administrative evidentiary hearing, would establish sufficient cause to take action against his license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana. In consideration of this finding, accordingly, and on the recommendation of the Investigating Officer, the Board has concluded that its responsibility to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of this state against the unprofessional, unqualified, and unsafe practice of medicine, La. R.S. 37:1261, will be effectively served by entry of the Order set forth hereinafter by consent.²

Recognizing his right to notice and administrative adjudication of any charges that may be asserted against him in these proceedings, at which time Dr. Cerri would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses and to present evidence on his own behalf 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. R.S. 49:975 *et seq.*, Dr. Cerri, nonetheless, hereby waives his right to notice and formal adjudication and, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D), consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. Dr. Cerri acknowledges that he hereby waives any right to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:950 *et seq.*, or which may be afforded to him by any other law to contest or appeal his agreement to or the force and effect of the Board’s investigation or this Consent Order in any court or other forum. By his subscription hereto, Dr. Cerri also hereby authorizes the Investigating

¹ The Board may take action against a medical licensee for “(25) Inability 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[.]” La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(25).

² The Board has considered the guidelines for minimum and maximum disciplinary dispositions and the aggravating and mitigating circumstances apparent from the particular facts and circumstances of this matter. *See* La. Admin. Code tit. 46, pt. XLV, §§ 9714; 9716.

Officer designated by the Board with respect hereto 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. R.S. 49:977.2. Dr. Cerri expressly acknowledges that the disclosure of such information to the Board by the Investigating Officer shall be without prejudice to the Investigating Officer's authority to proceed with the adjudication of an administrative complaint 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 foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. R.S. 37:1285 and La. R.S. 49:975(D);

IT IS ORDERED that the license of Gianluca Cerri, M.D., to engage in the practice of medicine in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by Credential No. MD.023597, be and the same is hereby, **OFFICIALLY REPRIMANDED** for the above-described conduct.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Cerri shall, within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date of this Order, pay to the Board a fine in the amount of Four Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$4,000.00).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, within six (6) months of the effective date of this Order, Dr. Cerri shall complete the free online course "Laws and Rules for Louisiana Physicians," which may be accessed through the following link, <https://www.lsbme.la.gov/content/board-orientations-online-courses>. Upon completion of the course, Dr. Cerri shall complete the verification process and obtain a certificate of completion that will be submitted to the Board or its designee by the course provider.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Cerri shall continue to maintain a monitoring agreement with the HPFL PHP for a period of no less than five (5) years from the Effective Date of this Consent Order. Dr. Cerri agrees that the HPFL PHP shall report any violation of his agreement to the Board or its designee. The Board may take disciplinary action against Dr. Cerri based on any future violation of his HPFL agreement, as if such violation was enumerated among the causes provided in La. R.S. 37:1285.

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

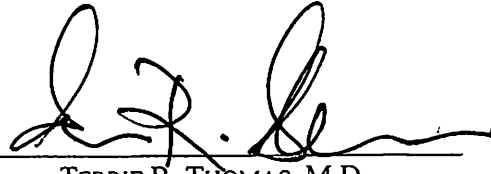
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Consent Order shall be effective as of the date it is approved and accepted by the Board as shown by the signature of the Board's representative below.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Consent Order shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a public record, and shall likewise be available on the Board's website, <https://www.lsbme.la.gov/>, under "Disciplinary Actions", and shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank ("NPDB").

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 22nd day of January, 2024.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:



TERRIE R. THOMAS, M.D.

President

(Acknowledgment and Consent on Following Page)

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT**

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

I, GIANLUCA CERRI, 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 29TH day of DECEMBER, 2023.

Gianluca Cerri

GIANLUCA CERRI, M.D.

WITNESSES:

Adrienne Mitchell

Signature

ADRIENNE MITCHELL

Typed Name

1331 TANGLEBRIAR AVE.

Street Address

BATON ROUGE, LA 708

City/State/Zip Code

Alena Cerri

Signature

ALENA CERRI

Typed Name

11406 THE GARDENS DR

Street Address

BATON ROUGE, LA 70810

City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
29TH day of DECEMBER, 2023, in the
presence of the two stated witnesses.

[Signature]

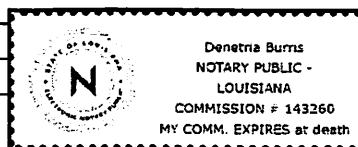
Notary Public (Signature)

Name: DENETRIA BURRIS

Notary/Bar No.: 143260

Commission expires: AT DEATH

☒ In accordance with LA RS 35:627 this document was notarized
remotely using two-way audiovisual technology as further authorized by
LA RS 9:2607 (Legal recognition of electronic signatures and contracts)
and RS 9:2611 (Notarization and acknowledgement).



Signature Certificate

Reference number: QU7WX-XKK3U-HYLAG-A4X9B

Signer	Timestamp	Signature
Alena Cerri Email: alena.cerri@gmail.com Sent: 29 Dec 2023 23:48:41 UTC Viewed: 29 Dec 2023 23:48:45 UTC Signed: 29 Dec 2023 23:49:08 UTC Recipient Verification: ✓Email verified 29 Dec 2023 23:48:45 UTC ✓Personally Known 29 Dec 2023 23:43:01 UTC		 IP address: 72.203.154.17 Location: Baton Rouge, United States
Gianluca Cerri Email: doctorc@cgemslc.org Sent: 29 Dec 2023 23:48:41 UTC Viewed: 29 Dec 2023 23:48:48 UTC Signed: 29 Dec 2023 23:49:13 UTC Recipient Verification: ✓Email verified 29 Dec 2023 23:48:48 UTC ✓Personally Known 29 Dec 2023 23:42:57 UTC		 IP address: 166.199.229.27 Location: Pineville, United States
Adrienne Mitchell Email: am81mitchell@gmail.com Sent: 29 Dec 2023 23:48:41 UTC Viewed: 29 Dec 2023 23:48:46 UTC Signed: 29 Dec 2023 23:51:28 UTC Recipient Verification: ✓Email verified 29 Dec 2023 23:48:46 UTC ✓Personally Known 29 Dec 2023 23:42:59 UTC		 IP address: 23.114.112.227 Location: Baton Rouge, United States

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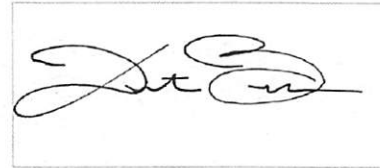
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