

IN THE MATTER OF
TERRI L. BLUME, PA-C

Respondent

License Number: C01535

* BEFORE THE
* MARYLAND STATE
* BOARD OF PHYSICIANS
* Case Number: 2223-0060B

* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

On April 13, 2023, Disciplinary Panel B (“Panel B”) of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”) charged **TERRI L. BLUME, PA-C** (the “Respondent”), License Number C01535, under the Maryland Physician Assistants Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 15-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol.).

Panel B charged the Respondent with violating the following provisions of the Act:

§ 15-314. Reprimand, probation, suspension, revocation.

(a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 15-315 of this subtitle, a disciplinary panel, on the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum, may reprimand any physician assistant, place any physician assistant on probation, or suspend or revoke a license if the physician assistant:

....

(41) Performs delegated medical acts beyond the scope of the delegation agreement filed with the Board or after notification from the Board that an advanced duty has been disapproved;

(45) Fails to comply with any State or federal law pertaining to the practice as a physician assistant[.]¹

¹ The Respondent was also charged under Health Occ. § 15-314(a)(3)(ii), but this charge is dismissed, as set forth in the Conclusions of Law.

On August 23, 2023, Panel B was convened as a Disciplinary Committee for Case Resolution (“DCCR”) in this matter. Based on the negotiations occurring as a result of this DCCR, the Respondent agreed to enter into this Consent Order, consisting of Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law, Order, and Consent.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Panel B finds the following:

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Panel B issues these disciplinary charges after a Board investigation determined that the Respondent performed the advanced duty of refilling patients’ intrathecal pain pumps² on at least 155 occasions without submitting a Delegation Agreement Addendum for Advanced Duties to the Board for its approval.

B. LICENSING INFORMATION

2. The Respondent was and is a physician assistant (“PA”) licensed in the State of Maryland. She was initially licensed in Maryland on August 18, 1993. Her Maryland license is current and is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2023.

C. 2021 CORE DUTIES AGREEMENT

² An intrathecal pain pump is a small device surgically implanted beneath the skin that consists of a pump and a catheter that delivers medicine directly to the spinal cord and nerves. The catheter, which is connected to the pump, is placed in the intrathecal space around the spinal cord. A reservoir inside the pump holds the medicine.

3. On or about June 1, 2021, the Respondent began practicing as a PA at a pain management group medical practice (the “Practice”) with locations in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Anne Arundel County, Maryland.³

4. On or about June 15, 2021, the Respondent submitted to the Board a “Physician Assistant/Primary Supervising Physician Delegation Agreement for Core Duties” application (“2021 Core Duties Agreement”).

5. Board regulations define “core duties” as “medical acts that are included in the standard curricula of accredited physician assistant education programs.” COMAR 10.32.03.02.B.(10).

6. The Respondent listed “Physician A”⁴ as her Primary Supervising Physician on her 2021 Core Duties Agreement. The Respondent also listed the Practice’s location in Baltimore City as her practice location.

7. The Respondent and Physician A attested on the 2021 Core Duties Agreement that it included only core duties to be delegated to the PA.

8. The Board approved the Respondent’s 2021 Core Duties Agreement on or about June 17, 2021.

9. In Section 3 of the Respondent’s 2021 Core Duties Agreement, it is noted:

NOT PERMITTED ON THIS APPLICATION – *“Advanced duties” are defined as medical acts that require additional training beyond the basic physician assistant education program required for licensure. (Examples include: Joint injections, Botox, stress tests)*

³ The Practice also has several locations in Virginia.

⁴ To ensure confidentiality and privacy, the names of individuals, patients and institutions involved in this case are not disclosed in this document.

TO APPLY FOR APPROVAL TO PERFORM ADVANCED DUTIES, YOU MUST HAVE AN APPROVED CORE DUTY DELEGATION AGREEMENT AND SUBMIT A DELEGATION AGREEMENT ADDENDUM. See the Board's Website for more instructions. (Emphasis in original).

10. Regarding advanced duties, Health Occ. § 15-302(c) provides in pertinent part:

§ 15-302. Physician delegations to physician assistants; delegation agreements.

(a) *In general.* - A physician may delegate medical acts to a physician assistant only after:

(1) A delegation agreement has been executed and filed with the Board; and

(2) Any advanced duties have been authorized as required under subsection (c) of this section.

...

(c)(2)(i) In any setting that does not meet the requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection, a primary supervising physician shall obtain the Board's approval of a delegation agreement before the physician assistant performs the advanced duties.

11. Board regulations define "advanced duties" as "medical acts that require additional training beyond the basic physician assistant education program required for licensure." COMAR 10.32.03.02.B.(2).

12. Board regulations state:

“[b]efore a physician may delegate medical acts and before a physician assistant may perform medical acts, the physician assistant and primary supervising physician shall file with the Board: (1) A delegation agreement on the Board-approved form[.]; B. The delegation agreement shall include the following information: . . . (6) The delegated medical acts which the physician assistant will perform, including: (a) Core duties; and (b) Any advanced duties[.]” COMAR 10.32.03.05.A(1); 10.32.03.05.B(6)(a) - (b).

13. Neither the Respondent nor Physician A jointly filed a Delegation Agreement Addendum for Advanced Duties with the Board to obtain approval for advanced duties.

D. THE COMPLAINT

14. The Board initiated an investigation of the Respondent after reviewing a complaint (the “Complaint”) from one of Physician A’s patients (the “Patient”), which was received by the Board on or about September 21, 2022. The Patient reported that, during an appointment at the Practice for an intrathecal pain pump refill on or about August 15, 2022, the Respondent told the Patient that Physician A “is gone, he sold his interest in the practice [and] left.”

15. The Patient reported that the Respondent attempted to refill the intrathecal pain pump, but the Respondent “was unable to find the part to refill [the] pump[.]” and “[s]he bent the needle in the attempt.”

16. The Patient ended the appointment and made another appointment with a different medical professional.

E. BOARD INVESTIGATION

17. On or about October 17, 2022, the Board obtained the Patient's medical records from the Practice pursuant to its investigation. The Board reviewed the medical records, which revealed that the Patient had been going to the Practice for management of her intrathecal pain pump and other health conditions since approximately March 2020. From March 2020 until July 2022, Physician A refilled the Patient's intrathecal pain pump.

18. On or about August 15, 2022, the Patient saw the Respondent at the Practice for a refill of her intrathecal pain pump. In the office note for the visit, the Respondent wrote that the Patient was "here for pump refills." The Respondent wrote, "Unsuccessful attempt to enter pump access port. Patient wanted me to stop." The office note was signed only by the Respondent.

19. On or about November 18, 2022, the Board issued a *subpoena duces tecum* to the Practice, which directed it to transmit to the Board within 10 business days "a copy of the complete unredacted personnel/human resources file of" the Respondent and "a listing of any and all patients treated by [the Respondent] for injecting/filling intrathecal pain pump[s] . . . from June 17, 2021 to the present[.]"

20. The Respondent's personnel/human resources file from the Practice revealed that the Respondent began her employment at the Practice as a PA on or about June 1, 2021.

21. The Practice's listing of any and all patients treated by the Respondent for injecting and/or filling intrathecal pain pumps from June 17, 2021 to the present revealed that the Respondent treated patients for injecting or refilling their intrathecal pain pumps on approximately 155 occasions between June 2021 and December 2022.

F. THE RESPONDENT’S RESPONSE

22. By letter dated December 7, 2022, the Board informed the Respondent of the Complaint and provided her with an opportunity to respond. On or about December 20, 2022, the Respondent, through counsel, provided her written response. In her response, the Respondent’s counsel stated:

As part of her practice at [the Practice], [the Respondent] manages patients who have intrathecal pain pumps. Refilling, reprogramming and placing appropriate orders related to intrathecal pain pumps is something that [the Respondent] has done throughout the course of her practice as a physician assistant in a neurological and pain management practice setting—even prior to her employment at [the Practice]. . . . Once [the Respondent began working at [the Practice], managing patients with intrathecal pain pumps became a more frequent portion of her practice than it had been in the past.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the Findings of Fact, Disciplinary Panel B of the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent: failed to comply with any State or federal law pertaining to the practice as a physician assistant, in violation of Health Occ. § 15-314(a)(45). Concerning Health Occ. § 15-314(a)(45), the Respondent failed to comply with the following State laws: Health Occ. § 15-302(a)(1), (2), and (c)(2)(i); and COMAR 10.32.03.05A(1), and B(6)(a) – (b). The Health Occ. § 15-314(a)(3)(ii) charge is dismissed.

ORDER

It is, thus, by Disciplinary Panel B of the Board, hereby:

ORDERED that the Respondent Terri L. Blume, PA-C, is **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that, within **ONE (1) YEAR** of the effective date of this Consent Order, the Respondent shall pay a civil fine of **TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2500.00)**. The Payment shall be by money order or bank certified check made payable to the Maryland Board of Physicians and mailed to P.O. Box 37217, Baltimore, Maryland 21297. The Board will not renew or reinstate the Respondent's license if the Respondent fails to timely pay the fine to the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that the effective date of the Consent Order is the date the Consent Order is signed by the Executive Director of the Board or her designee. The Executive Director or her designee signs the Consent Order on behalf of the disciplinary panel which has imposed the terms and conditions of this Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that this Consent Order is a public document. *See* Health Occ. §§ 1-607, 14-411.1(b)(2) and Gen. Prov. § 4-333(b)(6).

Signature On File

09/20/2023
Date

Christine A. Farrelly, Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Physicians

CONSENT

I, Terri L. Blume, PA-C, acknowledge that I have consulted with counsel before signing this document.

By this Consent, I agree to be bound by this Consent Order and all its terms and conditions and understand that the disciplinary panel will not entertain any request for amendments or modifications to any condition.

I assert that I am aware of my right to a formal evidentiary hearing, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 15-315 and Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §§ 10-201 *et seq.* concerning the charges. I waive this right and have elected to sign this Consent Order instead.

I acknowledge the validity and enforceability of this Consent Order as if entered after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections as provided by law. I waive those procedural

and substantive protections. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the disciplinary panel to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I voluntarily enter into and agree to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the Consent Order as a resolution of the charges. I waive any right to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Order set out in the Consent Order. I waive all rights to appeal this Consent Order.

I sign this Consent Order, without reservation, and fully understand the language and meaning of its terms.

9-14-2020
Date

Signature On File

Terri L. Blume, PA-C
Respondent

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF Baltimore

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 14th day of September, 2023, before me, a Notary Public of the foregoing State and City/County, did personally appear Terri L. Blume, PA-C, and made oath in due form of law that signing the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESSTH my hand and notarial seal.



Vicki Woolfenden
Notary Public

My commission expires: 4/22/21