

<p><b>IN THE MATTER OF</b></p> <p><b>SWETCHA LANKAPALLI, PA-C</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Respondent</b></p> <p><b>License Number: C06756</b></p>	<p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p>	<p><b>BEFORE THE</b></p> <p><b>MARYLAND STATE</b></p> <p><b>BOARD OF PHYSICIANS</b></p> <p><b>Case Number: 2223-0094 B</b></p>
<p>* * * * *</p>		

**CONSENT ORDER**

On April 25, 2023, Disciplinary Panel B (“Panel B”) of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”) charged **SWETCHA LANKAPALLI, PA-C** (the “Respondent”), License Number C06756, under the Maryland Physician Assistants Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 15-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2022 Supp.).

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:

.....

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

The provisions underlying the Health Occ. § 15-314(a)(45) charge are as follows:

**Health Occ. § 15-302 Delegation Agreements.**

.....

(b) The delegation agreement shall contain

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

- (6) An attestation of continuous supervision of the physician assistant by the primary supervising physician through the mechanisms described in the delegation agreement
  - ....
- (j) A physician may supervise a physician assistant:
  - ....
  - (2) As an alternate supervising physician if:
    - ....
    - (iii) The alternate supervising physician's period of supervision, in the temporary absence of the primary supervising physician, does not exceed:
      - 1. The period of time specified in the delegation agreement; and
      - 2. A period of 45 consecutive days at any one time [...]
    - ....
  - (l) (1) In the event of the sudden departure, incapacity, or death of the primary supervising physician of a physician assistant, or change in license status that results in the primary supervising physician being unable to legally practice medicine, an alternate supervising physician designated under subsection (b) of this section may supervise the physician assistant for not longer than 15 days following the event.

**Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.32.03.07 Supervising Physicians:**

....

B. An alternate supervising physician shall:

....

- (3) Accept supervising responsibility for periods of time not to exceed the lesser of:

- (a) The time period specified in the delegation agreement;  
or
- (b) 45 consecutive days.

C. Sudden Departure of the Primary Supervising Physician.

- (1) In the event of the sudden departure, incapacity, or death of a primary supervising physician, a designated alternate supervising physician may assume the role of primary supervising physician in order to provide continuity of care for the patients of the former supervising physician.
- (2) A physician who assumes the responsibility of primary supervising physician under § C(1) of this regulation shall submit a complete delegation agreement to the Board within 15 days of assuming the responsibility.

On September 27, 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:

1. At all relevant times, the Respondent was and is licensed to practice as a physician assistant in the State of Maryland. The Respondent originally was licensed to practice as a physician assistant (“PA”) in Maryland on February 7, 2018, under License Number C06756.

2. On or about April 2, 2018, the Respondent began practicing as a PA at a dermatology clinic (the “Practice”) located in Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland. At all relevant times, the Practice was owned by Physician A and Physician B.

3. On or about April 18, 2018, the Respondent submitted to the Board a “Physician Assistant/Primary Supervising Physician Delegation Agreement for Core Duties” application (“2018 Core Duties Agreement”).

4. 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).

5. The Respondent listed Physician A<sup>2</sup> as her Primary Supervising Physician on her 2018 Core Duties Agreement. The Respondent also submitted to the Board a “Designated Alternate Supervising Physician Form” listing Physician B as her alternate supervising physician.

6. The Board approved the Respondent’s 2018 Core Duties Agreement on or about April 19, 2018.

7. On March 1, 2021, Physician A died. Thereafter, the Respondent continued to work at the Practice under the supervision of Physician B despite not submitting a new Core Duties Agreement.

8. Unaware of Physician A’s death, on November 16, 2022, the Board mailed a letter to Physician A to inform him that the 2018 Core Duties Agreement with the Respondent was “no longer active or valid” because Physician A did not possess an active license to practice medicine.

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<sup>2</sup> To ensure confidentiality and privacy, the names of individuals, patients and institutions involved in this case are not disclosed in this document.

9. On November 30, 2022, the Board received a “Delegation Agreement Addendum for Advanced Duties” (the “Addendum”) from the Respondent and Physician B.

10. On December 20, 2022, the Board wrote to the Respondent and Physician B that it could not process the Addendum because the Board had “no record of having received and approved or acknowledged the required Delegation Agreement for Core Duties nor its required \$200 application fee.”

11. On December 21, 2022, the Respondent submitted a new “Delegation Agreement for Core Duties” (“2022 Core Duties Agreement”) to the Board, listing Physician B as her Primary Supervising Physician.

12. The Board approved the Respondent’s 2022 Core Duties Agreement on or about December 21, 2022.

13. The Board then opened an investigation of the Respondent based on “information that [the Respondent] continued to practice as a physician assistant following the death of your primary supervising physician” and requested a written response.

14. On February 27, 2023, the Respondent submitted her written response, that also was counter-signed by Physician B. In the response, the Respondent stated she “continued to practice under the Alternate Supervising Physician. [Physician B] is designated as the Alternate Supervising Physician” on the 2018 Core Duties Agreement, and “believed I was still in accordance with the agreement.”

15. The Respondent also stated that Physician A and Physician B “shared ownership of the practice since the opening in 2009 until [Physician A’s] death. There has

one been one location for [the Practice]. Even though [Physician A] was the physician noted as the Primary Supervising Physician, they both equally shared the supervision of the defined core duties. As we reviewed the contract we did not see where written note was necessary of [Physician A's] death. Please accept our apologies for the misunderstanding.”

### **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 Health Occ. § 15-314(a)(45) (“Fails to comply with any State or federal law pertaining to the practice as a physician assistant.”) by failing to comply with the following State laws: Health Occ. § 15-302(b)(6), (j)(2)(iii)1, 2, and (l)(1); and COMAR 10.32.03.07B(3)(a), (b), and C(1), (2). 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 Swetcha Lankapalli, PA-C, is **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that, within **ONE (1) YEAR** from the date this Consent Order went into effect, the Respondent shall pay a civil fine of **ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1000)**. 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 Consent Order goes into effect on 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 Board Disciplinary Panel B; 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*

11/08/2023  
Date

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

**CONSENT**

I, Swetcha Lankapalli, 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.

***Signature On File***

11/02/2023

Date

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Swetcha Lankapalli, PA-C  
Respondent

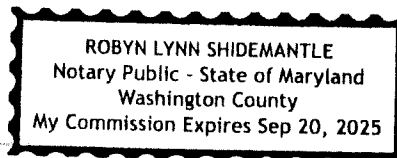


**NOTARY**

STATE OF Maryland  
CITY/COUNTY OF Frederick

I **HEREBY CERTIFY** that on this 2nd day of November, 2023, before me, a Notary Public of the foregoing State and City/County, did personally appear Swetcha Lankapalli, 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.



[Signature]  
Notary Public

My commission expires: 9/20/25