

**IN THE MATTER OF**  
**ERIC JACK SEIFTER, M.D.**

**Respondent**

**License Number: D29373**

**\* BEFORE THE**  
**\* MARYLAND STATE**  
**\* BOARD OF PHYSICIANS**  
**\* Case Number: 2222-0143B**

\* \* \* \* \*

**CONSENT ORDER**

On August 10, 2023, Disciplinary Panel B (“Panel B”) of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”) charged **ERIC JACK SEIFTER, M.D.** (the “Respondent”), License Number D29373, under the Maryland Medical Practice Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 14-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2020 Supp.).

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

**Health Occ. § 14-404. License denial, suspension, or revocation.**

(a) *In general.* - Subject to the hearing provisions of § 14-405 of this subtitle, a disciplinary panel, on the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum of the disciplinary panel, may reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or suspend or revoke a license if the licensee:

.....

(22) Fails to meet appropriate standards as determined by appropriate peer review for the delivery of quality medical and surgical care performed in an outpatient surgical facility, office, hospital, or any other location in this State[.]

On October 25, 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:

### **I. BACKGROUND**

1. At all times relevant to these charges, the Respondent was and is licensed to practice medicine in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was originally licensed to practice medicine in Maryland on May 25, 1983, under License Number D29373. His license is currently active and is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2023.

2. The Respondent is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, with a subspecialty certification in Medical Oncology, and maintains privileges at a health care facility<sup>1</sup> in Maryland.

3. At all times relevant to these charges, the Respondent provided internal medicine care and oncological services as a partner at a health care facility in Maryland.

### **II. THE COMPLAINT**

4. On February 22, 2022, the Board received a complaint (the "Complaint") from a patient's spouse (the "Complainant") who alleged that the Respondent was overprescribing Ativan<sup>2</sup> to his spouse. The Complainant raised concerns that the

---

<sup>1</sup>To maintain confidentiality, the names of healthcare facilities and individuals will not be identified in this document.

<sup>2</sup> Ativan (lorazepam) is a Schedule IV controlled substance that belongs to a class of medications called benzodiazepines used to treat anxiety disorders.

Respondent's overprescribing of Ativan to his spouse led to her sleeping pill addiction and subsequent memory issues.

### **III. BOARD INVESTIGATION**

5. The Board opened an investigation into the Complaint. In furtherance of the investigation, the Board notified the Respondent of its investigation, directed him to submit a written response to the Complaint, and issued a *subpoena duces tecum* for the medical records of nine (9) specific patients ("Patients 1-9") and the patient referenced in the Complaint.<sup>3</sup> The Board also obtained a peer review of the Respondent's practice and conducted an under-oath interview of the Complainant and the Respondent.

### **IV. PEER REVIEWS**

6. In furtherance of its investigation, the Board submitted the medical records of Patients 1-8 for a peer review.<sup>4</sup> Two peer reviewers, who are board-certified in Internal Medicine, independently reviewed the materials and submitted their reports to the Board.

7. In their reports, the two peer reviewers concurred that the Respondent failed to meet appropriate standards for the delivery of quality medical care in five (5) of the eight (8) patients reviewed.

8. Specifically, the peer reviewers found that for the five (5) patients, the Respondent failed to meet appropriate standards for the delivery of quality medical care for reasons including but not limited to the following areas:

---

<sup>3</sup> For confidentiality reasons, the names of the patients will not be identified by name in this document. The Respondent may obtain the identity of the patients by contacting the Board.

<sup>4</sup> Two of the patient medical records subpoenaed from the Respondent were not sent for peer review because they were actively being treated for cancer conditions.

- a. The Respondent failed to consider, evaluate, counsel and/or document the potential for abuse and risk factors present when prescribing opioids, benzodiazepines, and other controlled dangerous substances (“CDS”) to his patients. (Patient 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6)
- b. The Respondent prescribed CDS in large quantities and extended durations and without attempting to taper or reduce the dosages. (Patient 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6)
  - i. The Respondent failed to appreciate Patient 1’s mental status changes and continued to alternate prescribing alprazolam<sup>5</sup> to lorazepam with escalating doses and added increasing doses of zolpidem<sup>6</sup> to Patient 1’s regimen along with alprazolam.
  - ii. The Respondent failed to recognize Patient 5’s mental status changes and continued to prescribe both Ativan and Ambien.
  - iii. The Respondent continued to refill Ambien prescriptions for Patient 6 at the same dose and frequency for several years without follow up

---

<sup>5</sup> Xanax is the brand name for alprazolam and is a Schedule IV controlled substance that belongs to a class of medications called benzodiazepines used to treat anxiety and panic disorders.

<sup>6</sup> Ambien is the brand name for zolpidem which is a Schedule IV controlled substance. It is used as a sleep aid prescribed for short-term use for relief from insomnia or trouble falling asleep.

appointments and without attempting to taper or decrease the dose.

- c. The Respondent failed to maintain CDS agreements, failed to obtain and/or document urine drug screens, and by failed to evaluate the potential for abuse and diversion. (Patients 2, 3, 5 & 6)
- d. The Respondent failed to follow up with each patient closely, regularly, and frequently to monitor the patients' response to, and compliance with, the medications prescribed. (Patients 2, 3, 5 & 6)
  - i. The Respondent provided Patient 2 with several undated benzodiazepine and opioid prescriptions.
  - ii. The Respondent repeatedly prescribed opioids and benzodiazepines in large quantities to Patient 3, whom the Respondent knew had a history of alcohol abuse, without documented office visits, examinations, and/or diagnostic testing or screenings.
  - iii. The Respondent continued to prescribe escalating doses of benzodiazepines to Patient 5 despite evidence of tolerance and dependence.
  - iv. The Respondent continued to refill Patient 6's prescriptions for several years without documented office visits, examinations or studies.

9. The Respondent failed to discharge non-compliant patients who continued to abuse alcohol and/or failed to follow his recommendation and directions to seek other providers. (Patients 3 & 5)

10. The Respondent failed to properly review, monitor, and/or document the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program ("PDMP"). (Patients 2, 3 & 5)

### 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 meet the appropriate standards, as determined by appropriate peer review, for the delivery of quality medical and surgical care performed in an outpatient surgical facility, office, hospital, or any other location in this State, in violation of § 14-404(a)(22) of the Health Occupations Article.

### ORDER

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

**ORDERED** that the Respondent Eric J. Seifter, M.D., is **REPRIMANDED**; 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*

11/16/2023  
Date

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

## CONSENT

I, Eric J. Seifter, M.D., 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. § 14-405 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.

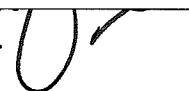
I acknowledge the validity and enforceability of this Consent Order as if entered after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural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

11/8/23  
Date

***Signature On File***

Eric J. Seifter, M.D.  
Respondent



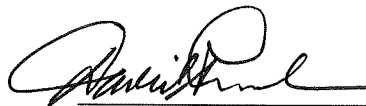
NOTARY

STATE OF MARYLAND

CITY/COUNTY OF HOWARD

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 8 day of NOVEMBER, 2023, before me, a Notary Public of the foregoing State and City/County, did personally appear Eric J. Seifter, M.D., and made oath in due form of law that signing the foregoing Consent Order was his voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESSTH my hand and notarial seal.



Notary Public

My commission expires

