

IN THE MATTER OF

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BEFORE THE

AHMAD O. ALJAMAL, M.D.

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MARYLAND STATE

Respondent

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BOARD OF PHYSICIANS

License Number: D97464

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Case Number: 2224-0016A

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**ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF LICENSE
TO PRACTICE MEDICINE**

Disciplinary Panel A (“Panel A”) of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”) hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDS** the license to practice medicine of **AHMAD O. ALJAMAL, M.D.** (the “Respondent”), License Number D97464, in the State of Maryland.

Panel A takes such action pursuant to its authority under Md. Code Ann., State Gov’t (“State Gov’t”) § 10-226(c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.) and Md. Code Regs. (“COMAR”) 10.32.02.08B(7), concluding that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Based on information received by, and made known to Panel A, and the investigatory information obtained by, received by and made known to and available to Panel A, including the instances described below, Panel A has reason to believe that the following facts are true:¹

¹ The statements regarding the Respondent’s conduct are intended to provide the Respondent with reasonable notice of the basis of Panel A’s action. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent in connection with this matter.

Introduction

1. Panel A is summarily suspending the Respondent's license to practice medicine after a Board investigation determined that he has a health condition or has engaged in conduct that affects his ability to practice medicine safely.

Background/Licensing Information

2. The Board issued the Respondent a license to practice medicine in Maryland on May 8, 2023, under License Number D97464, which was given an expiration date of September 30, 2024. The Respondent also has medical licenses in Michigan (issued June 24, 2021) and Nevada (issued May 5, 2023).

3. The Respondent is board-certified in internal medicine (2021).

4. At all relevant times, the Respondent resided in Nevada and was employed by a health care practice (the "Practice")² that provides telemedicine services to patients in Maryland. The Practice has offices in Nevada and Maryland.

Mandated 10-Day Report

5. On or about August 4, 2023, the Board received a Mandated 10-Day Report (the "Report") from a physician (the "Physician") who owns and operates the Practice.

6. The Physician stated that on or about July 25, 2023, the Practice "was forced to terminate Dr. Aljamal's employment for cause due to serious concerns with Dr.

² For confidentiality reasons, the identity of the Practice or any other individuals referenced herein, will not be disclosed in this document. The Respondent may obtain this information from the Board.

Aljamal's ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety because of Dr. Aljamal's abuse of illicit drugs (methamphetamine)."

7. The Physician further stated that in addition to the Practice's legal obligation to file the Report, it was doing so (a) to ensure that the Respondent does not cause harm to the public while his substance abuse problem persists; and (b) in hopes that the Board can assist with getting the Respondent the professional assistance he needs to address his substance abuse issue.

Board Investigation

8. After reviewing the above Report, the Board initiated an investigation of the Respondent. As part of its investigation, the Board, *inter alia*, obtained documentary information from the Practice; interviewed the Physician, the Practice's office manager and the Practice's Chief Executive Officer; reviewed the Respondent's written response to the allegations; and reviewed toxicology screening results obtained from the Practice.

9. The Board's investigation determined that the Practice hired the Respondent in or around March 2023 to be its lead physician at the Practice's Nevada office. The Respondent's services included providing in-office medical care to patients in the Practice's Nevada office and conducting telemedicine consultations/services for patients in other states, including Maryland.

10. The Respondent began working for the Practice on or about June 6, 2023. Within weeks of the Respondent's starting work, supervisory personnel at the Practice noted a "precipitous" change in the Respondent's personality and behavior. The Respondent's appearance became unkempt, his personality changed, he reported late to

work and began missing telemedicine appointments. After missing appointments, the Respondent failed to respond to Practice staff's attempts to reach him by telephone or text. Due to lateness issues, the Practice required the Respondent to report in-person to the Practice's office. The Respondent began missing 9:00 a.m. work times, however. When explaining one of his latenesses, the Respondent claimed that he was "up all night" tending to a sick puppy, which caused him to oversleep.

11. The Practice's office manager observed that the Respondent was reporting to work in a disheveled condition and counseled him on his appearance, and on two occasions made him get his hair cut. On one occasion, the Respondent failed to attend an important educational meeting that was convened for his training, despite being reminded previously of the meeting on several occasions.

12. The Practice issued the Respondent a written warning regarding his behavioral issues. The memorandum states:

REASONS FOR WRITTEN WARNING

The reasons for this warning are the following: TARDINESS, FAILURE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR DUTY WHEN SCHEDULED.

DETAILS OF ACTIONS

Dr. Aljamal has been FREQUENTLY late to shadow [the Physician] electronically. Dr. Aljamal has been routinely tardy for his own clinical duties; and on one occasion missed an electronic follow up appointment because "he slept right through it." Dr. Aljamal does not respond to text messages or calls from the nurses in a timely manner when on duty.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Effective immediately, Dr. Aljamal must be on site for the duration of his on-duty schedule, except for breaks and lunch time. Failure to be present

and on time for duty will result in further disciplinary action including termination of employment.

13. On Friday, July 14, 2023, the Practice had a gathering at the CEO's residence, which the Respondent attended. The Practice CEO reported concerns about the Respondent's behavior during the gathering and suspected that he was under the influence of a stimulant. The Practice CEO observed the Respondent having "spastic" or "psychomotor impairment, was "babbling" and had "pressed speech," and made "paranoid" statements about the Practice nursing staff's "conspiring against him." At one point during the gathering, the Practice CEO escorted the Respondent to the Respondent's car. When the Respondent opened his car door, the Practice CEO noted what he believed to be the smell of an illicit substance.

14. After the gathering, the Practice decided to confront the Respondent about his lateness, behavioral issues and possible substance abuse. The Practice CEO and office manager asked the Respondent to meet with them at a neutral location on Monday, July 17, 2023, at 7:00 a.m., so that they could address their concerns about his conduct. The Respondent arrived approximately 25 minutes late for the meeting, however.

15. The Respondent drove up to the meeting but had extreme difficulty in parking his vehicle, despite there being ample spaces in the parking lot. When the Respondent arrived, he was disheveled in appearance. The Practice CEO discussed concerns about the Respondent's attendance and poor grooming, and asked the Respondent to undergo toxicology screening. When the Practice CEO asked the Respondent to undergo toxicology screening, the Respondent placed his face in his hands and started sobbing. The

Practice's office manager observed that the Respondent was disheveled, sleepy and was "itching" and "picking" at his skin during the meeting.

16. After the meeting, the Respondent reported to the Practice's office and acted in an erratic manner, which raised concerns among Practice staff. The Practice's office manager then escorted the Respondent to a testing facility for toxicology testing. The Respondent tested positive for methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled dangerous substance.

17. By email dated July 19, 2023, the Practice terminated the Respondent's employment.

18. On or about August 2, 2023, three of the Respondent's family members contacted the Physician and informed him that they were unable to get in contact with the Respondent.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Based upon the foregoing Investigative Findings, Panel A of the Board concludes that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and that pursuant to State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2) and COMAR 10.32.02.08B(7), the Respondent's license is summarily suspended.

ORDER

IT IS thus, by Panel A of the Board, hereby:

ORDERED that pursuant to the authority vested in Panel A by State Govt. § 10-226(c)(2)(2021 Repl. Vol.) and COMAR 10.32.02.08B(7), the Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Maryland is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and

it is further

ORDERED that, during the course of the summary suspension, the Respondent shall not practice medicine in the State of Maryland; and it is further

ORDERED that in accordance with Md. Code Regs. 10.32.02.08B(7) and E, a post-deprivation initial hearing on the summary suspension will be held on **Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.** at the Board's offices, located at 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland, 21215-0095; and it is further

ORDERED that after the **SUMMARY SUSPENSION** hearing before Panel A, the Respondent, if dissatisfied with the result of the hearing, may request, within ten (10) days, an evidentiary hearing, such hearing to be set within thirty (30) days of the request, before an Administrative Law Judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings, Administrative Law Building, 11101 Gilroy Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031-1301; and it is further

ORDERED that a copy of the Order for Summary Suspension shall be filed by Panel A immediately in accordance with Health Occ. § 14-407(b)(2021 Repl. Vol.); and it is further

ORDERED that this is an Order of Panel A, and as such, is a public document. *See* Health Occ. §§ 1-607, 14-411.1(b)(2) and Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 4-333(b)(6).

10/18/23
Date

Signature On File

Ellen Douglas Smith, Deputy Director
Maryland State Board of Physicians