

IN THE MATTER OF

JESSICA GRECO, D.O.

Respondent

License Number: H77209

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BEFORE THE MARYLAND

STATE BOARD OF

PHYSICIANS

Case Number: 2222-0012 A

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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 of **JESSICA GRECO, D.O.** (the "Respondent"), License Number H77209, to practice medicine in the State of Maryland. Panel A takes such action pursuant to its authority under Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2) (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2020 Supp.), 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:<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The statements regarding the Respondent's conduct are intended to provide the Respondent with reasonable notice of the asserted facts. 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.

## **I. BACKGROUND**

1. The Respondent was originally licensed to practice medicine in Maryland on February 6, 2014, under License Number H77209. The Respondent has retained continuous licensure in Maryland since that time. The Respondent's license is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2022.

2. The Respondent is also licensed to practice medicine in Colorado and Oregon.

3. The Respondent is not board-certified.

4. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent practiced telemedicine at a telemedicine and virtual healthcare practice.

## **II. THE COMPLAINTS**

5. On or about July 12, 2021, the Board received a complaint ("Complaint 1") from a patient of the Respondent ("Complainant 1").

6. Complainant 1 stated that at a telemedicine appointment with the Respondent on June 29, 2021, "it was though [the Respondent] was doing six other things at the same time or was heavily medicated or intoxicated." Complainant 1 reported, among other things, that the Respondent repeatedly asked the same questions during the medical appointment; took notes that were inaccurate, incoherent, and contained gross misspellings; and failed to follow through and submit a prescription as she indicated she would during the appointment.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Complainant 1 attached documents to Complaint 1 which he stated were the medical records from his telemedicine appointment with the Respondent.

7. On or about July 19, 2021, the Board received another complaint ("Complaint 2") from the Respondent's treatment provider ("Complainant 2") who reported that the Respondent was receiving treatment for a condition that "impairs her activities of daily living and, likely, her ability to practice medicine."<sup>3</sup>

### **III. BOARD INVESTIGATION**

8. The Board conducted an investigation of the Respondent.

9. As part of its investigation, Board investigators conducted interviews of Complainant 1 and Complainant 2, obtained the Respondent's treatment records, and received the records from Complainant 1's telemedicine appointment with the Respondent (the "Telemedicine Appointment Records"). Board investigators also notified the Respondent of the investigation, provided the Respondent a copy of Complaint 1 and requested a written response.

#### **Interview of Complainant 1**

10. On or around August 10, 2021, Board investigators conducted an under-oath interview of Complainant 1.

11. Complainant 1 described his virtual telemedicine appointment with the Respondent as "extremely bizarre" where the Respondent "looked like she wasn't there." Complainant 1 stated that the Respondent asked only a few questions, but asked those same

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<sup>3</sup> Complainant 2 stated that Complaint 2 was pursuant to the duty to report under Maryland law, specifically COMAR 10.32.22.03(B) which states, "A reporting entity shall inform the Board of an chance that has been made, in whole or in part, because the reporting entity had reason to believe that the health care provider: (7) Suffers from a physical, a mental, or an emotional condition or impairment that affects the health care provider's ability to perform the individual's medical or surgical duties; (8) Is habitually intoxicated by alcohol or a controlled dangerous substance."

questions four and five times. Complainant 1 stated that each time he would provide the same answer, which would be followed by long periods of silence where he observed the Respondent typing.

12. Complainant 1 further stated that the Respondent told him that she was going to prescribe him a cough suppressant but never issued him a prescription. When Complainant 1 obtained the telemedicine appointment records, the Respondent's notes stated that she intended to prescribe him amoxicillin.

13. Complainant 1 also stated that the Respondent inaccurately documented their conversation during his appointment including, but not limited to, his symptoms and COVID-test status and described the Respondent's notes from the telemedicine appointment as "gibberish."

14. Complainant 1 also stated that he never experienced connectivity issues and the Respondent never indicated that she was experiencing connectivity issues during the telemedicine appointment.

### **The Telemedicine Appointment Records**

15. Board investigators obtained the Respondent's Telemedicine Appointment Records with Complainant 1.

16. The Respondent's Telemedicine Appointment Records contained misspellings, grammatical errors, incomplete statements, and repeated phrases, at times in succession, throughout the records.

## **Interview of Complainant 2**

17. On or around July 23, 2021, a Board investigator interviewed Complainant 2. Complainant 2 stated:

- a. She had treated the Respondent for approximately three (3) months and she last treated the Respondent on July 13, 2021.
- b. The Respondent is struggling with a diagnosis that has become "severe."
- c. The Respondent was admitted to the emergency room multiple times in the past month for treatment related to her diagnosis.

## **The Respondent's Medical Records**

18. The Board obtained a copy of Complainant 2's treatment records for the Respondent (the "Respondent's Treatment Records").

19. The Respondent's Treatment Records confirmed that the Respondent had a condition that is likely to impact the Respondent's ability to practice medicine safely and competently.

20. Among other things, the Respondent's Treatment Records referenced an incident in June 2020 where the Respondent blacked out after "she accidentally ingested medication and wine," physically assaulted two family members, and was criminally charged.

## **The Respondent's Two Assault Convictions**

21. The Board obtained records regarding the Respondent's criminal record.

22. The records stated that the Respondent was charged with multiple counts of assault and assault-related charges in Oregon.

23. The documents obtained by the Board investigators stated that the Respondent's assaulting of family members was related to her diagnosis.

24. The court records further stated that on April 15, 2021, the Respondent pled "no contest" to two (2) counts of Assault in the fourth degree<sup>4</sup> and was sentenced to one (1) year of probation. The terms of probation ordered by the judge, included terms related to alcohol.

#### **The Respondent's Three Admissions to the Emergency Department**

25. The Board obtained the Respondent's medical records and the related emergency medical services ("EMS") reports for the Respondent's three (3) hospital admissions on June 24, 2021 (the "June 24, 2021 Records"); June 27, 2021 (the "June 27, 2021 Records"); and July 14, 2021 (the "July 14, 2021 Records"). The Board also obtained the Respondent's employment records including, but not limited to, the Respondent's patient consultation list (the "Respondent's Patient Consultation List") which states the dates and times of the Respondent's telemedicine appointments with patients.

#### ***The Respondent's June 24, 2021 Admission***

26. The June 24, 2021 Records stated that the Respondent was taken to the hospital after she was found in the bushes and stated that she had memory issues.

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<sup>4</sup> On April 16, 2021, the Respondent self-reported her convictions for two (2) fourth degree assault convictions to the Board.

27. The June 24, 2021 Records also stated, among other things, that while at the hospital, the Respondent had a blood alcohol level of 370 mg/100 mL and medication was found in her belongings.

***The Respondent's June 27, 2021 Admission***

28. The June 27, 2021 Records stated, among other things, that:

- a. EMS responded to the Respondent's location at 5:55 p.m. after a family member of the Respondent contacted EMS and reported that the Respondent "ingested (*sic*) unknown amount of pills."
- b. Multiple medications were found in the Respondents bag.
- c. The Respondent "stated that she worked, drank wine, and then was at the hospital" and that she believes that she "blacked out."
- d. The Respondent was not discharged from the hospital until the following day.

29. The Respondent's Patient Consultation List states that the Respondent had telemedicine appointments with patients on June 27, 2021 around the time of her hospital admission.

***The Respondent's July 14, 2021 Admission***

30. The July 14, 2021 Records stated that the Respondent was admitted to the hospital after she was "found wandering around the streets" and stated that "she had a lot to drink."

31. The Respondent was found to have a "blood alcohol level of 240mg/100 ml or more" and released the same day.

32. The Respondent's Patient Consultation List states that the Respondent conducted two telemedicine appointments on July 14, 2021, the same day as her hospital, around the time of her hospital admission.

### **The Respondent's Response**

33. On or around September 3, 2021, Board investigators conducted an under-oath interview with the Respondent. The Respondent stated:

- a. Her telemedicine appointments occur "on demand," she usually signs in in the morning and signs off in the evening around 5 or 6 p.m., and she has twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) telemedicine appointments each day.
- b. In the past month, she has "drank a little bit more than usual" and her hospital admissions were due to "alcohol use."
- c. She is "working actively to improve things in [her] life and continue to not consume any alcohol and...weaning off [medication] actively and considering...an intensive outpatient program or an intensive inpatient program as a possibility to help [her] do those things."

### **CONCLUSIONS 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, pursuant to State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2) (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2020 Supp.) and COMAR 10.32.02.08B(7).



### **ORDER**

Based upon the foregoing Investigative Findings and Conclusions of Law, it is thus, by a majority of a quorum of Panel A of the Board, hereby:

**ORDERED** that pursuant to the authority vested in Panel A by State Govt. § 10-226(c)(2) 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 thus further

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

**ORDERED** that in accordance with COMAR 10.32.02.08B(7) and E, a post-deprivation hearing on the summary suspension will be held on **Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 12:15 p.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 (2014 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).

09/21/2021

Date

***Signature on File***

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