

IN THE MATTER OF
PRAMIT JITESH PATEL

Respondent

Unlicensed

* BEFORE THE
* MARYLAND STATE
* BOARD OF PHYSICIANS
* Case Number: 2220-0117B

* * * * *

CEASE AND DESIST ORDER

Pursuant to the authority granted to Disciplinary Panel B (“Panel B”) of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”) under Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. (“Health Occ.”) § 14-206(e)(1) and (2)(i) (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2019 Supp.), Panel B hereby orders **Pramit Jitesh Patel** (the “Respondent”), an unlicensed individual, to immediately **CEASE AND DESIST** from all activities associated with the practice of medicine in the State of Maryland, as defined in Health Occ. § 14-101(o).

The pertinent provisions of the Maryland Medical Practice Act (the “Act”), Health Occ. §§ 14-101 *et seq.*, under which Panel B issues this Order provide the following:

§ 14-101. Definitions.

- (o) *Practice medicine.* – (1) “Practice medicine” means to engage, with or without compensation, in medical:
 - (i) Diagnosis;
 - (ii) Healing;
 - (iii) Treatment;
 - (iv) Surgery.
- (2) “Practice medicine” includes doing, undertaking, professing to do, and attempting any of the following:
 - (i) Diagnosing, healing, treating, preventing, prescribing for, or removing any physical, mental, or emotional ailment or supposed ailment of an individual:

1. By physical, mental, emotional, or other process that is exercised or invoked by the practitioner, the patient, or both; or
2. By appliance, test, drug, operation, or treatment[.]

§ 14-206. Judicial Powers.

...

- (e) *Cease and desist orders; injunctions.* – A disciplinary panel may issue a cease and desist order or obtain injunctive relief against an individual for:
- (1) Practicing a profession regulated under this title or Title 15 of this article without a license;
 - (2) Representing to the public, by title, description of services, methods, procedures, or otherwise, that the individual is authorized to practice:
 - (i) Medicine in this State, in violation of § 14-602 of this title[.]

§ 14-601. Practicing without license.

Except as otherwise provided in this title, a person may not practice, attempt to practice, or offer to practice medicine in this State unless licensed by the Board.

§ 14-602. Misrepresentation as a practitioner of medicine.

- (a) *In general.* -- Unless authorized to practice medicine under this title, a person may not represent to the public, by description of services, methods, or procedures, or otherwise, that the person is authorized to practice medicine in this State.
- (b) *Certain representations prohibited.* -- Except as otherwise provided in this article, a person may not use the words or terms “Dr.”, “doctor”, “physician”, “D.O.”, or “M.D.” with the intent to represent that the person practices medicine, unless the person is:
- (1) Licensed to practice medicine under this title;
 - (2) A physician licensed by and residing in another jurisdiction, while engaging in consultation with a physician licensed in this State;
 - (3) A physician employed by the federal government while performing duties incident to that employment;

- (4) A physician who resides in and is licensed to practice medicine by any state adjoining this State and whose practice extends into this State; or
- (5) An individual in a postgraduate medical program that is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the Board in regulations while the individual is practicing medicine in the program.

INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS¹

Based on the investigatory information received by, made known to, and available to Panel B, there is reason to believe that the following facts are true:

I. BACKGROUND AND COMPLAINT

1. At all relevant times, the Respondent has never been licensed to practice medicine in the State of Maryland. He has never been licensed or certified by any health occupations licensing board in Maryland.

2. On or about October 28, 2019, the Board received a complaint from one of the Respondent's neighbors ("Individual A")² alleging that the Respondent represented to her and other neighbors in and around Hanover, Maryland, that the Respondent was an orthopedic surgeon. Individual A alleged that the Respondent "offered medical advice" to Individual A's son following an ankle injury.

¹ The statements regarding the Board's investigative findings are intended to provide the Respondent with reasonable notice of the basis of the Board'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.

² For confidentiality and privacy purposes, the names of witnesses, patients, health care providers, health care facilities, and other institutions are not disclosed in this document. The Respondent may obtain the identity of the referenced individuals, facilities, or institutions by contacting the assigned administrative prosecutor.

3. In a follow-up to her complaint, Individual A provided the Board with a screenshot of a LinkedIn³ profile for the Respondent, which listed his name as “Pramit Patel MD,” listed his occupation as “Director – Surgical Outcomes” for a company in the Baltimore area, and listed his education as “Doctor of Medicine-MD, Medicine,” in 2008 from a university in Missouri (“University A”).

II. BOARD INVESTIGATION

4. The Board opened an investigation of the Respondent based on Individual A’s complaint.

A. Interview of Individual A

5. As part of its investigation, Board staff interviewed Individual A under oath on or about November 10, 2019.

6. Individual A stated that the Respondent first introduced himself to her as an orthopedic surgeon when her family moved into the Respondent’s neighborhood about five years earlier. Individual A said that she did not question the Respondent’s claim until about six months earlier when another individual close to the Respondent told Individual A that the Respondent was not actually a medical doctor.

7. Individual A also said that her son had an ankle injury approximately two years earlier that the Respondent assessed and provided advice on how to wrap the ankle and treat it with rest, compression, and ice.

³ LinkedIn.com is a social and business networking website in which users can upload their resumes and curricula vitae. Its contents are user-generated.

8. Individual A also stated that the Respondent had filed a defamation lawsuit against her and several other neighbors in which the Respondent identified himself with an "M.D." after his name.

B. Respondent's Statements to Neighbors

9. As part of its investigation, Board staff spoke with acquaintances and other neighbors of the Respondent. These individuals stated the following:

- a. A neighbor and licensed physician ("Individual B") said that she searched for the Respondent's National Provider Identifier ("NPI") number but could not find one. She also explained that the Respondent circulated a curriculum vitae ("CV") to neighbors while he was running for election to the community Homeowners' Association ("HOA") and this CV clearly stated the Respondent was a physician.
- b. A neighbor ("Individual C") said that the Respondent told her that he worked in Columbia, Maryland, as an orthopedic surgeon. She also said that she viewed a LinkedIn profile for the Respondent that listed a medical degree from University A. She explained that the Respondent also identified himself as a physician on a nomination form that he submitted to run for HOA president.
- c. A neighbor ("Individual D") said that a couple of years earlier, the Respondent came to Individual D's house to review his son's x-rays after an ankle injury. Individual D explained that he obtained the Respondent's contact information from Individual A. The Respondent told Individual D that he did not see anything concerning on the x-rays and to have Individual D's son continue with physical therapy.

C. The Court Pleading

10. As part of its investigation, the Board obtained a copy of the complaint that the Respondent filed against Individual A, among others. The complaint was filed in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County on or about November 25, 2019. The caption of the case included among the plaintiffs, "Pramit Patel, M.D."

11. The complaint alleged that the defendants, among other things, made “various defamatory allegations . . . concerning each of the Plaintiffs,” which included “accusations that [the Respondent] is not a licensed physician and has misrepresented himself as such[.]” The complaint asserted as factual support that “[the Respondent] is a medical doctor, licensed to practice medicine in the State of Maryland. His license has never been suspended or revoked.”

D. Interview of Individual E

12. As part of its investigation, Board staff interviewed an acquaintance of the Respondent (“Individual E”) under oath on or about September 10, 2020. Individual E said that he had met the Respondent only a few times through Individual A.

13. In or around January 2018, Individual E injured his knee. He contacted the Respondent through an online messenger and asked to see the Respondent at his office. The Respondent responded through the online messenger that his practice was too busy to accept new patients but asked Individual E if his pain worsened when he put weight on it, if it was sharp pain, and if the pain increased when he shifted or twisted. According to Individual E, the Respondent stated that he believed Individual E’s injury was likely to be a meniscus injury and an MRI would be necessary to show the full extent of the injury. The Respondent also referred Individual E to a physician in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

E. Documents from Individual F

14. On or about September 11, 2020, the Board issued a subpoena to an individual who had a close affiliation with the Respondent (“Individual F”) for copies of any documents related to the Respondent’s education, training, experience, and licensure.

In response, Individual F produced the following documents, among others, all of which appear to have been forged documents:

- a. A Maryland medical license issued to “Pramit Jitesh Patel” with an expiration date of September 30, 2019.⁴
- b. A CV for the Respondent stating that, among other things, he was a “General Surgery Resident” at a university in Chicago, Illinois (“University B”) in 2008 and earned a “Medical Doctorate” from University A in 2008 “with Honors.”
- c. A copy of a framed diploma from University B stating that “Pramit Jitesh Patel, M.D. completed a four year [sic] program from June 23, 2008 to June 22, 2012 as a Resident in Orthopaedic Surgery.”
- d. A copy of a framed diploma from University B stating that “Pramit Jitesh Patel, M.D. has successfully completed a clinical fellowship in Sports Medicine July 2, 2012 through June 28, 2013.”
- e. A controlled dangerous substances (“CDS”) registration certificate from the Maryland Department of Health for “Pramit J. Patel MD” with an expiration date of September 30, 2020.⁵
- f. A Controlled Substance Registration Certificate from the Drug Enforcement Agency issued to “Pramit J. Patel” on September 13, 2014 and listing the address of an orthopedic practice in Columbia, Maryland.⁶
- g. A letter dated June 21, 2017 from the Chief Medical Officer of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to “Dr. Pramit J. Patel,” stating, among other things, “This letter serves as an initial notice of approval of your application for Maryland state medical licensure.”⁷

⁴ Board records show that the license number stated on this document is issued to another individual.

⁵ Records from the Maryland Office of Controlled Substances Administration, which issues CDS registration certificates, show that the registration number stated on this document does not exist.

⁶ The DEA registration number on this document is only 8 characters long, while DEA registration numbers are commonly 9 characters long. In addition, the practice listed on the registration certificate had no knowledge of the Respondent when contacted by the Board.

⁷ The Board directly issues medical licenses to qualified applicants. The Chief Medical Officer for the Department is not involved in those procedures or decisions.

E. University Records

15. On or about September 11, 2020, the Board issued a subpoena to University B to produce records related to the Respondent's education, training, or experience in a university program. On or about September 24, 2020, an individual from University B responded by email to Board staff stating, "From the student records perspective, our system indicates that no record found [*sic*]. We also reached out to staff managing resident/fellow records, and they couldn't find anything."

16. On or about September 17, 2020, the Board issued a subpoena to University A to produce records related to the Respondent's education, training, or experience in a university program. On or about October 20, 2020, University A provided transcripts to the Board showing that the Respondent earned a Bachelor of Arts in biology in May 2003 and a second Bachelor of Arts in economics in May 2006. There was no record of the Respondent's attending medical school or earning a medical degree from University A.

F. Attempts to Contact the Respondent

17. On or about January 10, 2020, the Board sent a letter to the Respondent's home address that notified him of the complaint against him and requested a written response from him within ten business days. The Board also issued a subpoena to the Respondent to produce copies of the Respondent's academic and professional degrees, a medical degree, any medical licenses, and any medical certificates. The Respondent did not provide a written response or documents.

18. On or about July 30, 2020, the Board issued a subpoena to the Respondent at this home address to appear by telephone for an interview with Board staff on or about August 6, 2020. The Respondent did not appear for the interview.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Investigative Findings, Panel B concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent: practiced medicine without a license in violation of Health Occ. § 14-601; represented to the public that he was authorized to practice medicine in the State of Maryland in violation of Health Occ. § 14-602(a); and used the terms “Dr.,” “doctor,” and “M.D.,” intending to represent that he practices medicine, in violation of Health Occ. § 14-602(b).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Investigative Findings and Conclusions of Law, it is, by a majority of the quorum of Panel B, hereby:

ORDERED that pursuant to the authority under the Maryland Medical Practice Act, Health Occ. § 14-206(e)(1) and (2)(i), the Respondent, Prमित Jitesh Patel, shall **IMMEDIATELY CEASE AND DESIST** from the practice of medicine; and it is further

ORDERED that this order is **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY** pursuant to Md. Code Regs. 10.32.02.11E(1)(b), and it is further

ORDERED that this is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* and Md. Code Regs. 10.32.02.11E(1)(a).

01/11/2021

Date

Signature on File

Christine A. Farrelly
Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Physicians

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING

The Respondent may challenge the factual or legal basis of this initial order by filing a written opposition, which may include a request for a hearing, within 30 days of its issuance. The written opposition shall be made to:

Christine A. Farrelly
Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Physicians
4201 Patterson Avenue, 4th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

A copy shall also be mailed to:

W. Adam Malizio
Assistant Attorney General
Maryland Office of the Attorney General
Health Occupations Prosecution and Litigation Division
300 West Preston Street, Suite 201
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

If the Respondent files a written opposition and a request for a hearing, the Board shall consider that opposition and provide a hearing if requested. If the Respondent does not file a timely written opposition, the Respondent will lose the right to challenge this Initial Order to Cease and Desist and this Order will remain in effect.