

IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE MARYLAND
STANLEY MICHAEL HIGGINS, M.D. * STATE BOARD OF
Respondent * PHYSICIANS
License Number: D76288 * Case Number: 2017-0191

* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

BACKGROUND

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the "Maryland Board") received information that Stanley Michael Higgins, M.D., (the "Respondent") (D.O.B. October 23, 1954), License Number D76288, was disciplined by the Colorado Medical Board (the "Colorado Board"). In a letter dated June 16, 2016, the Colorado Board disciplined the Respondent by admonishment.

Based on the above referenced Colorado sanction, the Maryland Board has grounds to charge the Respondent with violating the following provisions of the Maryland Medical Practice Act (the "Act"), under H. O. § 14-404(a):

- (a) 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:
 - (21) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority or convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country or disciplined by any branch of the United States uniformed services or the Veteran's Administration for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under this section,

The Maryland Board has determined that the acts for which the Respondent was disciplined in Colorado would be grounds for disciplinary action under H.O. § 14-404(a).

The grounds for disciplinary action under H.O. § 14-404(a) are as follows:

- (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 facility, office, hospital, or any other location in this State.

Based on the action taken by the Colorado Board, the Respondent agrees to enter into this Consent Order with the Maryland Board of Physicians, consisting of Procedural Background, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order of reciprocal action.

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds the following:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was a physician licensed to practice radiology in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was initially licensed in Maryland on or about June 20, 2013.
2. By letter dated June 16, 2016, the Colorado Board disciplined the Respondent by admonishment based upon his failure to correctly interrupt a patient's 2013 MRI as a thoracic spinal tumor.

A copy of the Colorado letter is attached hereto.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Maryland Board concludes as a matter of law that the disciplinary action taken by the Colorado Board against the Respondent was for an act or acts that would be grounds for disciplinary action under Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(22) had those offenses been committed in this state.

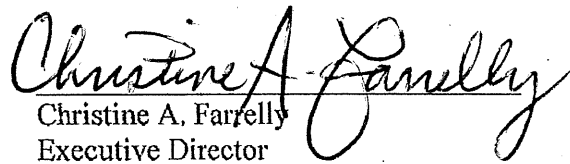
III. ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby:

ORDERED that the Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Maryland be and is hereby **REPRIMANDED**; and be it further

ORDERED that this **CONSENT ORDER** is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§4-101 through 4-601 (2014).

10/13/2016
Date


Christine A. Farrelly
Executive Director
Maryland Board of Physicians

CONSENT

I, Stanley Michael Higgins, M.D., acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to consult with counsel before signing this document. By this Consent, I admit to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and I agree and accept to be bound by this Consent Order and its conditions and restrictions. I waive any rights I may have had to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if entered into 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 acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I also affirm that I am waiving my right to appeal any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing.

I sign this Consent Order after having had an opportunity to consult with counsel, without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order. I voluntarily sign this Consent Order, and understand its meaning and effect.

Oct 10, 2016
Date

Stanley M. Higgins, MD
Stanley Michael Higgins, M.D.
Respondent

STATE OF Florida

CITY/COUNTY OF INDIAN RIVER

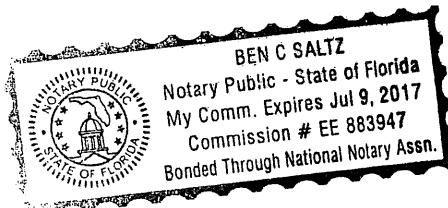
I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 10 day of October, 2016, before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public for the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Stanley Michael Higgins, M.D., and made oath in due form of law that the execution of the foregoing Consent Agreement was his voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESSETH my hand and my notarial seal

[Signature]
Notary Public

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES:

7-9-2017





COLORADO

Department of
Regulatory Agencies

Division of Professions and Occupations

Healthcare Branch
Colorado Medical Board

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

June 16, 2016

Case No: 2016-1241-B

Stanley M. Higgins, M.D.

Dear Dr. Higgins:

Inquiry Panel B ("Panel") of the Colorado Medical Board ("Board") has concluded its inquiry regarding your care and treatment of patient M.S. It was the Panel's decision not to commence with formal proceedings against your license to practice medicine. However, the Panel did vote to administer disciplinary action to you in the form of this letter of admonition.

As you recall, in March 2013, you interpreted the patient's lumbar magnetic resonance imaging ("MRI") as spinal stenosis. The patient, a 79-year-old-female, was diagnosed approximately one year later with a thoracic spinal tumor. The finding was visible on the March 2013 MRI, which revealed approximately 1.5 cm tail of a benign fibrous epidural thoracic tumor at the level of T6-T8 with the small extension down to the level of T9-T10.

After a review of all the information in this matter, the Panel found that your care and treatment of the patient fell below the generally accepted standards of practice for a physician, constituting unprofessional conduct in violation of section 12-36-117 of the Colorado Revised Statutes. Specifically, you failed to correctly interpret the patient's 2013 MRI as a thoracic spinal tumor. The Panel would urge you to be more vigilant when interpreting films to avoid future occurrences.



Stanley M. Higgins, M.D.
Case No. 2016-1241-B
June 16, 2016
Page Two

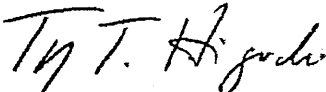
By this letter, the Panel hereby admonishes you and cautions you that complaints disclosing any repetition of such practice may lead to the commencement of formal disciplinary proceedings against your license to practice medicine, wherein this letter of admonition may be entered into evidence as aggravation.

You are advised that it is your right to have this case reviewed in an administrative proceeding. To do so, you must submit a written request within twenty (20) days after receipt of this letter. In your request, you must clearly ask that formal disciplinary proceedings be initiated against you to adjudicate the propriety of the conduct upon which this letter of admonition is based. If such request is timely made, this letter of admonition will be deemed vacated, and the matter will be processed by means of a formal complaint and hearing in accordance with the provisions of the Medical Practice Act.

Sincerely,

FOR THE COLORADO MEDICAL BOARD

INQUIRY PANEL B



Ty T. Higuchi, Ph.D., M.D.

Chair

TTH/lej

cc: Geoffrey D. Ringer, Esq.