

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

CHARLES D. PRATT, M.D.,  
RESPONDENT.

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FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

ORDER 0002304

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance<sup>1</sup> Case No. 12 MED 173

The parties to this action for the purpose of Wis. Stat. § 227.53 are:

Charles D. Pratt, M.D.  
1035 W. Ravine Lane  
Bayside, WI 53217

Wisconsin Medical Examining Board  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Division of Legal Services and Compliance  
Department of Safety and Professional Services  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board (Board). The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Charles D. Pratt, M.D., (dob November 4, 1965) is licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a physician, having license number 20-35785, first issued on July 22, 1994, and current through October 31, 2013. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 1035 W. Ravine Lane, Bayside, Wisconsin 53217.

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<sup>1</sup> The Division of Legal Services and Compliance was formerly known as the Division of Enforcement.

2. On April 5, 2012, at 9:17 p.m., Patient A arrived by ambulance at the Moundview Hospital Emergency Room, in Friendship, Wisconsin. Patient A's chief complaints were shortness of breath and difficulty speaking. At approximately 9:32 p.m., Respondent evaluated Patient A at which time he noted that she had no focal neurological deficits and that she had normal sensory, motor, speech and coordination. His impression was dyspnea. Respondent admitted Patient A and ordered a dyspnea workup, a chest x-ray, three serial DuoNeb nebulizer treatments and oxygen.

3. At approximately 9:52 p.m., a nurse noted that Patient A appeared to have less difficulty breathing but was still unable to speak.

4. At approximately 11:30 p.m., a nurse noted that Patient A was still unable to talk.

5. On April 6, 2012, at approximately 12:04 a.m., Respondent re-evaluated Patient A. He noted that Patient A was still talking in 1-2 word sentences after three DuoNeb treatments and that her speech was dysarthric. Upon removal of Patient A's oxygen facemask, Respondent observed that Patient A had a right facial droop and tongue protrusion. He also noted pronounced right arm and leg ataxia and weakness. Respondent diagnosed a stroke and ordered a CT scan (STAT) of the head.

6. The CT scan was performed at 12:30 a.m. The radiologist's impression was no obvious acute intracerebral abnormality, although he did note a minimal amount of decreased attenuation within the deep paraventricular white matter which was thought to be consistent with chronic small vessel ischemic change. Respondent spoke with one of Patient A's relatives who last saw the patient at 1:00 p.m. (on April 5<sup>th</sup>) at which time Patient A seemed normal. Respondent determined that because it had been greater than three hours since the relative had observed Patient A to be normal that she was not a candidate for thrombolysis. Patient A was transported to Meriter Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin, for further treatment of her stroke.

7. Respondent's conduct in his treatment of Patient A was below the minimum standards for the profession in that he failed to timely diagnose the stroke or, in the alternative, failed to timely initiate TPA therapy after diagnosing the stroke (even though his examination findings supported a normal neurological examination within a couple hours of the diagnosis of stroke).

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02(3), and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, constitutes unprofessional conduct as defined in Wis. Admin. Code §10.02(2)(h).

3. As a result of the above conduct, Respondent Charles D. Pratt, M.D., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02(3).

## ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. Respondent Charles D. Pratt, M.D., is REPRIMANDED.
3. The license to practice medicine and surgery issued to Respondent Charles D. Pratt, M.D., (license number 20-35785) is LIMITED as follows:
  - a. Within six months of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete 4 hours of medical education on the topic of diagnosis and management of strokes offered by a provider pre-approved by the Board's monitoring liaison, including taking and passing any exam offered for the courses.
  - b. Respondent shall submit proof of successful completion of the education in the form of verification from the institution providing the education to the Department Monitor at the address stated below. None of the education completed pursuant to this requirement may be used to satisfy any continuing education requirements that have been or may be instituted by the Board or Department, and also may not be used in future attempts to upgrade a credential in Wisconsin.
  - c. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's license and Respondent will be granted a full, unrestricted license after satisfying the Board or its designee that Respondent has successfully completed all of the ordered education.
4. Within 90 days from the date of this Order, Charles D. Pratt, M.D., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$1,000.00.
5. Proof of successful course completion and payment of costs (made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services) shall be sent by Respondent to the Department Monitor at the address below:


Department Monitor  
Division of Legal Services and Compliance  
Department of Safety and Professional Services  
P.O. Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935  
Telephone (608) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264  
[DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov)

6. Violation of any of the terms of this Order may be construed as conduct imperiling public health, safety and welfare and may result in a summary suspension of Respondent's license. The Board in its discretion may in the alternative impose additional conditions and limitations or other additional discipline for a violation of any of the terms of this Order. In the event Respondent fails to timely submit payment of the costs as ordered or fails to submit proof of successful completion of the ordered education as set forth above, Respondent's license (no. 20-35785) may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be SUSPENDED,

without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with payment of the costs and completion of the education.

7. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

by:   
A Member of the Board

2/25/13  
Date