

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY :
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :
 : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
THOMAS A. LONDERGAN, M.D., :
RESPONDENT. : ORDER 0002305

Division of Legal Services and Compliance¹ Case No. 12 MED 258

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

Thomas A. Londergan, M.D.
Gundersen Lutheran
1900 South Avenue
La Crosse, WI 54601

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 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 Thomas A. Londergan, M.D., (dob October 16, 1962), is licensed in the State of Wisconsin to practice medicine and surgery, having license number 20-35156, first issued on February 23, 1994, with registration current through October 31, 2013. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is Gundersen Lutheran, 1900 South Avenue, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601.

¹ The Division of Legal Services and Compliance was formerly known as the Division of Enforcement.

2. On April 16, 2008, Patient A, 49 years old, presented to Respondent with symptoms of pain on his left side and hematuria. Patient A's scheduled appointment was at 1:30 p.m. Respondent ordered a CT scan of the abdomen and pelvis without intravenous contrast. The radiology report was finalized that day at 1:59 p.m. and the radiologist's impressions were as follows:

4.8cm left renal mass. This is not frankly changed over nearly one year. There appears to be [sic] blood in the left renal pelvis and I question whether this mass has hemorrhaged.

3. That same day, Patient A presented to Respondent in urology for his 1:30 p.m. appointment. Respondent did not have the radiologist report at the time of the appointment and he did not access the report that day. Respondent dictated the following in his urology report at 2:18 p.m.:

A noncontrast CT scan was performed. This was somewhat difficult to interpret because of his morbid obesity. Both kidneys appear to be fairly normal structurally. I did not see any evidence of any stones or hydronephrosis or tumors. I did not see any evidence of any ureteral calculi, however, again it was difficult to see deep within his abdomen because of this obesity. The bladder did show some evidence of some filling defects down at the base of the bladder, presumably these represent blood clots.

Respondent suspected a left-sided kidney stone, which may have already passed, was the likely cause of the hematuria and gave Patient A a prescription for Potassium Citrate 30 mEq to take three times a day for the next month. He instructed Patient A to rest for the next 24 to 48 hours and push fluids in hopes that his urine would clear. He was to then return in a month for follow up. At no time did Respondent discuss the renal mass indicated in the radiology report.

4. On April 17, 2008, Respondent electronically viewed the CT report at 11:56 a.m. That same day, Respondent telephoned Patient A regarding his lab results and prescribed Allopurinol 300 mg p.o. q. day to take in addition to his potassium citrate. It is unclear whether Respondent electronically viewed the CT prior to his phone call to Patient A. At no time did Respondent discuss the renal mass indicated in the radiology report.

5. On May 15, 2008, Patient A presented to Respondent for follow up. Respondent's Impression included:

. . . 49-year-old male with a history of gross hematuria and left flank pain, probably related to uric acid diathesis. I told him that I would recommend that he stay on his Allopurinol long term, probably on a lifelong basis. I think he can go off of the Potassium Citrate at this point.

Respondent instructed Patient A to follow up with him on an as needed basis. At no time did Respondent discuss the renal mass indicated in the radiology report.

6. In April of 2011, Patient A was admitted to the hospital for lower back pain. At that time, the kidney tumor was identified and he was diagnosed with metastatic clear cell carcinoma of the kidney.

7. Respondent's conduct, as set forth above, tended to constitute a danger to the health, welfare and safety of Patient A by failing to timely diagnose and treat the renal mass present in 2008, as shown on imaging and documented by the radiologist.

8. Following the above events, Gundersen Lutheran implemented quality improvement measures with regard to radiology exams and "incidental" findings. The measure now requires the radiologist to call the ordering provider to discuss any "incidental" findings rather than just issue a report so that appropriate action and follow-up can be taken.

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, Respondent Thomas A. Londergan, M.D., engaged in unprofessional conduct pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § Med 10.02(2)(h) by failing to timely diagnose and treat a renal tumor.

3. As a result of the above conduct, Thomas A. Londergan, M.D. is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02(3).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent Thomas A. Londergan, M.D., is REPRIMANDED.

3. Within 90 days from the date of this Order, Thomas A. Londergan, M.D., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$800.00.

4. Payment of costs shall be made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services and sent to the Department Monitor at the address below:

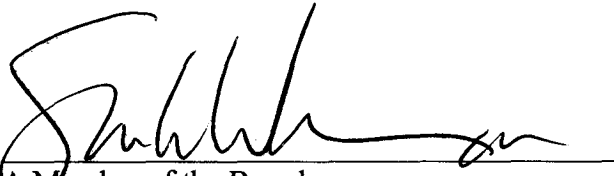
Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935
Telephone (608) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

5. 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 costs as ordered, Respondent's license (no. 20-35156) may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with payment of costs.

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

WISCONSIN MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

by: 
A Member of the Board

2/20/13
Date