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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
PIERRE E. SLIGHTAM, M.D., RESPONDENT.	:	LS9711203MED

The parties to this proceeding for the purposes of Wis. Stats. sec. 227.53 are:

Pierre E. Slightam, M.D.
229 Main Street
Wrightstown, WI 54180

Medical Examining Board
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708

Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708

The rights of a party aggrieved by this decision to petition the board for rehearing and to petition for judicial review are set forth in the attached "Notice of Appeal Information."

Five days of hearing were held in the above-captioned matter, the last of which took place on October 31, 1986. The parties submitted written briefs following the evidentiary phase of the hearing, all of which were received by December 15, 1986. On June 30, 1987 the examiner filed his Proposed Decision in the matter, and respondent filed objections to the Proposed Decision on or about November 6, 1987. The board considered the matter on November 18, 1987.

Based upon the entire record in this case, the Medical Examining Board makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Pierre E. Slightam, M.D., Respondent herein, of 229 Main Street, Wrightstown, Wisconsin 54180 is a physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery in the State of Wisconsin, license #13452. The license was granted on August 24, 1959 and limited by an Order of the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board dated January 28, 1983.

2. Respondent provided obstetrical services for his patient, referred to herein as Mary, from April 7, 1981 through August 4, 1981.

3. Prior to receiving obstetrical services from Respondent, Mary was evaluated for infertility by Gregory Smith, M.D. at the Medical Arts Clinic, S.C., 401 North Oneida Street, Appleton, Wisconsin. As part of this evaluation Mary kept basal body temperature charts and Dr. Smith performed an endometrial biopsy on October 28, 1980. The endometrial biopsy established that Mary was in approximately day 22 of her menstrual cycle.

4. Mary's last menstrual period prior to becoming pregnant was on September 28, 1980.

5. Dr. Smith had a pregnancy test performed on Mary on November 12, 1980. The test result was positive. Dr. Smith determined that Mary's due date was July 15, 1980.

6. Dr. Smith provided obstetrical services for Mary from November 12, 1980 through April 3, 1981.

7. Dr. Smith's medical records indicated the presence of edema and recorded the following blood pressures on the dates indicated:

Date	Blood Pressure
11/24/80	140/88
12/15/80	138/82
1/13/81	148/88
2/10/81	156/86
3/10/81	122/72
4/3/81	140/88

8. Subsequent to assuming responsibility for Mary's care on April 7, 1981, Respondent did not request Dr. Smith's medical records for Mary or consult with Dr. Smith concerning Mary's medical history or condition.

9. Respondent was uncertain of Mary's due date throughout the course of her pregnancy.

10. Mary's blood pressures as recorded in Respondent's medical records were as follows on the dates indicated:

Date	Blood Pressure
4/7/81	130/70
5/5/81	120/80
6/2/81	120/80
6/12/81	130/80

6/19/81	120/70
6/25/81	140/80
7/2/81	130/80
7/10/81	130/80
7/17/81	130/84
7/17/81	130/94
7/31/81	150/90
8/3/81	150/94

11. Respondent tested Mary's urine for protein on 5/5/81, 6/2/81, 6/19/81, 7/10/81, 7/27/81 and 8/3/81. The test results were negative on all occasions except on 8/3/81 when the test indicated a 2+ protein in her urine.

12. Over the course of her pregnancy, Mary experienced excessive weight gain and edema.

13. Mary, during an office visit on August 3, 1981, reported substantially decreased fetal movement to Respondent. Respondent assured Mary that everything was fine and did not conduct any tests to evaluate the status of the unborn child.

14. Mary began labor at approximately 8:30 p.m. on August 3, 1981. At approximately 1:00 a.m., on August 4, 1981 Mary called Respondent and went to St. Mary's Hospital in Green Bay, Wisconsin, where she was examined by hospital personnel. Respondent did not examine Mary at this time. It was felt that Mary was not in active labor so she returned home.

15. At approximately 5:30 a.m. on August 4, 1981 Mary returned to St. Mary's Hospital and was admitted with strong contractions every two to three minutes.

16. At approximately 6:00 a.m. on August 4, 1981 Respondent was notified of Mary's admission to the hospital and of her then existing condition. Respondent did not examine Mary at this time.

17. A urine test conducted upon Mary's admission to the hospital indicated a 1+ protein in her urine.

18. Mary was examined by hospital personnel at approximately 6:45 a.m. This examination disclosed meconium on the examination glove.

19. At 8:15 a.m. on August 4, 1981, Mary was dilated 1 cm. but had made no significant progress since the time of her admission. The contractions had decreased in intensity following her admission to the hospital and were of lesser intensity when she was at rest in bed.

20. At approximately 8:35 a.m. on August 4, 1981 Respondent was contacted and advised of Mary's condition.

21. Respondent examined Mary at the hospital at approximately 9:50 a.m. on August 4, 1981 and ordered pelvimetry.

22. The pelvimetry revealed low normal pelvic measurements with a bispinous diameter of 9 cm. and normal head size with the head at approximately station -4.

23. Mary's blood pressure as recorded in the hospital records for August 4, 1981 were as follows at the times indicated:

Time	Blood Pressure
Admission	160/110
6:00 a.m.	140/88
11:00 a.m.	142/90
1:15 p.m.	158/110

24. Hospital personnel were unable to hear any fetal heart tones at approximately 1:15 p.m. The fetal heart tones were last detected at 11:00 a.m.

25. Hospital personnel contacted Respondent at approximately 1:15 p.m. and advised him of the condition of Mary and her unborn child. Respondent ordered that an external fetal heart monitor be used to attempt to detect fetal heart tones.

26. Hospital personnel were unable to detect any fetal heart tones with the external fetal heart monitor at 1:30 p.m. and Respondent was contacted.

27. At approximately 2:00 p.m. Respondent contacted Dr. John Gallagher for a consultation.

28. Dr. John Gallagher arrived at the hospital within five to ten minutes after he was contacted by Respondent. Dr. Gallagher artificially ruptured Mary's membranes and applied an internal monitor by attaching an electrode to the unborn child's head.

29. When Dr. Gallagher ruptured Mary's membranes thick meconium fluid was present.

30. The internal monitor revealed a pulse consistent with the maternal pulse, but no fetal heart tones were detected.

31. At approximately 2:30 p.m. Dr. John Gallagher ordered that ultrasound be performed. The ultrasound detected no fetal heart motion.

32. Dr. John Gallagher was of the opinion that the patient was suffering from cephalopelvic disproportion and therefore, a cesarean section was performed and a stillborn 10 lb. 10 oz. male child was delivered.

33. Mary was preeclamptic during the course of her pregnancy.

34. Mary suffered from post-date syndrome, her pregnancy having gone post-date on approximately July 29, 1981.

35. During the course of his provision of medical care and treatment for Mary and her unborn child:

a. Respondent failed to take adequate steps to determine Mary's due date.

b. Respondent failed to diagnose, monitor and treat preeclampsia.

c. Respondent failed to diagnose, monitor and treat post-date syndrome.

d. Respondent failed to refer Mary or seek consultation when he knew or should have known that she presented a high risk pregnancy.

e. Respondent failed to properly respond to indications of fetal distress including decreased fetal movement on August 3, 1981 and observations of meconium at 6:45 a.m. on August 4, 1981.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Medical Examining Board has jurisdiction in this proceeding pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 448.02(3).

2. Respondent's conduct in providing medical care and treatment for Mary and her unborn child, as set forth in the Findings of Fact, constituted unprofessional conduct as defined in Wis. Stats. sec. 448.02(3), in that it fell below the minimum standards of acceptable medical practice reasonably necessary for the protection of the public.

3. Respondent's conduct in providing medical care and treatment for Mary and her unborn child, as set forth in the Findings of Fact, tended to constitute a danger to the health, welfare and safety of Mary and her unborn child within the meaning of Wis. Adm. Code sec. Med 10.02(2)(h), thereby constituting unprofessional conduct as defined in Wis. Stats. sec. 448.02(3).

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Pierre E. Slightam, M.D., shall not engage in the practice of obstretics and prenatal care.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all Board actions related to this matter that are inconsistent with the above paragraph are rescinded.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin this 20th day of Nov, 1997.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

By: Glenn Hoberg M.D.
Glenn Hoberg, D.O.
Secretary

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STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION AND LICENSING
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

In the Matter of the Disciplinary Proceedings Against

Pierre E. Slightam, M.D.,

Respondent.

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)
COUNTY OF DANE)

I, Kate Rotenberg, having been duly sworn on oath, state the following to be true and correct based on my personal knowledge:

1. I am employed by the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing.

2. On November 21, 1997, I served the Final Decision and Order dated November 20, 1997, LS9711203MED, upon the Respondent Pierre E. Slightam's attorney by enclosing a true and accurate copy of the above-described document in an envelope properly stamped and addressed to the above-named Respondent's attorney and placing the envelope in the State of Wisconsin mail system to be mailed by the United States Post Office by certified mail. The certified mail receipt number on the envelope is P 221 157 492.

Ronald L. Wallenfang, Attorney
Quarles & Brady
411 E. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee WI 53202-4497

Kate Rotenberg
Kate Rotenberg
Department of Regulation and Licensing
Office of Legal Counsel

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 21st day of November, 1997.

Donald R. Rutter
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin
My commission is permanent.

NOTICE OF APPEAL INFORMATION

Notice Of Rights For Rehearing Or Judicial Review, The Times Allowed For Each. And The Identification Of The Party To Be Named As Respondent.

Serve Petition for Rehearing or Judicial Review on:

STATE OF WISCONSIN MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708.

The Date of Mailing this Decision is:

November 21, 1997

1. REHEARING

Any person aggrieved by this order may file a written petition for rehearing within 20 days after service of this order, as provided in sec. 227.49 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*, a copy of which is reprinted on side two of this sheet. The 20 day period commences the day of personal service or mailing of this decision. (The date of mailing this decision is shown above.)

A petition for rehearing should name as respondent and be filed with the party identified in the box above.

A petition for rehearing is not a prerequisite for appeal or review.

2. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

Any person aggrieved by this decision may petition for judicial review as specified in sec. 227.53, *Wisconsin Statutes* a copy of which is reprinted on side two of this sheet. By law, a petition for review must be filed in circuit court and should name as the respondent the party listed in the box above. A copy of the petition for judicial review should be served upon the party listed in the box above.

A petition must be filed within 30 days after service of this decision if there is no petition for rehearing, or within 30 days after service of the order finally disposing of a petition for rehearing, or within 30 days after the final disposition by operation of law of any petition for rehearing.

The 30-day period for serving and filing a petition commences on the day after personal service or mailing of the decision by the agency, or the day after the final disposition by operation of the law of any petition for rehearing. (The date of mailing this decision is shown above.)