

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



Wisconsin Department of Regulation & Licensing Access to the Public Records of the Reports of Decisions

This Reports of Decisions document was retrieved from the Wisconsin Department of Regulation & Licensing website. These records are open to public view under Wisconsin's Open Records law, sections 19.31-19.39 Wisconsin Statutes.

Please read this agreement prior to viewing the Decision:

- The Reports of Decisions is designed to contain copies of all orders issued by credentialing authorities within the Department of Regulation and Licensing from November, 1998 to the present. In addition, many but not all orders for the time period between 1977 and November, 1998 are posted. Not all orders issued by a credentialing authority constitute a formal disciplinary action.
- Reports of Decisions contains information as it exists at a specific point in time in the Department of Regulation and Licensing data base. Because this data base changes constantly, the Department is not responsible for subsequent entries that update, correct or delete data. The Department is not responsible for notifying prior requesters of updates, modifications, corrections or deletions. All users have the responsibility to determine whether information obtained from this site is still accurate, current and complete.
- There may be discrepancies between the online copies and the original document. Original documents should be consulted as the definitive representation of the order's content. Copies of original orders may be obtained by mailing requests to the Department of Regulation and Licensing, PO Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935. The Department charges copying fees. *All requests must cite the case number, the date of the order, and respondent's name as it appears on the order.*
- Reported decisions may have an appeal pending, and discipline may be stayed during the appeal. Information about the current status of a credential issued by the Department of Regulation and Licensing is shown on the Department's Web Site under "License Lookup." The status of an appeal may be found on court access websites at: <http://ccap.courts.state.wi.us/InternetCourtAccess> and <http://www.courts.state.wi.us/wscca>.
- Records not open to public inspection by statute are not contained on this website.

By viewing this document, you have read the above and agree to the use of the Reports of Decisions subject to the above terms, and that you understand the limitations of this on-line database.

Correcting information on the DRL website: An individual who believes that information on the website is inaccurate may contact the webmaster at web@drl.state.wi.gov

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
THOMAS HUGH WILLIAMS, M.D.,	:	LS0903121MED
RESPONDENT.	:	

[Division of Enforcement Case No. 07 MED 261]

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

Thomas Hugh Williams, M.D.
1 West Lincoln Drive
Waupun, WI 53963

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

Wisconsin Medical Examining Board
Department of Regulation and Licensing
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

This disciplinary proceeding was commenced by the filing and service of a Complaint and Notice of Hearing on March 12, 2009. The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final decision of this matter, subject to the approval of the Medical Examining Board. The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Thomas Hugh Williams, M.D., Respondent, date of birth January 18, 1949, is licensed and currently registered by the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Wisconsin pursuant to license number 20205, which was first granted July 22, 1976.

2. Respondent's last address reported to the Department of Regulation and Licensing is 1 West Lincoln Street, Waupun, WI 53963.

3. Respondent is Board Certified in Family Practice and at the time of the events set out below through the present, Respondent has been employed by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections and was practicing at Dodge Correctional Institution in Waupun, Wisconsin.

4. In July 2006, Inmate RR had end stage renal disease due to diabetes and intravenous drug use, had been on dialysis for three years, was using insulin for his type II diabetes, had a newly diagnosed sarcoid, pleural effusions, peritoneal lesions, longstanding symptoms of diabetic neuropathy and ill-defined and poorly reproducible chronic pain in the knees, back, pelvis, elbows, and abdomen. Inmate RR also had a history of cocaine dependence and had a pattern of non-compliance with recommended medical care.

5. On July 5, 2006, Inmate RR was taken from Dodge Correctional and admitted at Waupun Memorial Hospital to have an arteriovenous fistula created in his left arm for dialysis access. The surgery to create the fistula was unsuccessful and Inmate RR was returned to Dodge Correctional.

6. Respondent was the physician responsible for Inmate RR's care at Dodge Correctional and examined him on July 6. At a post-operative visit on July 11, the surgeon noted: "[h]e has quite a bit of edema of the upper arm particularly. The wound looks good." On July 12, Inmate RR was found to be manipulating the dressing. On July 16, it was first noted that the incision was not well approximated. On July 22, a nurse noted a foul odor to the dressing and a small amount of yellow/grey drainage mixed with a large amount of red blood. Inmate RR refused to have the dressing changed that day.

7. A culture of the wound was taken on July 24 and preliminary results read by Respondent on July 25 were: "No PMNs, Many gram negative rods. Moderate gram positive cocci. 4+ gram negative rods." Respondent's visualization of the wound did not reveal symptoms of infection and Respondent concluded it was colonized but not infected and Respondent did not order any antibiotics because of his concern they were inappropriate given Inmate RR's many medical issues. On July 27, Respondent asked his supervising physician to evaluate Inmate RR and his pain medication. That physician noted there was no purulent discharge from the wound and no fluctuance and did not believe the wound was infected. Results of the culture which Respondent read on July 28 were: 4+ *Klebsiella oxytoca* and 4+ *Staphylococcus* species (coagulase positive).

8. On July 29, a nurse noted the patient was complaining of pain, there was active bleeding, the distal aspect of the wound had necrotic looking tissue, there were 3 gaping areas and the wound was swollen to touch and warm. Inmate RR was afebrile. The nurse reported the findings to the physician on call who ordered Bactrim DW bid for 10 days. Two days later, Respondent was advised by another nurse that the wound's appearance was unchanged. Inmate RR was afebrile and Respondent discontinued the antibiotic without seeing the patient because he believed there were not clinical signs of infection.

9. On August 1 at 1700, a nurse noted "Distal portion of incision line open with large area of dark jellylike (? necrosis?) tissue. Two other areas oozing blood." And noted that he was afebrile and complaining of nonspecific pain "all over." The nurse left a request for a physician evaluation. On August 2 at 1000, another nurse looked at the wound and reviewed her evaluation with Respondent and suggested he look at it. Respondent said he thought it would be difficult to debride "due to jelly" like nature and it should be left to dry and slough off. Respondent was on vacation from August 3 through 7 and another physician was responsible for Inmate RR's care during that time.

10. On August 4 at 0905, that physician asked nursing staff to contact the surgeon for an ASAP surgical consult regarding the wound. The surgeon called back at 0918 and told nursing staff that there was no treatment for the particular situation, that there is no grafting and "they look awful, but there's no danger." The surgeon's recommendation was that the wound be washed and a dry dressing be applied. The nurse noted: "Despite repeated efforts to discuss nursing staff concerns [the surgeon] states there is no reason to worry." The surgeon would not wait for the nurse to get the two nurses who had actually observed the wound so they could describe it. The surgeon did move Inmate RR's next appointment from August 24 to August 8. At 1315, the dressing was removed and a medium amount of bleeding and a foul odor was noted.

11. On August 8, Inmate RR was at University Hospital in Madison for a consultation with the Gastroenterology Department on another issue, when they examined the open wound on his left arm, diagnosed it as infected and admitted him for surgery. The physician noted:

"The left upper arm has a 20-cm x 10-cm area that is open down to the muscle sheath. There is a surgical incision that is still somewhat closed proximal to the larger wound, which is oozing and bleeding slightly. The tissue surrounding is very edematous. No pus is visible.

The fistula site on the left arm is approximately 10 cm long and 4 cm wide. It expands all the way into the muscle. There are no obvious signs of purulent discharge, although there is some creptis noted around the edges of the wound. The area is very tender to palpation. Capillary refill and power distal to the wound are intact.

There are signs of infection at the wound site. We will, therefore, start intravenous antibiotic treatment with ciprofloxacin, Zosyn and vancomycin. We will consult transplant access for evaluation of the dehiscence. The wound will need to be regularly checked and bandage changed on these occasions. We will follow up with labs and surgery recommendations."

12. A left upper extremity excision and debridement was performed, the wound was washed with antibiotics and a

wound VAC was placed.

13. Respondent, by failing to treat Inmate RR with antibiotics and by failing to see Inmate RR and personally evaluate the wound after July 27 through August 2, failed to meet the required standard of care for a physician in these circumstances.

14. Between October 23 and November 4, 2009, Respondent voluntarily took and completed the following series of courses related to wound assessment and care which were recommended by the Division. The courses are offered by Care On Call Education and are approved for a total of 7 hours of Category I continuing medical education. Respondent will have provide the Division with evidence of completion, prior to the date this resolution is presented to the Board for consideration.

- a. The Big Picture: Understanding How Wounds Happen and What Helps Them Heal.
- b. Accurate Wound Assessment and Documentation.
- c. Before You Dress: Understanding Wound Bed Preparation and Other Important Issues in Wound Management.
- d. Understanding Basic and Advanced Wound Care Products.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02(3), and has authority to enter into this stipulated resolution of this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. Respondent, by engaging in the conduct described above, is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02(3)(c).

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Thomas Hugh Williams, M.D., Respondent, is hereby REPRIMANDED for the above conduct.
2. Respondent having completed the relevant continuing education set out in Finding of Fact 14, no further education is required.
3. Respondent is prohibited from applying the educational credits listed in Finding of Fact 14 toward satisfaction of the continuing education required to be completed during any registration biennium.
4. Respondent shall, within one year of the date of this Order, pay to the Department of Regulation and Licensing the costs of this proceeding in the amount of \$2,100.00 pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.22(2).
5. Provide all requests, notices, reports and payments required by this Order to:

Department Monitor
Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935
Fax (608) 266-2264
Telephone (608) 267-3817

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 that Respondent fails to timely pay costs as ordered, Respondent's license SHALL BE SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of this Order.

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

Wisconsin Medical Examining Board

By: Gene Musser MD
A Member of the Board

11/18/09
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	STIPULATION
THOMAS HUGH WILLIAMS, M.D.,	:	<u>LS 0903121 MED</u>
RESPONDENT.	:	

[Division of Enforcement Case No. 07 MED 261]

It is hereby stipulated and agreed, by and between Thomas Hugh Williams, M.D., Respondent; John M. Bruce of Schober, Schober & Mitchell, S.C.; attorneys for Respondent; and John R. Zwieg, attorney for the Complainant, Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement, as follows:

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending disciplinary proceeding against Respondent's licensure by the Division of Enforcement. Respondent consents to the resolution of this matter by stipulation and without a hearing.
2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, he voluntarily and knowingly waives his rights, including: the right to a hearing on the allegations against him, at which time the state has the burden of proving those allegations by a preponderance of the evidence; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to call witnesses on his behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena; the right to testify himself; the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision; the right to petition for rehearing; and all other applicable rights afforded to him under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and any other provisions of state or federal law.
3. Respondent has obtained advice of legal counsel prior to signing this Stipulation.
4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Board. The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Board's Order, if adopted in the form as attached
5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall be returned to the administrative law judge for further proceedings. In the event that this Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by consideration of this attempted resolution.
6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Enforcement and any member of the Board ever assigned as a case advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of the Respondent or his attorney, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Board may have in connection with the Board's deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such case advisor may vote on whether the Board should accept this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.
7. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.
8. The Division of Enforcement joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

Thomas Hugh Williams, M.D.

Date

Respondent

1 West Lincoln Street

Waupun, WI 53963

John M. Bruce

Date

Schober, Schober & Mitchell, S.C.

Attorneys for Respondent

16845 W. Cleveland Avenue

New Berlin, WI 53151-3532

John R. Zwieg

Date

Attorney for Complainant

Division of Enforcement

Department of Regulation and Licensing

P.O. Box 8935

Madison, WI 53708-8935