

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



### Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services Access to the Public Records of the Reports of Decisions

This Reports of Decisions document was retrieved from the Wisconsin Department of Department of Safety and Professional Services 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 Safety and Professional Services 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 Safety and Professional Services 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 Safety and Professional Services, 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 Safety and Professional Services 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/wscqa>.
- 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 DSPS website:** An individual who believes that information on the website is inaccurate may contact the webmaster at [web@drl.state.wi.gov](mailto:web@drl.state.wi.gov)

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

---

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF : FINAL DECISION & ORDER  
: FOR REMEDIAL EDUCATION  
JAMES H. SHROPSHIRE, M.D., :  
: **ORDER 0001113**

---

Division of Enforcement Case No. 08MED398

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

James H. Shropshire, M.D.  
5001 Monona Drive  
Monona, WI 53716

Wisconsin Medical Examining Board  
PO Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services  
Division of Enforcement  
PO Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935

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 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

1. James H. Shropshire, M.D., date of birth April 11, 1961, 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 33770-20. This license was granted on September 24, 1992.
2. Dr. Shropshire's practice specialty is family practice and his most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board is 5001 Monona Drive, Monona, Wisconsin 53716.
3. Dr. Shropshire became Ms. A's primary care physician in 1997 and provided her with care into 2008. On May 21, 2008, Ms. A, who was then 52 years old, 250 pounds and a non-smoker was complaining of increased asthma symptoms and saw one of Dr. Shropshire's colleagues because Dr. Shropshire was not available. She was instructed to continue using

Albuterol as a rescue inhaler. The physician also prescribed montelukast for her asthma and told her to follow-up with Dr. Shropshire within a few weeks.

4. On June 19, 2008, Ms. A saw Dr. Shropshire for follow-up on her asthma and reported minimal improvement. She also complained of "pretty consistent menstrual spotting and bleeding" over the past month which had started in the past two months.

a. Dr. Shropshire started her on four 10 mg tablets of prednisone per day for 4 days for the asthma, and directed her to then taper down to none over 12 days. He also continued the other asthma medications.

b. Dr. Shropshire concluded the bleeding was the result of perimenopause. He prescribed 3 months of Jolessa a low dose extended-cycle oral contraceptive (OCP) consisting of 84 pink active tablets each containing 0.15 mg of levonorgestrel, a synthetic progestogen and 0.03 mg of ethinyl estradiol, and 7 white inert tablets (without hormones). Because it was determined that Jolessa was not on the patient's insurance's formulary, the next day Dr. Shropshire approved a change to generic levlen and skipping the placebo tablet. Levlen also contains 0.15 mg of levonorgestrel and 0.03 mg of ethinyl estradiol.

5. Deep vein thrombosis is a recognized side effect of these OCPs. On July 3, 2008, Ms. A called Dr. Shropshire's office and told a staff person she had been on the OCP for about a week and had been having cramping in her left calf for the past three days. She said there was no redness, swelling or warmth and she was not short of breath. She was told Dr. Shropshire would be advised and she would be called.

a. Dr. Shropshire was told of Ms. A's complaint and advised the RN that Ms. A should stretch the leg and if it swelled or became worse she should call again. The RN asked if Ms. A should stop the estrogen and Dr. Shropshire said no.

b. Because considerable time had passed and Ms. A had not yet received a response, she called the after-hours triage nurse who told her she should arrange a ride to the emergency department (ER) to be evaluated for blood clots.

c. Ms. A was arranging a ride to the ER when Dr. Shropshire's RN called Ms. A with Dr. Shropshire's directions to stretch and observe. The RN advised Ms. A that the after-hours nurses are very cautious in their advice and that Dr. Shropshire did not feel it was necessary for her to be seen at the ER. Ms. A followed Dr. Shropshire's recommendation and stayed home.

6. Over the following days, Ms. A began have trouble breathing, which she attributed to an exacerbation of asthma. Her breathing problems worsened and on July 11, 2008 she called Dr. Shropshire's office to discuss seeing a specialist for asthma and allergies sooner than her scheduled appointment of September 8, 2008. A staff R.N. contacted the Specialist's office at UWH allergy to request an earlier appointment time. Ms. A reported she was not doing well and was using her rescue inhaler much more frequently. The staff member talked to another physician and passed on to Ms. A the physician's recommendation that if she was having breathing difficulties which were not responding to treatments or if her condition worsened she should go to Urgent Care or the ER.

7. On July 12, 2008 Patient Ms. A woke up with great difficulty breathing. She went to Urgent Care, where she was evaluated and then transported by ambulance to the ER. She was found to have an elevated D-dimer of 4.3 and a CT scan was consistent with multiple pulmonary emboli. She was admitted for five days and discharge diagnoses included left lower extremity deep vein thrombosis and bilateral pulmonary emboli.

8. An informal complaint was received by the Medical Examining Board alleging Respondent engaged in conduct with Patient Ms. A that tended to constitute a danger to the health, welfare and safety of the patient in that Respondent exposed Ms. A to unreasonable risks of harm by failing to direct Ms. A to come into the clinic to be seen or go to Urgent Care for evaluation after complaints of cramping in her left leg.

9. The parties acknowledge the ongoing dispute regarding this allegation but in the interests of resolving this matter, agree to the Order set forth below.

10. The Board understands that there is an ongoing dispute between the parties, has made no determination with regard to this allegation, and the following Order does not constitute a disciplinary action against Respondent.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board has jurisdiction in this proceeding pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02.

2. The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board has authority to resolve this proceeding by stipulation without an evidentiary hearing pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

#### ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. James H. Shropshire, M.D., will, within six (6) months of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete six (6) hours of continuing medical education, which has been approved by the Board or its designee, which includes information on prescribing oral contraceptives and diagnosing deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary emboli. Within thirty (30) days of completion Respondent shall provide proof sufficient to the Board, or its designee, of satisfactory completion. Respondent is prohibited from applying any of the hours of education completed to satisfy the terms of this Order toward satisfaction of the continuing education required for any biennial registration renewal.

2. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.22(2), within six months of the date of this Order, Dr. Shropshire shall pay to the Department of Safety and Professional Services the costs of this proceeding in the amount of TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000.00).

3. All requests, notices, reports and payments required by this Order shall be provided to:


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

4. 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 Dr. Shropshire'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 Dr. Shropshire fails to timely submit payment of the costs as ordered or fails to comply with the ordered continuing education as set forth above, the Dr. Shropshire's license (#33770-20) may, in the discretion of the board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Dr. Shropshire has complied with payment of the costs or completion of the continuing education.

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

Wisconsin Medical Examining Board

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
A Member of the Board

9/21/11  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date