

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
	:	FOR REMEDIAL EDUCATION
ELLEN BLANK, M.D.,	:	
	:	ORDER 0002057

Division of Enforcement Case No. 10 MED 383

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

Ellen Blank, M.D.
2608 N. Summit Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211

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

Division of Enforcement
Department of Safety and Professional Services
1400 East Washington Avenue
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 decision 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. Ellen Blank, M.D., date of birth June 14, 1953, 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 20-22293, which was first granted July 13, 1979.

2. Dr. Blank's last address reported to the Department of Safety and Professional Services is 2608 N. Summit Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211.

3. At the time of the events set forth below, Dr. Blank's practice specialty was gastroenterology and pediatrics.

4. At the time of the events set forth below, Dr. Blank was employed as a physician at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

5. On September 13, 2010, Patient A, who is a minor, was brought to the Emergency Department with complaints of intermittent abdominal pain and hematochezia for three weeks. Patient A developed these symptoms beginning August 24, 2010 after being exposed to *Cryptosporidium*. Patient A was previously seen several times by a primary care physician. Patient A was then referred to the Pediatric Gastroenterology Clinic.

6. On September 15, 2010, Patient A presented to Dr. Blank with complaints of diarrhea, increased cramping, and noticeable blood in the stools. Dr. Blank ordered stool testing, urinalysis and urgent colonoscopy and endoscopy. Dr. Blank also prescribed acetaminophen (Tylenol) and Nitazoxanide (Alinia), 10 cc for three days.

7. Dr. Blank offered to admit the patient for further inpatient evaluation but the family declined.

8. On September 22, 2010, Patient A's father called Dr. Blank's office to report the Nitazoxanide initially helped with the cramping but the child was still having 10-12 bloody stools per day and the cramps were returning. After considering the results from using Nitazoxanide, the father declined a second dose of the medication.

9. On September 24, 2010, Patient A again presented to Dr. Blank who performed an outpatient colonoscopy. The initial results were reported as "evidence of moderate colitis in the ascending colon, transverse colon, descending colon, sigmoid colon and rectum." Dr. Blank also performed an outpatient esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) and the visualized findings were normal. Dr. Blank recommended waiting to adjust therapy pending the final colonoscopy report and EGD biopsy results.

10. Dr. Blank did not prescribe additional treatment, including steroidal enemas, while awaiting the results of the colonoscopy and EGD biopsy.

11. Dr. Blank indicated to the Division of Enforcement that she was concerned about her ability to monitor Patient A's response to steroidal enemas because Patient A's parents intended to pursue follow up care with another provider.

12. Initial treatment with steroidal enemas while awaiting the results of the colonoscopy and EGD biopsy was indicated by the patient's condition.

13. From September 27-28, 2010, Patient A's father called Dr. Blank's office twice to report the child was passing stool and/or blood every 30 minutes and the father requested medication. Staff informed the father that the pathology report results were not available yet and they were needed to order appropriate medication. The staff advised the father that they would inform Dr. Blank of the telephone conversations. Dr. Blank contacted the pathologist to ask for an expedited pathology report.

14. On September 29, 2010, Patient A's father was informed by phone that the pathology report showed gastritis and colitis. Dr. Blank prescribed: Omeprazole (Prilosec) 20 mg daily; Mesalazine (Asacol) 400 mg for the first day and 800 mg daily thereafter. A complete blood count (CBC) with differential and Reticulocyte count was also ordered. A one month follow-up appointment was made for October 29, 2010.

15. On October 24, 2010, Patient A was admitted to the hospital and was discharged on November 2, 2010, with the diagnosis of indeterminate colitis, possibly Crohn's, anemia, abdominal pain and diarrhea.

16. From November 3-6, 2010, Patient A was readmitted to the hospital for evaluation and treatment of colitis, rectal bleeding and abdominal pain.

17. Dr. Blank obtained 4.5 continuing education credits in pediatric inflammatory bowel disease in 2011.

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

1. The stipulation of the parties is accepted.

2. The Board recognizes the 4.5 hours of continuing education in pediatric inflammatory bowel disease completed by Ellen Blank, M.D. in 2011.

3. Within 6 months of the date of this Remedial Education Order, Dr. Blank shall take and successfully complete, four (4) additional hours of education in pediatric inflammatory bowel disease.

A. The course or courses attended in satisfaction of this Order must be pre-approved by the Medical Examining Board or its designee. Dr. Blank will be

responsible for locating a course or courses satisfactory to the Medical Examining Board and for obtaining the required preapproval of the course or courses from the Medical Examining Board or its designee.

B. Within 30 days of completion of this educational requirement, Dr. Blank shall, file an affidavit with the Medical Examining Board stating under oath that she has attended in its entirety the course or courses approved for satisfaction of this requirement along with supporting documentation of attendance from the sponsoring organization. Requests for preapproval, the affidavit of attendance and the supporting documentation of attendance shall be filed with the Department Monitor at the address in paragraph 5 below.

C. Dr. Blank will be responsible for paying the full cost of attendance at this course.

D. Dr. Blank may not apply any of the continuing education credits earned in satisfaction of this Order toward completion of the Wis. Stat. § 448.13 biennial training requirements.

4. Within 90 days of this Order, Dr. Blank shall pay costs of this proceeding in the amount of one thousand four hundred and ninety four dollars (\$1494.00).

5. Requests for preapproval, proof of successful course completion and payment of costs (made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services), shall be mailed, faxed or delivered to:

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

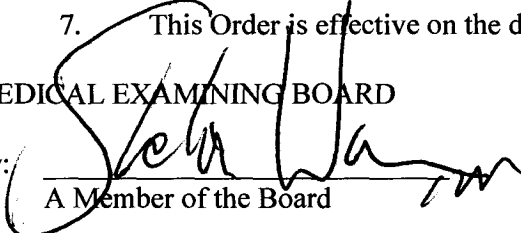
All certifications, affidavits, payments or other documents required to be filed with the Medical Examining Board will be deemed filed upon receipt by the Department Monitor.

6. Violation of any terms of this Order may be construed as conduct imperiling public health, safety and welfare and may result in a summary suspension of Dr. Blank's license. The Board in its discretion may in the alternative impose additional conditions and limitations for a violation of any of the terms of this Order. In the event Dr. Blank fails to timely submit payment of the costs as ordered or complete the education as ordered, Dr. Blank's license (No. 20-22293) may, in the discretion of the board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Dr. Blank has complied with payment of the costs or completion of the continuing education.

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

MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

By:


A Member of the Board

Date

9/19/12