

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

ANN E. STANGER, M.D.,
RESPONDENT.

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FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

00039 14

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 MED 207

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

Ann E. Stanger, M.D.
2984 Triverton Pike Drive
Fitchburg WI 53711

Wisconsin Medical Examining Board
P.O. Box 8366
Madison, WI 53708-8366

Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

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 Ann E. Stanger, M.D., (dob October 07, 1962), is licensed in the State of Wisconsin to practice medicine and surgery, having license number 31332-20, first issued on July 01, 1990, with registration current through October 31, 2015. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 2984 Triverton Pike Drive, Fitchburg, Wisconsin 53711.
2. At all times relevant to these proceedings, Respondent was a physician in a health clinic (clinic), located in Madison, Wisconsin.

3. Patient A is a female, DOB November 27, 1975. Between approximately April 1, 2003 and May 2014, Respondent treated Patient A.

4. Respondent diagnosed Patient A with hypothyroidism and hypoadrenalism. Despite results of laboratory testing that were within the normal range, Respondent prescribed a compounded version of liothyronine (T₃) and hydrocortisone. When Patient A disclosed her intent to become pregnant, Respondent advised Patient A to decrease her dose of the compounded medication.

5. Throughout Patient A's care, Respondent monitored Patient A's labs, knowing that Patient A adjusted medication and hormone doses based on her symptoms. Respondent justified giving Patient A discretion on her dosage because Respondent knew Patient A was a pharmacist.

6. Patient A never had biochemically proven hypothyroidism or hypoadrenalism.

7. Respondent's decision to prescribe liothyronine and hydrocortisone was based on symptoms, rather than objective results of laboratory testing.

8. Respondent's conduct in prescribing liothyronine and hydrocortisone based on symptoms and without objective evidence of hypothyroidism or hypoadrenalism, and her practice of allowing Patient A to adjust her own dosage based on symptoms, constituted care below the applicable standard.

9. On May 6, 2014, it was discovered that Patient A's dose of liothyronine was once equivalent to 400 mcg of thyroxine, which is three to four times the maximum recommended dose. Respondent's conduct in prescribing the dangerously high levels of liothyronin was below the applicable standard.

10. Respondent's substandard care created the unacceptable risk that Patient A would suffer arrhythmias, thyrotoxicosis and future osteoporosis, among other serious health concerns.

11. Respondent did not adequately reduce the amount of liothyronine and hydrocortisol prescribed to Patient A.

12. Respondent's failure to reduce the amount of liothyronine and hydrocortisol prescribed to Patient A was a substandard care.

13. Respondent's failure to reduce the amount of liothyronine and hydrocortisol prescribed to Patient A during her pregnancy created the unacceptable risk of fetal thyrotoxicosis, which could lead to arrhythmias, small for gestational age weight, and other serious fetal complications including suppression of the fetal thyroid.

14. Respondent failed to maintain minimum standards of documentation in Patient A's health care record; she failed to create and maintain records of prescription orders.

15. In resolution of this matter, Respondent consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

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 Ann E. Stanger, M.D., engaged in unprofessional conduct pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § Med 10.03(2)(b) by failing to conform to the standard of minimally competent medical practice which creates an unacceptable risk of harm to a patient whether or not the act resulted in actual harm to any person.
3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent Ann E. Stanger, M.D., engaged in unprofessional conduct pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § Med 10.03(2)(e) by failing to establish and maintain timely patient health care records, including records of prescription orders, under s. Med 21.03, or as otherwise required by law.
4. As a result of the above conduct, Ann E. Stanger, M.D., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02(3).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. Respondent Ann E. Stanger, M.D., is REPRIMANDED.
3. The medicine and surgery license issued to Ann E. Stanger, M.D., (license number 31332-20) is LIMITED as follows:
 - a. Within six months of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete ten hours of education on the topic of endocrinology and the treatment of hypothyroidism.
 - b. Respondent shall be responsible for obtaining the course(s) required under this Order, for providing adequate course(s) descriptions to the Department Monitor, and for obtaining pre-approval of the course(s) from the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board, or its designee, prior to commencement of the course(s).
 - c. The Board or its designee may reject any course(s) and may accept a course(s) for less than the number of hours for which Respondent seeks approval.
 - d. Within thirty (30) days of completion of each educational component, Respondent shall file an affidavit with the Department Monitor stating under oath that she has attended, in its entirety, the course(s) approved for satisfaction of this requirement along with

supporting documentation of attendance from the sponsoring organizations.

e. Respondent is responsible for all costs associated with compliance with this educational requirement.

f. None of the education completed pursuant to this requirement may be used to satisfy any other continuing education requirements that have been or may be instituted by the Board or Department.

g. This limitation shall be removed when Respondent satisfies the Board's designee that Respondent has taken and completed the remedial education as ordered.

4. Within 90 days from the date of this Order, Ann E. Stanger, M.D., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$780.00.

5. Proof of successful course completion and payment of costs (made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services) shall be sent by Respondent 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 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190
Telephone (608) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

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 Respondent fails to timely submit payment of costs as ordered or fails to submit proof of successful completion of the ordered education as set forth above, Respondent's license (no. 31332-20) may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be **SUSPENDED**, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with payment of the costs and completion of the education.

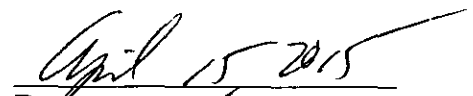
7. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

by:


A Member of the Board

Date



STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

ANN E. STANGER, M.D.,
RESPONDENT.

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STIPULATION

0003914

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 MED 207

Respondent Ann E. Stanger, M.D., and the Division of Legal Services and Compliance, Department of Safety and Professional Services stipulate as follows:

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation by the Division of Legal Services and Compliance. Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation.

2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, Respondent voluntarily and knowingly waives the following rights:

- the right to a hearing on the allegations against Respondent, 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 Respondent;
- the right to call witnesses on Respondent's behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena;
- the right to testify on Respondent's own behalf;
- 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 Respondent under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and other provisions of state or federal law.

3. Respondent is aware of Respondent's right to seek legal representation and has been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation. Respondent is represented by Attorney William F. Bauer.

4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board (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 then be returned to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not

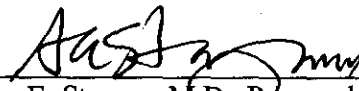
accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Board ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent or Respondent's attorney, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Board may have in connection with deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such 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. Respondent is further informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order would constitute an agency finding within the meaning of Wis. Stats. §§ 48.685 and 50.065. Should Respondent wish to work in a Wisconsin DHS-licensed facility in any role, she will need to pass a Rehabilitation Review through DHS prior to commencement of such employment.

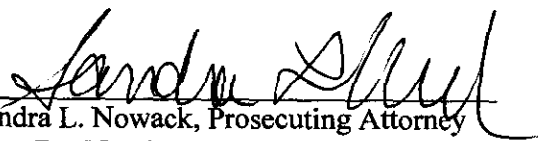
9. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.


Ann E. Stanger, M.D., Respondent
2984 Triverton Pike Drive
Fitchburg WI 53711
License no. 31332-20

3/19/15
Date


for William F. Bauer, Attorney for Respondent
Coyne, Schultz, Becker & Bauer SC
150 E Gilman St., Ste 1000
Madison WI 53703

3/24/15
Date


Sandra L. Nowack, Prosecuting Attorney
State Bar Number 1025643
Department of Safety and Professional Services
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190
Tel. (608) 266-8098
sandra.nowack@wisconsin.gov

3/27/15
Date