

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

STEVEN G. MERESS, M.D.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
:
:

0004393

Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Case numbers 11 MED 219, 11 MED 363 and 12 MED 039

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

Steven G. Meress, M.D.
Fox Valley Wellness Center
180 Knights Way
Fond Du Lac, WI 54935

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 these matters agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of these matters, subject to the approval of the Medical Examining Board (Board). The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in these matters adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Steven Gregory Meress, M.D. (dob October 11, 1953), is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice medicine and surgery, having license number 28559-20, first issued on July 1, 1987, with registration current through October 31, 2017. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is Fox Valley Wellness Center, 180 Knights Way, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935. Respondent is not currently certified by any board recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

2. On multiple occasions between 2010 and 2012, Respondent diagnosed a number of patients with "Lyme borreliosis complex" based on their symptoms and treated them with antibiotics administered in excess of recommended duration. Respondent failed to adequately document informed consent for the treatment modality in the patients' health care records.

3. Respondent agrees to offer to treat or treat "persistent Lyme disease" (including any condition so similar as to be a surrogate diagnosis), only if the patient signs a form entitled "REQUIRED DISCLOSURE AND CONSENT FOR DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF PERSISTENT LYME DISEASE," which has been pre-approved by the Board or its designee. Respondent agrees not to attempt in any way to defeat or minimize the message of the approved disclosure form with other documents or oral statements. Respondent will comply with all applicable provisions of Wis. Adm. Code, Chapter Med regarding informed consent and patient health care records, and will preserve the form in the patient's chart, and give a copy to the patient at the time of signing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in these matters 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 Steven G. Meress, M.D., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § Med 10.02(2)(u) (Nov. 2002), by failing to fully inform patients about the availability of all alternate, viable medical modes of treatment and about the benefits and risks of the treatments.

3. As a result of the above conduct, Steven G. Meress, M.D., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02(3).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. The medicine and surgery license issued to Steven G. Meress, M.D., (license number 28559-20) is LIMITED as follows:

- a. Within nine (9) months of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete six (6) hours of education on the topic of obtaining and documenting informed consent.
- 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 he 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.
3. Within nine (9) months from the date of this Order, Steven G. Meress, M.D., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$16,833.54.
4. 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:

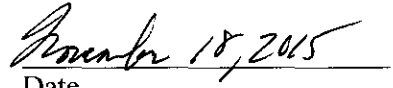
Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935
Telephone (608) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264
DPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

5. 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. 28559-20) 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.

6. 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

STEVEN G. MERESS, M.D.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

0004393

Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Case Numbers 11 MED 219, 11 MED 363, and 12 MED 039

Respondent Steven G. Meress, 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 pending investigations by the Division of Legal Services and Compliance. Respondent consents to the resolution of these investigations 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. Respondent is represented by Attorney Algis Augustine.

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 matters shall then be returned to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the

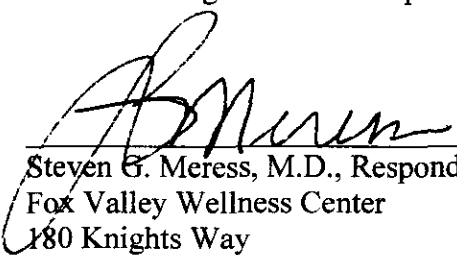
Stipulation
In the matter of disciplinary proceedings against
Steven G. Meress, M.D.
Case Numbers 11 MED 219, 11 MED 263 AND 12 MED 039

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.

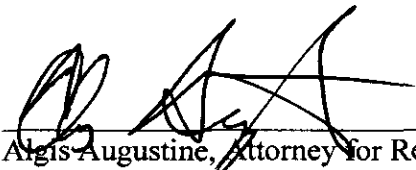
7. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

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



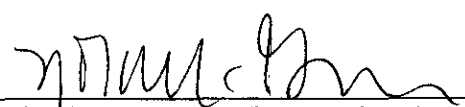
Steven G. Meress, M.D., Respondent
Fox Valley Wellness Center
180 Knights Way
Fond Du Lac, WI 54935
License no. 28559-20

10/30/2015
Date



Algis Augustine, Attorney for Respondent
Augustine, Kern and Levens, Ltd.
218 N. Jefferson Street, Suite 202
Chicago, IL 60661

10/21/2015
Date



Yolanda McGowan, Prosecuting Attorney
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

11/9/15
Date