

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF :  
 :  
 : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
 : FOR REMEDIAL EDUCATION  
KAREN E. REYNOLDS, M.D., :  
LICENSEE. :  
 : **ORDER 0007051**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 20 MED 141

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

Karen E. Reynolds, M.D.  
Waupun, WI 53963

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. Licensee Karen E. Reynolds, M.D. (DOB xx-xx-1970) is licensed by the state of Wisconsin to practice medicine and surgery, having license number 53827-20, first issued on December 11, 2009 with registration current through October 31, 2021. Licensee's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services is in Waupun, Wisconsin.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Licensee was employed as a surgeon at a hospital, located in Waupun, Wisconsin (Hospital A).

3. On March 30, 2020, the Department received a complaint from Patient A regarding a hiatal hernia surgery performed by Licensee on October 10, 2019 at the Hospital A.

4. Patient A was admitted to the Hospital A on October 10, 2019 to have a hiatal hernia repair performed by Licensee. During the surgery, Licensee cut multiple blood vessels causing bleeding that could not be stopped by Licensee.

5. Licensee did not complete the hernia repair due to the bleeding.

6. Patient A was sent by air to a hospital in Madison, Wisconsin (Hospital B).

7. The surgeon at Hospital B found three cut blood vessels once Patient A arrived in the operating room.

8. Medical records from Hospital B indicate Patient A underwent several procedures at Hospital B to correct the procedure performed by Licensee.

9. Patient A was in Hospital B from October 10, 2019 through October 24, 2019. After he was discharged, he had to be transferred to a center for rehabilitation. Patient A was not able to return home until November 8, 2019.

10. Licensee provided a statement, via her attorney, stating that during Patient A's surgery the following occurred:

a. Licensee noted a small amount of bleeding from around the esophagus despite the fact that she had not surgically manipulated any tissue in that area.

b. At that time in the procedure, the laparoscopic equipment failed, and the light source went dark, thus making camera visualization in the abdominal cavity impossible.

c. Licensee converted to an open procedure as quickly as possible. Upon opening the abdomen, Licensee noted venous blood within the abdominal cavity that appeared to be coming from a source above the diaphragm.

d. Licensee stated that as she was unable to see the surgical field in the interim, she is unable to clearly state what occurred during that time.

e. Licensee made a small defect in the diaphragm in hope of identifying and controlling the bleeding source.

f. Licensee was able to identify a small punctate tear, less than three millimeters, in what appeared to be the left hepatic vein. At that point, the overhead operating room lights went out and visualization was again compromised.

11. A Service Incident Report from the Hospital A indicates that surgical light in Operating Room 1 lost its capability of illumination during a case. A service tech was unable to troubleshoot the problem completely because it could not be done safely with Patient A was in the operating room. When the light was removed and evaluated, the findings showed that the harness was damaged and could no longer maintain functionality.

12. Licensee contends the treatment she provided was within the standard of care.
13. In resolution of this matter, Licensee consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. Within nine (9) months of the date of this Order, Licensee Karen E. Reynolds, M.D., shall at her own expense take and successfully complete two (2) hours of education on the topic of hiatal hernia repair and two (2) hours of education on the topic of retrohepatic IVC injuries as follows:
  - a. Licensee shall be responsible for obtaining the courses required under this Order, for providing adequate course descriptions to the Department Monitor, and for obtaining pre-approval of the courses from the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board, or its designee, prior to commencement of the courses.
  - b. The Board's monitoring liaison may change the number of credit hours and/or education topics in response to a request from Licensee. The monitoring liaison may consider the topic availability and/or hours of education when determining if a change to the ordered education should occur.
  - 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 the Licensee seeks approval.
  - d. Within thirty (30) days of completion of each educational component, Licensee shall submit proof of successful completion of the ordered education in the form of verification from the institution providing the education to the Department Monitor at the address stated below.
  - e. Licensee 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. Requests for course approval and proof of successful course completion shall be sent by Licensee to the Department Monitor at:

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

You may also submit this information online via DSPS' Monitoring Case Management System, here: <https://dpsmonitoring.wi.gov/>

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

WISCONSIN MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

by:   
A Member of the Board

21 October 2020  
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF :  
: : STIPULATION  
KAREN E. REYNOLDS, M.D., :  
LICENSEE. : ORDER 0007051

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 20 MED 141

Licensee Karen E. Reynolds, 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. Licensee consents to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation.

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

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

3. Licensee is aware of Licensee's right to seek legal representation and has been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation. Licensee is represented by Attorney Michael Johnson.

4. Licensee agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order for Remedial Education by the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board (Board). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order for Remedial Education without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Licensee waives all rights to any appeal of the Board's order, if adopted in the form as attached.

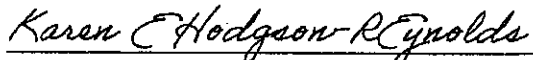
5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division

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 Licensee, 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 for Remedial Education.

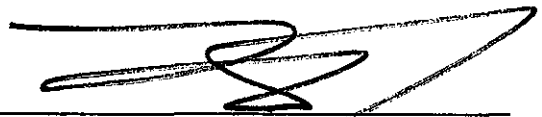
7. Licensee is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order for Remedial Education is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

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

  
Karen E. Reynolds, M.D., Licensee  
Waupun, WI 53963  
License no. 53827-20


09/10/2020

Date

  
Michael Johnson, Attorney for Licensee  
Otjen, Gendelman, Zitzer, Johnson & Weir, SC  
20935 Swenson Drive, Suite 310  
Waukesha, WI 53186

9/10/20

Date

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

9/11/2020

Date