

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 :
 : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
JAMES E. MEADE, M.D., :
RESPONDENT. : **ORDER 0007447**

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 MED 097

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

James E. Meade, M.D.
Watertown, WI 53098

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 James E. Meade, M.D., (Year of Birth 1962) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice medicine and surgery, having license number 39913-20, first issued on June 26, 1998, with registration current through October 31, 2021. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Watertown, Wisconsin 53098.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent practiced family medicine at his own clinic in Watertown, Wisconsin (Clinic).

3. On April 24, 2017, Patient A, a male born in 1976, presented to the Clinic as a new patient with a chief complaint of chest pain. Patient A's medical history was significant for heart

disease, heart failure, type 2 diabetes, a BMI of 38, diabetic neuropathy, asthma, sleep apnea, back surgery for spinal stenosis, and anxiety. Patient A was seen by a nurse practitioner who assessed an anxiety disorder, increased Patient A's dose of sertraline, and prescribed amitriptyline.

4. Between May 15, 2017 and June 15, 2017, Patient A returned to the Clinic four times for complaints such as gastrointestinal bleeding and stomach pain, fever and chills, cough, sore throat, headache, leg ulcers, and chest congestion.

5. On June 20, 2017, Patient A presented to Respondent with complaints of shortness of breath and chest pain. After performing an examination and reviewing lab work, Respondent diagnosed Patient A with acute bronchitis and ordered an EKG and referred him for a chest CT.

6. On July 5, 2017, Patient A returned to the Clinic complaining of anxiety. Patient A was seen by a nurse practitioner who charted that Patient A reported chronic chest pain and "doesn't want to have another heart attack." She assessed Patient A with a depressive disorder and prescribed 10mg of oxycontin per day to help control his pain.

7. On July 13, 2017, Patient A returned to the Clinic with complaints of breathing issues, anxiety, and lower back pain. Patient A reported he had been hospitalized the previous weekend for back pain likely due to spinal stenosis. Patient A was seen by a nurse practitioner who referred Patient A for an x-ray of his lumbar spine, discussed exercise, and encouraged using oxycontin only once daily.

8. On July 20, 2017, Patient A presented to Respondent with complaints of right-side pain when breathing and shortness of breath. Respondent's assessment was chest wall pain and he referred Patient A to physical therapy. Respondent also prescribed one (1) acetaminophen-oxycodone 325mg-5mg tablet to be taken 1-2 times per day for 30 days.

9. On August 7, 2017, Patient A's wife called the Clinic to report Patient A was in severe pain and was having difficulty urinating.

10. On August 8, 2017, Patient A presented to Respondent complaining of low back pain. Patient A reported that physical therapy was not helping his pain and his daily activities were affected. After reviewing the data which showed Patient A had a L4L5 disc bulge and a right paracentral protrusion, severe canal stenosis, and severe right and moderate left stenosis, Respondent assessed spinal stenosis and referred Patient A for a dynamic electromyography. Respondent also prescribed one (1) MS Contin 60mg extended-release tablet to be taken three times per day and suggested Patient A return to see him in 2-3 weeks.

11. On August 10, 2017, Patient A called the Clinic to report his back pain was slightly better, but his urinary issues worsened. Respondent prescribed one (1) ciprofloxacin 500mg tablet to be taken twice per day for 10 days and recommended that Patient A see urology if it was not better by August 14, 2017.

12. On August 11, 2017, Patient A called the Clinic to request an appointment for increased back pain. Respondent doubled Patient A's prescription of MS Contin to two (2) 60mg tablets three times per day without examining Patient A or ordering additional testing to determine the underlying cause of the pain. Respondent told Patient A to call the Clinic on August 14, 2017.

13. On August 12, 2017, Patient A expired. The Medical Examiner identified morphine toxicity as the cause of death and noted coronary artery disease (80% proximal stenosis of the left anterior descending coronary artery) as “other significant conditions.” In addition to morphine, the autopsy detected sertraline, diphenhydramine, bupropion, amitriptyline, and nortriptyline in the postmortem blood specimen. Patient A’s wife reported that the coroner verified the pill count and Patient A was not taking more MS Contin than prescribed.

14. 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 engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § Med 10.03(2)(b) by departing from or failing to conform to the standard of minimally competent medical practice which creates an unacceptable risk of harm to a patient or the public whether or not the act or omission resulted in actual harm to any person.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § Med 10.03(2)(c) by prescribing, ordering, dispensing, administering, supplying, selling, giving, or obtaining any prescription medication in any manner that is inconsistent with the standard of minimal competence.

4. As a result of the above conduct, Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02(3).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. Respondent is REPRIMANDED.
3. Respondent’s license to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Wisconsin (license number 39913-20) is LIMITED as follows:
 - a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall at his own expense, successfully complete four (4) hours of education on the topic of proper opioid prescribing and monitoring, and four (4) hours of education on the topic of the diagnosis and treatment of back pain offered by a provider pre-approved by the Board’s monitoring liaison, including taking and passing any exam offered for the course(s).
 - b. Respondent shall submit proof of successful completion of the education in the form of verification from the institution providing the education to the Department

Monitor at the address stated below. None of the education completed pursuant to this requirement may be used to satisfy any continuing education requirements that have been or may be instituted by the Board or Department.

- c. The Board's monitoring liaison may change the number of credit hours and/or education topics in response to a request from Respondent. The monitoring liaison may consider the topic availability and/or hours of education when determining if a change to the ordered education should occur.
 - d. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's license after satisfying the Board or its designee that Respondent has successfully completed all the ordered education.
4. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$543.00.
5. Requests for course approval, proof of successful course completion, and payment of costs (made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services) shall be submitted to:

Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190
Telephone (608) 266-2112; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

Respondent may also submit this information online at: <https://dpsmonitoring.wi.gov>.

6. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license (no. 39913-20), or Respondent's right to renew his license and registration, may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing until Respondent has complied with the terms of the Order. The Board may, in addition and/or in the alternative refer any violation of this Order to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further investigation and action.

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

WISCONSIN MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

By: Stephen A. Wasserman, MD
A Member of the Board

Date 16 June 2021

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

JAMES E. MEADE, M.D.,
RESPONDENT.

STIPULATION

ORDER 0007447

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 MED 097

Respondent James E. Meade, 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.

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.

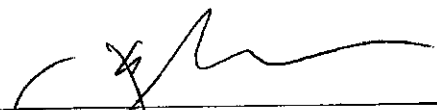
5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division

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.

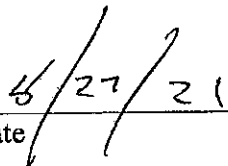
6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Board ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent, for purposes 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.

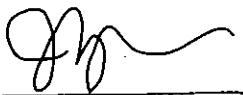
8. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.



James E. Meade, M.D., Respondent
Watertown, WI 53098
License No. 39913-20



Date



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

5/28/2021

Date