

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



### Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services Access to the Public Records of the Reports of Decisions

This Reports of Decisions document was retrieved from the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services website. These records are open to public view under Wisconsin's Open Records law, sections 19.31-19.39 Wisconsin Statutes.

#### Please read this agreement prior to viewing the Decision:

- The Reports of Decisions is designed to contain copies of all orders issued by credentialing authorities within the Department of Safety and Professional Services from November, 1998 to the present. In addition, many but not all orders for the time period between 1977 and November, 1998 are posted. Not all orders issued by a credentialing authority constitute a formal disciplinary action.
- Reports of Decisions contains information as it exists at a specific point in time in the Department of Safety and Professional Services data base. Because this data base changes constantly, the Department is not responsible for subsequent entries that update, correct or delete data. The Department is not responsible for notifying prior requesters of updates, modifications, corrections or deletions. All users have the responsibility to determine whether information obtained from this site is still accurate, current and complete.
- There may be discrepancies between the online copies and the original document. Original documents should be consulted as the definitive representation of the order's content. Copies of original orders may be obtained by mailing requests to the Department of Safety and Professional Services, PO Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935. The Department charges copying fees. *All requests must cite the case number, the date of the order, and respondent's name* as it appears on the order.
- Reported decisions may have an appeal pending, and discipline may be stayed during the appeal. Information about the current status of a credential issued by the Department of Safety and Professional Services is shown on the Department's Web Site under "License Lookup."

The status of an appeal may be found on court access websites at:

<http://ccap.courts.state.wi.us/InternetCourtAccess> and <http://www.courts.state.wi.us/wscqa>

- Records not open to public inspection by statute are not contained on this website.

**By viewing this document, you have read the above and agree to the use of the Reports of Decisions subject to the above terms, and that you understand the limitations of this on-line database.**

**Correcting information on the DSPS website:** An individual who believes that information on the website is inaccurate may contact [DSPS@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DSPS@wisconsin.gov)

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

---

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY :  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :  
 : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
STEVEN E. BONDOW, M.D., :  
RESPONDENT. : **ORDER 0007977**

---

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 19 MED 044

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

Steven E. Bondow, M.D.  
Waukesha, WI 53188

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 Steven E. Bondow, M.D. (Year of Birth 1950) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice medicine and surgery, having license number 23928-20, first issued on July 2, 1981, with registration current through October 31, 2023. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent practiced medicine as a solo practitioner at a clinic he owned located in Delafield, Wisconsin (Clinic).

3. In 2017 and 2018, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) received complaints about Respondent's prescribing of controlled substances to Clinic patients.

Specifically, the complaints alleged, *inter alia*, that Respondent was prescribing controlled substances (opioids and promethazine with codeine) in higher than appropriate amounts, with no or inadequate documentation, and/or without adequate or any safeguards to prevent diversion and abuse.

4. Upon receiving these complaints, DHS opened an investigation of Respondent's practices and referred him to the Department which opened this matter for investigation. Respondent was also under investigation by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). As part of their respective investigations, the Department, DHS, and DEA jointly interviewed Respondent, obtained patient records, and gathered additional information from other sources.

5. Respondent stated that from 2007-2016, he practiced family medicine in a large health system where he inherited numerous pain management patients from a colleague who died. When Respondent opened the Clinic in 2017, some of those pain management patients continued treating with Respondent and he also took on new patients.

6. Respondent maintains that the inherited pain management patients had extensive records, including physical therapy and specialty care records, and most had already failed to achieve lasting benefits from alternative treatments. After more information came out about long-term problems with opioid use, patient visits involved repeated efforts to educate on opioid tolerance, hyperalgesia, and potential long-term consequences of opioid use.

7. Respondent further maintains that he regrets taking on additional pain management patients as the opioid crisis demanded longer patient visits and he began to see aberrant behaviors from some patients.

8. Respondent saw patients at the Clinic on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, with approximately 7-8 visits per day. Respondent stated he had no support staff or other provider on staff, except for the assistance of two nurse practitioner students in 2019.

9. Respondent's medical record-keeping at the Clinic was done via a program which incorporated texts and emails into patient files. In some instances, text and emails constituted the majority of a patient's chart and prescriptions for controlled substances, as reflected in Prescription Drug Monitoring Program data, at times did not have corresponding entries in the records.

10. Between 2017-2020, Respondent discharged 38 patients. In November 2018, he decided to stop taking new pain management patients, and in December 2018, Respondent issued a letter to his patients to inform them of his plan to transition his practice away from high-risk opioid use for pain management.

11. On October 31, 2020, Respondent permanently closed the Clinic after a period of scaling back and making referrals for pain management patients.

12. On November 3, 2020, Respondent agreed to resolve the DEA investigation of his practices by entering into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which placed, *inter alia*, the following limitations on Respondent's DEA registration for a minimum of three years:

- a. Respondent shall not order, procure, administer, distribute, or dispense any controlled substances to himself or family members.
- b. Respondent will voluntarily relinquish Schedules II and V effective as of December 31, 2020.
- c. Respondent shall allow DEA personnel to enter his registered location at any time during business hours without prior notice to verify compliance with [the MOA].
- d. Respondent shall comply with the terms of any order issued by the Board and shall notify DEA if the Board suspends or revokes his Wisconsin medical license.
- e. Any prescriptions Respondent issued prior to the Clinic's closure could still be filled by pharmacies until December 31, 2020.

13. Respondent currently practices industrial medicine where he contracts with employers to provide on-site family medicine to employees. He also maintains a small practice where he provides primary care services.

14. Respondent is enrolled in the Compass Opioid Stewardship Program (Compass) through the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative, which teaches comprehensive opioid and controlled substance prescribing practices that emphasize patient safety and clinical efficacy. To date, Respondent has received coaching and technical assistance, has submitted charts for review and suggestions on better documentation and medical management, and has watched eight lectures on opioid prescribing best practices and alternatives to pain management.

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. Based on 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.

3. Based on the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § Med 10.03(3)(c) by having any credential pertaining to the practice of medicine and surgery or any act constituting the practice of medicine and surgery become subject to adverse determination by any agency of this or another state, or by any federal agency or authority.

4. Based on the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § Med 10.03(3)(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.

5. 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 and registration to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Wisconsin (license number 23928-20) is SUSPENDED for two weeks from the date of this Order.

4. The suspension of Respondent's license and registration is STAYED, and his license and registration are LIMITED, as follows:

a. Respondent shall maintain full compliance with the MOA. Any violation of the MOA, as determined by the DEA, shall be considered a violation of this Order and shall be reported to the Board by Respondent within 48 hours of any such determination by the DEA.

b. This limitation shall remain in effect as long as the MOA remains in effect.

c. When the DEA determines that Respondent has successfully completed the terms of the MOA and lifts or modifies the limitations on Respondent's registration to prescribe controlled substances, Respondent may petition the Board to likewise lift or modify the limitations set out in this paragraph. Whether the Board grants such petition is in the sole discretion of the Board.

5. The Board recognizes and accepts the successful completion of the above-described education through Compass as the equivalent of the education it would have otherwise ordered. The Compass education completed by Respondent during the current reporting period may not be used to satisfy any other continuing education requirements that have been or may be instituted by the Board or Department.

6. Within 90 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$6,110.00.

7. Any requests, petitions, payments of costs (made payable to Department of Safety and Professional Services), and other information required by this Order 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

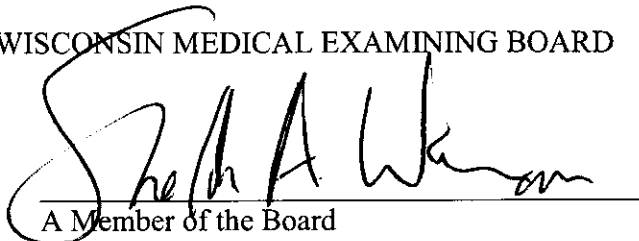
Respondent may also submit this information online at: <https://dpsmonitoring.wi.gov>.

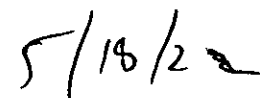
8. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license and registration (number 23928-20), or Respondent's right to renew his license and registration, may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be **SUSPENDED**, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent 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.

9. 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 E. BONDOW, M.D.,  
RESPONDENT.

STIPULATION

ORDER 0007977

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 19 MED 044

Respondent Steven E. Bondow, 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

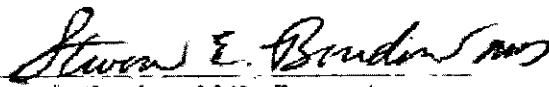
of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.


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. Respondent is further informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order will be reported as required by the National Practitioner Databank (NPDB) Guidebook and as otherwise required by any licensure compact or any other state or federal law.

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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven E. Bondow, M.D., Respondent  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
License No. 23928-20

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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

5/4/2022  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date