

## 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 DISCIPLINARY :  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :  
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
JEFFREY L. DUNHAM, M.D., :  
RESPONDENT. : **ORDER 0008773**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 23 MED 008

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

Jeffrey L. Dunham, M.D.  
Shell Lake, WI 54871

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 Jeffrey L. Dunham, M.D., (Year of Birth 1960) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice medicine and surgery, having license number 30726-20, first issued on September 27, 1989, 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 Shell Lake, Wisconsin 54871.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent practiced as a family practice physician at a clinic located in Shell Lake, Wisconsin.

3. The Department received a complaint alleging Respondent inappropriately prescribed controlled substances to Patient A (a female born in 1960).

4. As part of its investigation, the Department obtained a copy of Patient A's medical records from March 1, 2021, to March 22, 2023, as well as Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) reports for the same time frame.

5. During the time frame reviewed, Respondent regularly treated Patient A for chronic pain. Patient A also suffered from diabetes mellitus, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic heart failure, coronary artery disease, muscle pain, insomnia, degenerative joint disease, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, hypomagnesemia, peripheral neuropathy, and secondary lymphedema.

6. Respondent regularly prescribed opioids to Patient A throughout the time frame reviewed but did not use an opioid risk tool or risk assessment prior to prescribing opioids, failed to sufficiently document specific pain generators identified during physical exams of Patient A, and failed to document pain scores, percentage of pain relief, or quantifiable functional benefit of opioids.

7. Throughout the time period reviewed, Respondent regularly documented Patient A's uncontrolled pain, yet continued to prescribe high doses of opioids to Patient A.

8. Between March 2021 and June 2021, and again between December 2022 and February 2023, Respondent co-prescribed Patient A opioids and carisoprodol on a monthly basis. Carisoprodol metabolizes to meprobamate which is a benzodiazepine. Respondent did not chart a clear clinical rationale for the co-prescription of opioids and benzodiazepines, nor that he discussed the risks with Patient A.

9. Between December 2022 and March 2023, Respondent co-prescribed Patient A tramadol and clonazepam. Respondent did not chart a clear clinical rationale for the co-prescription of opioids and benzodiazepines, nor that he discussed the risks with Patient A.

10. On December 20, 2022, Respondent referred Patient A to pain management for continued care. The standard of minimally competent medical practice required Respondent to refer Patient A to pain management specialist earlier than December 20, 2022.

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

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The 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 in 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. Based on the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined in 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 and registration to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Wisconsin (license no. 30726-20) is LIMITED as follows:
  - a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall, at his own expense, successfully complete the Intensive Course in Controlled Substance Prescribing Continuing Medical Education course offered by Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine for a total of 23.50 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits.
  - 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, and also may not be used in future attempts to upgrade a credential in Wisconsin.
  - c. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's license and registration 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 \$598.00.
5. 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://dspsmonitoring.wi.gov>.

6. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license and registration (no. 30726-20), 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: Sharon A. Wacker, MD  
A Member of the Board

9/20/23  
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

JEFFREY L. DUNHAM, M.D.,  
RESPONDENT.

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:  
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STIPULATION

**ORDER 0008773**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 23 MED 008

Respondent Jeffrey L. Dunham, 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

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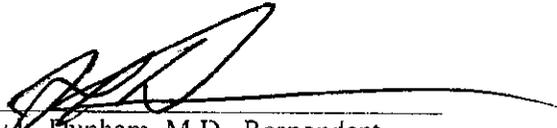
of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

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.

  
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Jeffrey L. Dunham, M.D., Respondent  
Shell Lake, WI 54871  
License No. 30726-20

08/21/23  
Date

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

08/23/2023  
Date