

1 **BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD**

2 In the Matter of

3 **ELIZABETH M. GOBBLE, M.D.**

4 Holder of License No. 59009
5 For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine
6 In the State of Arizona.

Case No. MD-23-0448A

**ORDER FOR LETTER OF REPRIMAND
AND PROBATION; AND CONSENT TO
THE SAME**

7 Elizabeth M. Gobble, M.D. ("Respondent") elects to permanently waive any right to
8 a hearing and appeal with respect to this Order for Letter of Reprimand and Probation;
9 admits the jurisdiction of the Arizona Medical Board ("Board"); and consents to the entry of
10 this Order by the Board.

11 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

12 1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of
13 the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

14 2. Respondent is the holder of license number 59009 for the practice of
15 allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

16 3. The Board initiated case number MD-23-0448A after receiving notification
17 from the Board's Physician Health Program ("PHP") Monitor that Respondent had tested
18 positive for a substance in violation of her Stipulated Rehabilitation Agreement ("SRA").

19 4. Respondent completed inpatient treatment at a Board-approved facility
20 ("Facility") and was discharged with staff approval on June 10, 2023. The Facility
21 recommended that Respondent undergo additional treatment and aftercare.

22 5. Respondent subsequently underwent a Post-Treatment Assessment with a
23 Board-approved Assessor. Based on the Assessment results, the Assessor opined that
24 Respondent was safe to practice medicine, with continued monitoring and completion of
25 treatment and aftercare.

1 6. On July 27, 2023, Respondent entered into an Interim Consent Agreement
2 for PHP participation. Respondent is in compliance with the terms of her PHP monitoring.

3 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

4 a. The Board possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over
5 Respondent.

6 b. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional
7 conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(f) ("Exhibiting a pattern of using or being under
8 the influence of alcohol or drugs or a similar substance while practicing medicine or to the
9 extent that judgment may be impaired and the practice of medicine detrimentally
10 affected.").

11 c. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional
12 conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(s) ("Violating a formal order, probation, consent
13 agreement or stipulation issued or entered into by the board or its executive director under
14 this chapter.").

15 **ORDER**

16 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

17 1. Respondent is issued a Letter of Reprimand.

18 2. Respondent is placed on Probation for a period of five years¹ with the
19 following terms and conditions:

20 3. Respondent shall not consume alcohol or any food or other substance
21 containing poppy seeds or alcohol.

22 4. Respondent shall not take any illegal drugs or mood altering medications
23 unless prescribed for a legitimate therapeutic purpose.

24 _____
25 ¹ Respondent's probation shall be retroactive to July 27, 2023.

1 5. Respondent shall continue to participate in any personalized aftercare
2 programs or activities as recommended by the Facility in hits post-treatment discharge
3 summary and the Assessor in his Post-Treatment Assessment Report. Respondent shall
4 report on those activities as requested by the PHP, including executing any releases
5 necessary to allow the PHP to monitor his participation and communicate directly with and
6 obtain records from the treating providers for those aftercare activities. Respondent shall
7 be responsible for all costs of aftercare, including costs associated with compliance of this
8 Board Order.

9 6. Respondent shall promptly obtain a Primary Care Physician ("PCP") and
10 shall submit the name of the physician to the PHP Contractor in writing for approval.
11 Except in an Emergency, Respondent shall obtain medical care and treatment only from
12 the PCP and from health care providers to whom the PCP refers Respondent. Respondent
13 shall promptly provide a copy of this Order to the PCP. Respondent shall also inform all
14 other health care providers who provide medical care or treatment that Respondent is
15 participating in the PHP. "Emergency" means a serious accident or sudden illness that, if
16 not treated immediately, may result in a long-term medical problem or loss of life.

17 7. All prescriptions for controlled substances shall be approved by the PHP
18 Contractor prior to being filled except in an Emergency. Controlled substances prescribed
19 and filled in an emergency shall be reported to the PHP within 48 hours. Respondent shall
20 take no Medication unless the PCP or other health care provider to whom the PCP refers
21 Respondent prescribes and the PHP Contractor approves the Medication. Respondent
22 shall not self-prescribe any Medication. "Medication" means a prescription-only drug,
23 controlled substance, and over-the counter preparation, other than plain aspirin, plain
24 ibuprofen, and plain acetaminophen.

1 8. Respondent shall attend a relapse prevention outpatient program for a
2 duration and frequency recommended by the PHP Contractor, unless Respondent is
3 excused by the relapse program facilitator for good cause. The relapse prevention group
4 facilitators shall submit monthly reports to the PHP regarding Respondent's attendance
5 and progress.

6 9. Respondent shall enter treatment with a PHP Contractor approved addiction
7 psychiatrist or addiction medicine specialist as recommended by the Assessor in its Post-
8 Treatment Assessment Report and shall comply with any and all treatment
9 recommendations, including taking any and all prescribed medications. Respondent shall
10 instruct the treating provider to submit quarterly written reports to the PHP regarding
11 diagnosis, prognosis, current medications, recommendation for continuing care and
12 treatment, and ability to safely practice medicine. The reports shall be submitted quarterly
13 to the PHP, the commencement of which to be determined by the PHP Contractor.
14 Respondent shall provide the provider with a copy of this Order. Respondent shall pay the
15 expenses for treatment and be responsible for paying for the preparation of the quarterly
16 reports. At the expiration of one year or anytime thereafter, Respondent may submit a
17 written request to the PHP Contractor requesting termination of the requirement that
18 Respondent remain in treatment with an addiction psychiatrist or addiction medicine
19 specialist. The decision to terminate will be based in part upon the treating provider's
20 recommendation for continued care and treatment.

21 10. Respondent shall participate in a 12-step recovery program or other self-help
22 program appropriate for substance abuse as recommended by the PHP. Respondent shall
23 attend a minimum of three 12-step or other self-help program meetings per week. Two
24 meetings per month must be Caduceus meetings. Respondent must maintain a log of all
25 self-help meetings.

1 11. Respondent shall submit to random biological fluid, hair and/or nail testing for
2 the remainder of this Order (as specifically directed below) to ensure compliance with the
3 PHP.

4 12. Respondent shall provide the PHP Contractor in writing with one telephone
5 number that shall be used to contact Respondent on a 24 hour per day/seven day per
6 week basis to submit to biological fluid, hair, and/or nail testing to ensure compliance with
7 the PHP. For the purposes of this section, telephonic notice shall be deemed given at the
8 time a message to appear is left at the contact telephone number provided by
9 Respondent. Respondent authorizes any person or organization conducting tests on the
10 collected samples to provide testing results to the PHP Contractor. Respondent shall
11 comply with all requirements for biological fluid, hair, and/or nail collection. Respondent
12 shall pay for all costs for the testing.

13 13. Respondent shall provide the PHP Contractor with written notice of any plans
14 to travel out of state.

15 14. Respondent shall successfully complete a PHP approved 36 hour
16 alcohol/drug awareness education class.

17 15. Respondent shall immediately notify the Board and the PHP Contractor in
18 writing of any change in office or home addresses and telephone numbers.

19 16. Respondent provides full consent for the PHP Contractor to discuss the
20 Respondent's case with the Respondent's PCP or any other health care providers to
21 ensure compliance with the PHP.

22 17. The relationship between the Respondent and the PHP Contractor is a direct
23 relationship. Respondent shall not use an attorney or other intermediary to communicate
24 with the PHP Contractor on participation and compliance issues. All inquiries must be
25 directed to Board staff.

1 18. Respondent shall be responsible for all costs, including costs associated with
2 participating in the PHP, at the time service is rendered or within 30 days of each invoice
3 sent to the Respondent. An initial deposit of two (2) months PHP fees is due upon
4 entering the program. Failure to pay either the initial PHP deposit or monthly fees 60 days
5 after invoicing will be reported to the Board by the PHP Contractor and may result in
6 disciplinary action.

7 19. Respondent shall appear in person before with the PHP Contractor for
8 interviews upon request, upon reasonable notice.

9 20. Respondent shall immediately provide a copy of this Order to all employers,
10 hospitals and free standing surgery centers where Respondent currently has or in the
11 future gains or applies for employment or privileges. Within 30 days of the date of this
12 Order, Respondent shall provide the PHP with a signed statement of compliance with this
13 notification requirement. Respondent is further required to notify, in writing, all employers,
14 hospitals and free standing surgery centers where Respondent currently has or in the
15 future gains or applies for employment or privileges of a violation of this Order.

16 21. In the event Respondent resides or practices as a physician in a state other
17 than Arizona, Respondent shall participate in the rehabilitation program sponsored by that
18 state's medical licensing authority or medical society. Respondent shall cause the
19 monitoring state's program to provide written quarterly reports to the PHP Contractor
20 regarding Respondent's attendance, participation, and monitoring. The monitoring state's
21 program and Respondent shall immediately notify the PHP Contractor if Respondent is
22 non-compliant with any aspect of the monitoring requirements or is required to undergo
23 any additional treatment.

24 22. The PHP Contractor shall immediately notify the Board if Respondent is non-
25 compliant with any aspect of this Order or is required to undergo any additional treatment.

1 23. In the event of a chemical dependency relapse by Respondent or
2 Respondent's use of controlled substances or alcohol in violation of this Order,
3 Respondent shall promptly enter into an Interim Consent Agreement for Practice
4 Restriction that requires, among other things, that Respondent not practice medicine until
5 such time as Respondent successfully completes long-term inpatient treatment designated
6 by the PHP Contractor and obtains affirmative approval from the Executive Director, in
7 consultation with the Lead Board Member and Chief Medical Consultant, to return to the
8 practice of medicine. Prior to approving Respondent's request to return to the practice of
9 medicine, Respondent may be required to undergo any combination of physical
10 examinations, psychiatric or psychological evaluations. In no respect shall the terms of this
11 paragraph restrict the Board's authority to initiate and taken disciplinary action for any
12 violation of this Order.

13 24. Respondent shall obey all state, federal and local laws, all rules governing
14 the practice of medicine in Arizona, and remain in full compliance with any court ordered
15 criminal probation, payments and other orders.

16 25. Prior to the termination of Probation, Respondent must submit a written
17 request to the Board for release from the terms of this Order. Respondent's request for
18 release will be placed on the next pending Board agenda, provided a complete submission
19 is received by Board staff no less than 30 days prior to the Board meeting. Respondent's
20 request for release must provide the Board with evidence establishing that he/she has
21 successfully satisfied all of the terms and conditions of this Order. The Board has the sole
22 discretion to determine whether all of the terms and conditions of this Order have been
23 met or whether to take any other action that is consistent with its statutory and regulatory
24 authority.
25

26. This Order supersedes any and all Consent Agreements previously entered into by Respondent and the Board regarding this matter.

27. The Board retains jurisdiction and may initiate new action against Respondent based upon any violation of this Order. A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(s).

DATED AND EFFECTIVE this 7th day of February, 2024.

ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

By Pat E. McSorley
Patricia E. McSorley
Executive Director

CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER

1. Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement and the stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Order"). Respondent acknowledges she has the right to consult with legal counsel regarding this matter.

2. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that this Order is entered into freely and voluntarily and that no promise was made or coercion used to induce such entry.

3. By consenting to this Order, Respondent voluntarily relinquishes any rights to a hearing or judicial review in state or federal court on the matters alleged, or to challenge this Order in its entirety as issued by the Board, and waives any other cause of action related thereto or arising from said Order.

4. The Order is not effective until approved by the Board and signed by its Executive Director.

5. All admissions made by Respondent in this Order are solely for final disposition of this matter and any subsequent related administrative proceedings or civil litigation involving the Board and Respondent. Therefore, said admissions by Respondent are not intended or made for any other use, such as in the context of another state or

1 federal government regulatory agency proceeding, civil or criminal court proceeding, in the
2 State of Arizona or any other state or federal court.

3 6. Notwithstanding any language in this Order, this Order does not preclude in
4 any way any other State agency or officer or political subdivision of this state from
5 instituting proceedings, investigating claims, or taking legal action as may be appropriate
6 now or in the future relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent,
7 including but not limited to, violations of Arizona's Consumer Fraud Act. Respondent
8 acknowledges that, other than with respect to the Board, this Order makes no
9 representations, implied or otherwise, about the views or intended actions of any other
10 state agency or officer or political subdivisions of the State relating to this matter or other
11 matters concerning Respondent

12 7. Upon signing this agreement, and returning this document (or a copy thereof)
13 to the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke the consent to the entry of
14 the Order. Respondent may not make any modifications to the document. Any
15 modifications to this original document are ineffective and void unless mutually approved
16 by the parties.

17 8. This Order is a public record that will be publicly disseminated as a formal
18 disciplinary action of the Board and will be reported to the National Practitioner's Data
19 Bank and on the Board's web site as a disciplinary action.

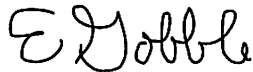
20 9. If any part of the Order is later declared void or otherwise unenforceable, the
21 remainder of the Order in its entirety shall remain in force and effect.

22 10. If the Board does not adopt this Order, Respondent will not assert as a
23 defense that the Board's consideration of the Order constitutes bias, prejudice,
24 prejudgment or other similar defense.

1 11. Any violation of this Order constitutes unprofessional conduct and may result
2 in disciplinary action. A.R.S. § § 32-1401(27)(s) (“[v]iolating a formal order, probation,
3 consent agreement or stipulation issued or entered into by the board or its executive
4 director under this chapter.”) and 32-1451.

5 12. Respondent acknowledges that, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2501(16),
6 Respondent cannot act as a supervising physician for a physician assistant while
7 Respondent’s license is on probation.

8 13. ***Respondent has read and understands the conditions of Probation.***

9
10 

11 ELIZABETH M. GOBBLE, M.D.

DATED: 1/22/24

12
13 EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing mailed
14 this 7th day of February 2024 to:

15 Dan Cavett, Esq.
16 Cavett & Fulton, P.C.
17 6035 East Grant Road
18 Tucson, Arizona 85712
19 Attorney for Respondent

20 Physician Health Program
21 Address on File

22 ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed
23 this 7th day of February 2024 with:

24 Arizona Medical Board
25 1740 West Adams, Suite 4000
Phoenix, Arizona 85007



Board staff