BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

In the Matter of

JENNIFER J. SOSNOWSKI, M.D.

Holder of License No. 25789 For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine In the State of Arizona. Case No. MD-20-0439A

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

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.
- 2. Respondent is the holder of license number 25789 for the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.
- 3. The Board initiated case number MD-20-0439A after receiving a complaint regarding Respondent's care and treatment of a 58-year-old female patient ("KM") alleging inadequate care and treatment of rheumatoid arthritis; inappropriately prescribing; improper therapy recommendations with frequency specific microcurrent ("FSM") treatments, ozone machine, and vitamin infusions; and failure to utilize personal protective equipment (PPE).
- 4. During the Board's investigation, Board staff requested Medical Consultant ("MC") review of Respondent's care and treatment of KM and four other patients (HR, LS, LD and HA). The MC identified deviations with the standard of care with regard to all five patients reviewed. Respondent presented a report of another physician who opined that Respondent met the standard of care in her treatment of KM, HR and HA. The physician

opined that Respondent met the standard of care for Patients LS and LD with certain qualifications.

- 5. On November 20, 2019, KM presented to Respondent's office for initial consultation and continued with treatment until April 15, 2020. KM's complaints included rheumatoid arthritis ("RA") of twenty years' duration, sleep issues, hormonal issues, and low mental and physical energy. Respondent suspected chronic mycotoxicity or chronic Lyme disease and prescribed KM multiple supplements. Respondent recommended that KM have her home tested for mold and the results showed spores of Stachybotrys.
- 6. Respondent prescribed KM medications including Plaquenil 200mg twice daily and Celebrex. Respondent discussed the possibility of trying to wean KM off her long-term Celebrex usage and suggested that KM try CBD, Theracurmin, and FSM treatments to treat RA. Respondent prescribed KM Lithium 150mg for "brain fog" and gabapentin 300mg for head pain.
- 7. KM's lab results showed a normal TSH and free T4 but a low T3 so Respondent prescribed KM NP Thyroid 15mg daily and Liothyronine 5mcg every am. Respondent noted that KM had moderate sleep apnea and suggested KM use her partner's CPAP machine.
- 8. At her April 15, 2020 visit, KM expressed concern regarding the lack of COVID-19 transmission protection efforts in the office due to her immunocompromised status. On May 3, 2020 KM emailed Respondent terminating her care.
- 9. On March 27, 2020, HR had a telemedicine visit with Respondent for hormonal issues and fatigue. HR was a 65-year-old post-menopausal female with a history of anxiety and depression. HR's medications included Zoloft 50mg daily, Wellbutrin 100mg daily, progesterone 200mg daily and estrogen pellets 50mg every three months. Respondent ordered lab work.

- 10. On March 30, 2020, Respondent called HR with her lab results. HR's lab results showed estradiol of 362, total testosterone of 198, free testosterone of 1.8, progesterone of 0.6, and P/E2 ratio of 1.2. Respondent increased HR's progesterone to 4000mg daily.
- 11. On April 26, 2020, HR called Respondent's office and reported that since increasing the progesterone she had been moody, depressed, and her anxiety had increased. Respondent suggested decreasing the progesterone to 200mg.
- 12. On March 2, 2021, LS formally enrolled in Respondent's six-month Wellness Program. On August 4, 2021, LS informed Respondent that she and her husband both tested positive for COVID-19 and requested that Respondent prescribe Ivermectin for both. Respondent prescribed Ivermectin (with a refill) for LS and told her to share it with her husband.
- 13. From September 30, 2020, until Spring 2022, LD participated in Respondent's Wellness Program through phone calls, in-person clinic visits and health coaching. LD had multiple tests including blood work, stool, urine and saliva, a sleep study, imaging, and an EEG. Respondent's plan was to taper LD off her metformin and glipizide by using dietary changes (keto), exercise, weight loss and botanicals (Diaxonol, Mitocore, Nitric Balance, Cardotone, Cholestepure Plus, and others).
- 14. On September 1, 2021, LD called Respondent and informed her that she was diagnosed with COVID-19 and had received a monoclonal antibody infusion and was improving. Respondent prescribed Ivermectin to LD along with several other off-label medications for SARS-CoV-2 infection. On September 14, 2021, Respondent prescribed Ivermectin for prophylactic treatment of COVID-19 for LD's son. On March 29, 2022, Respondent prescribed Ivermectin "just in case" for COVID-19 for LD's upcoming trip to Europe.

- 15. HA was an established patient of Respondent's practice through March 2022. Respondent treated HA as a fee-for-service patient. In this time, Respondent functioned as his primary care physician and coordinated a little with his cardiologist. Respondent ordered extensive testing with routine labs and esoteric ones such as metal toxicity, mold, food allergens, microbiome, and ordered a sleep study, venous flow study, Echocardiogram, colonoscopy.
- 16. The standard of care requires a physician to adequately care and treat an autoimmune disorder. Respondent deviated from the standard of care for Patient KM by failing to adequately treat the patient's rheumatoid arthritis.
- 17. The standard of care requires a physician to order appropriate and necessary lab tests. Respondent deviated from the standard of care for Patients KM and LS by ordering unnecessary lab tests.
- 18. The standard of care requires a physician to utilize personal protective equipment. Respondent deviated from the standard of care for Patient KM by failing to utilize personal protective equipment.
- 19. The standard of care requires a physician to appropriately adjust medications. Respondent deviated from the standard of care for Patient HR by inappropriately increasing the patient's progesterone without clinical justification.
- 20. The standard of care requires a physician to have an established physicianpatient relationship prior to prescribing medications. Respondent deviated from the standard of care for Patients LS and LD by prescribing Ivermectin without an established physician-patient relationship.
- 21. The standard of care requires a physician to adequately treat a diabetic patient. Respondent deviated from the standard of care for Patient LD by failing to appropriately treat a diabetic patient.

- 22. The standard of care requires a physician to adequately treat a cardiac patient. Respondent deviated from the standard of care for Patient HA by failing to adequately treat a cardiac patient with uncontrolled hypertension and hyperlipidemia.
- 23. Actual patient harm was identified in that the increase to Patient HR's progesterone caused side effects that included unusual moodiness and increased anxiety.
- 24. There was the potential for patient harm in that KM was immunocompromised and at risk for exposure to COVID-19. Patient LS was at risk of nausea, GI distress, and constipation. Patient LD was at risk of complications from poorly managed diabetes and hypertension. Patient HA was at risk of a heart attack or stroke.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- a. The Board possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over Respondent.
- b. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(e) ("Failing or refusing to maintain adequate records on a patient.").
- c. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(r) ("Committing any conduct or practice that is or might be harmful or dangerous to the health of the patient or the public.").
- d. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(tt) ("Prescribing, dispensing or furnishing a prescription medication or a prescription-only device as defined in section 32-1901 to a person unless the licensee first conducts a physical examination of that person or has previously established a doctor-patient relationship. The physical or mental health status examination may be conducted during a real-time telemedicine encounter with audio and

video capability, unless the examination is for the purpose of obtaining a written certification from the physician for the purposes of title 36, chapter 28.1.").

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. Respondent is issued a Letter of Reprimand.
- 2. Respondent is placed on Probation for a period of six months with the following terms and conditions:

a. Continuing Medical Education

Respondent shall within 6 months of the effective date of this Order obtain no less than 10 hours of Board Staff pre-approved Category I Continuing Medical Education ("CME") in an intensive, in-person course regarding medical recordkeeping. Respondent shall within **thirty days** of the effective date of this Order submit her request for CME to the Board for pre-approval. Upon completion of the CME, Respondent shall provide Board staff with satisfactory proof of attendance. The CME hours shall be in addition to the hours required for the biennial renewal of medical licensure. The Probation shall terminate upon Respondent's proof of successful completion of the CME.

b. Obey All Laws

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

3. 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 _____ day of _____ September, 2023.

ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

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

state agency or officer or political subdivisions of the State relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent.

- 7. Upon signing this agreement, and returning this document (or a copy thereof) to the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke the consent to the entry of the Order. Respondent may not make any modifications to the document. Any modifications to this original document are ineffective and void unless mutually approved by the parties.
- 8. This Order is a public record that will be publicly disseminated as a formal disciplinary action of the Board and will be reported to the National Practitioner's Data Bank and on the Board's web site as a disciplinary action.
- 9. If any part of the Order is later declared void or otherwise unenforceable, the remainder of the Order in its entirety shall remain in force and effect.
- 10. If the Board does not adopt this Order, Respondent will not assert as a defense that the Board's consideration of the Order constitutes bias, prejudice, prejudgment or other similar defense.
- 11. Any violation of this Order constitutes unprofessional conduct and may result in disciplinary action. A.R.S. § § 32-1401(27)(s) ("[v]iolating a formal order, probation, consent agreement or stipulation issued or entered into by the board or its executive director under this chapter.") and 32-1451.
 - 12. Respondent has read and understands the conditions of probation.

JEŃNIFER J. SOSNOWSKI, M.D.

DATED:

8/30/23

1	EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing mailed this 7 th day of September, 2023 to:
2	Jennifer J. Sosnowski, M.D.
3	Address of Record
4	Robert J. Milligan, Esq Milligan Lawless, PC 5050 North 40 th Street, Suite 200 Phoenix, Arizona 85018 Attorney for Respondent
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8	ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed this 7th day of September, 2023 with:
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10	Arizona Medical Board 1740 West Adams, Suite 4000 Phoenix, Arizona 85007
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12	MichelleRobbs
13	Board staff
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