BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

In the Matter of

Case No.23A-56541-MDX

MARK C. OKAFOR, M.D.,

Holder of License No. 56541 For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine In the State of Arizona. FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

On May 1, 2024, this matter came before the Arizona Medical Board for consideration of Administrative Law Judge's ("ALJ") proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommended Order with regarding to Mark C. Okafor, M.D., ("Respondent"). Assistant Attorney General Elizabeth A. Campbell represented the State. Assistant Attorney General Lynette Evans was available to provide independent legal advice to the Board. Respondent was present and Attorney Sara Stark appeared on behalf of Respondent.

The Board, having considered the ALJ's Decision and the entire record in this matter, hereby issues the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent holds license number 56541 issued by the Board in 2018.
- 2. On July 13, 2018, the Arizona Medical Board (Board) issued a Complainant and Notice of Hearing setting the above entitled matter for hearing on November 8, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. The Complaint and Notice of Hearing provided that the issue for hearing was a complaint regarding Respondent's license. Through the Complainant and Notice of Hearing, the Board alleged that Respondent committed unprofessional conduct as defined under Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) §§ 32-1401 27(a), (e), (r), (kk), and 27(tt).
 - 3. A hearing was held on November 8, 2023 and January 22, 2024.

- 4. At hearing, the Board presented the testimony of Kathleen Coffer, M.D. and Nicole Samaradellis. Respondent testified on behalf of himself and presented the testimony of Martin Mollen, M.D.
- 5. On May 26, 2020, the Board notified Respondent that it had opened an investigation into Respondent regarding allegations of unprofessional conduct and questionable care. Specifically, the Board received allegations that Respondent inappropriately prescribed antibiotics and narcotics to females with whom he had a sexual relationship with and that he failed to maintain records and establish an appropriate physician-patient relationship prior to issuing prescriptions.

Patient MM

- 6. Respondent began dating MM in October of 2016. Respondent continued to date MM on and off through early 2020. 2
- 7. Using an Internal Medicine History and Physical form, Respondent documented a patient encounter with MM on December 22, 2018.³ On the encounter note, Respondent documented that his assessment was vaginal flora imbalance symptoms consistent with bacterial vaginosis and that he was prescribing Flagyl.⁴ Respondent testified that the physical exam he performed in connection with the bacterial vaginosis diagnosis was "the act of intimacy." (TR at 197.) Respondent stated at hearing:⁵
 - Q. So let's talk about the BV. You just testified that you did physical exams and that's indicated in the record here. What did that entail for you for a BV diagnosis, for MM specifically?

¹ See Transcript pg. 15.

² See id.

³ See Board's Exhibit 6, pgs. 27-28.

⁴ See id at pg. 28.

⁵ See TR at 197 line 19 - 198 line 7.

A. Without getting too graphic, the act of intimacy allows you to touch certain places amongst two consenting adults. And the process of making contact with discharge, digitally or manually is enough to provide the sample for discerning the smell, the characteristic smell of BV. As is the opportunity of even just getting down close to the genitourinary area amongst two consenting adults and seeing, whether it be thin discharge or picking up the smell or the odor, if you will.

- 8. MM testified that Respondent did not tell her he was performing any kind of medical exam on December 22, 2018.⁶ Dr. Coffer explained at hearing that sexual relations do not constitute a physical examination.⁷
- 9. On December 22, 2018, Respondent wrote on the prescription log for MM that he had prescribed Flagyl 500 mg tabs with no refills.⁸ However, the pharmacy's prescription records show that he had authorized one refill.⁹ Respondent admitted that his prescription log was incorrect.¹⁰
- 10. Using a similar Internal Medicine History and Physical form, Respondent documented a second patient encounter with MM on February 20, 2020.¹¹ He documented MM's chief complaints as pulled muscle, calf swelling, and vaginal odor.¹² He further documented that "exercises with gym trainer led to calf injury (Rt) about 2 days ago."¹³ Respondent documented that he performed a physical exam, including an examination of the affected "[right]" leg.¹⁴ He testified that the physical exam he performed in connection with the documented complaint of vaginal odor was "the act of

⁶ See TR at 97.

⁷ See TR 153-154.

⁸ See Exhibit 7 at 51.

⁹ See Exhibit 9 at 90.

¹⁰ See TR at 35.

^{24 11} See Exhibit 6, pgs. 29-39.

¹² See id at pg. 29.

¹³ See id.

¹⁴ See id at pg. 30.

intimacy."¹⁵ On February 21, 2020, Respondent prescribed MM thirty Tramadol 50 mg tablets with instructions to take one tablet every 6 hours as needed for pain.¹⁶ He documented that he prescribed Flagyl and Tramadol.¹⁷ Tramadol is a controlled substance.¹⁸ In his testimony, Respondent claimed that he "definitely" evaluated MM's calf before he issued the Tramadol prescription.

and Flagyl for MM.¹⁹ Respondent documented that he had checked the Arizona Controlled Substances Monitoring Program (CSPMP) before prescribing Tramadol.²⁰ Respondent's documentation that he checked the CSPMP before prescribing Tramadol to MM is incorrect. Although he testified that he was aware that he was required to check the CSPMP before prescribing Tramadol, a schedule IV controlled substance,²¹ the CSPMP query history report reflects that Respondent did not check the database at the time he prescribed the Tramadol to MM.²² According to the query history report, the only time Respondent checked the CSPMP in reference to MM was on June 3, 2020, which is after the Board sent its May 26, 2020, notice letter that an investigation had been opened.²³

12. Respondent's date for his purported examination of MM's injury is also incorrect. In Respondent's written response to the Board, he claimed that he saw MM the

¹⁵ See TR at 197.

¹⁶ See Exhibit 9, pg. 88.

¹⁷ See id.

¹⁸ See TR at pgs. 38 and 39.

¹⁹ See Exhibit 9, pgs. 88 and 89.

²⁰ See Exhibit 6, pg. 30 and TR at 210.

^{23 || 21} See TR, pgs. 73-74.

²² See Exhibit 10. Without persuasive reasoning, Respondent speculated that the CSPMP may have not recorded his search query. See TR at pgs. 212-214.) Dr. Coffer spoke with Doug Skvarla, the CSPMP Program Director at that Pharmacy Board. (TR at 327.) Mr. Skvarla reported that there had been no instances of the CSPMP deleting the record of a provider's inquiry. (TR at 328-329.)

²³ See Exhibits 2 and 10.

- 13. Contrary to Respondent documentation that he examined MM's leg injury on February 20, 2020,²⁶ MM testified that she injured her leg during an afternoon workout on February 21, 2020.²⁷ The text messages between Respondent and MM reflect that Respondent learned of the leg injury by text the evening of February 21, 2020.²⁸ By text that same day, Respondent suggested narcotics as an option for pain, and then he texted MM that he had sent in a prescription for Tramadol for pick up the next day.²⁹
- 14. MM testified that Respondent did not examine her injured leg before he prescribed Tramadol.³⁰ Consistent with the timeline in the text messages, the prescription records from the pharmacy show that Respondent authorized the Tramadol prescription on February 21, 2020.³¹ In his documentation dated February 20, 2020, Respondent also documented examining the wrong leg. Respondent documented that MM complained that she had injured her right leg, that her right calf had severe swelling with ecchymosis (bruising).³²
- 15. MM testified that she injured her left leg³³ and she provided a picture of her injured left leg.³⁴ MM testified that she believed that she had an exclusive sexual

21

24

25

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

¹⁹

²⁴ Respondent testified that he authorized the Tramadol sometime the night of February 20, 2020, and that the pharmacist entered the prescription the next business day when the pharmacy opened and took messages off the voice mail. See TR at pg. 38.

²⁵ See Exhibit 18, pg. 164, capitalization as in original; TR at pg. 40.

²⁶ See Exhibit 6, pgs. 29-30.

^{22 | 27} See TR at pg. 99.

²⁸ See Exhibit 18, pgs. 164-166.

^{23 || &}lt;sup>29</sup> See Exhibit 8, pg. 74.

³⁰ See TR at pg. 103.

³¹ See Exhibit 9, pg. 88.

³² See Exhibit 6, pgs. 29-30.

³³ See TR at pgs. 101-102.

³⁴ See Exhibit 19.

relationship with Respondent.³⁵ She testified that, had she known that Respondent was sleeping with other people, she would not have trusted him with her gynecological concerns and allowed him to treat her gynecological issues.³⁶ MM testified that Respondent exploited her trust.³⁷

Patient KM

16. On December 14, 2017, Respondent prescribed KM Ciprofloxacin 500 mg,³⁸ on March 2, 2018, he prescribed KM Fluconazole 15 mg,³⁹ on August 19, 2018, he prescribed KM Azithromycin 250 mg;⁴⁰ and on September 30, 2018, he prescribed KM Clindamycin 300 mg.⁴¹ Respondent testified that he authorized all of these prescriptions for KM.⁴² He maintained no medical records supporting these prescriptions.⁴³ Using an Internal Medicine History and Physical form, Respondent documented a patient encounter with KM on December 19, 2018.⁴⁴ He documented "rash" as the patient's chief complaint.⁴⁵ Respondent documented a physical exam, including an erythematous (reddened) rash diffusely on KM's abdomen, thighs and legs.⁴⁶ KM testified that she had gone to see Respondent at the hospital where they went into a dark conference room for a romantic interlude.⁴⁷

17

1

2

3

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

18

19

^{20 35} See TR at pg. 104.

³⁶ See id.

^{21 37} See TR at pg. 323.

³⁸ See Exhibit 12, pg. 108-117.

³⁹ See Exhibit 12, pgs. 98 and 111.

^{22 40} See Exhibit 12, pgs. 101 and 112.

⁴¹ See Exhibit 12, pg. 105 and 116.

^{23 42} See TR at pgs. 47-50.

⁴³ See Exhibits 6 and 7.

^{24 44} See Exhibit 6, pgs. 31-32.

⁴⁵ See id at pg. 31.

⁴⁶ See id pg. 32; TR at pg. 42.

⁴⁷ See TR at pg. 126.

7

8

11 12

14

13

15

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

24

25

49 See Exhibit 6, pg. 32.

48 See TR at pgs. 126-127.

17. KM testified that it was at that time that Respondent saw her rash, which was between her breasts and did not extend to her abdomen, thighs or legs. 48 Respondent did not document a genitourinary examination on December 19, 2018, and his patient encounter note makes no mention of KM having gynecological concerns.⁴⁹ He also failed to note on his prescription log for KM any prescriptions on December 19, 2018. for gynecological issues.⁵⁰ However, pharmacy records reflect that, on December 19, 2018, Respondent prescribed KM Metronidazole (Flagyl) 500 mg, which he claims that he prescribed to treat bacterial vaginosis.⁵¹ He acknowledged authorizing the prescription, but failed to maintain any medical record supporting it.⁵²

18. KM testified that Respondent never performed a pelvic examination and never told her that, while they were having sex, he was performing a physical examination.53 KM testified that she believed her dating relationship with Respondent to be exclusive.⁵⁴ Had she known that the relationship was not exclusive, KM would have sought treatment for her rash and her gynecological concerns from someone other than Respondent.55

Patient MC

19. On October 1, 2018, Respondent prescribed MC Metronidazole and Diflucan.⁵⁶ Respondent testified that he authorized these prescriptions for MC, but admitted that he no medical records supporting the prescriptions.⁵⁷ Using an Internal

⁵⁰ See Exhibit 7, pg. 57.

⁵¹ See Exhibit 12, pgs. 105 and 116; TR at pg. 71.

²³ 52 See TR at pgs. 44 and 50. See TR at pgs. 129-130.

⁵⁴ See TR at 131.

⁵⁵ See TR at 131.

⁵⁶ See Exhibit 15, pgs. 146-147.

⁵⁷ See TR at pgs. 53-54.

Medicine History and Physical form, Respondent documented a patient encounter with MC on March 11, 2019.⁵⁸ He documented "cough" as the patient's chief complaint.⁵⁹ Respondent documented that he performed a physical exam (including documentation of the patient's heart rate, respiratory rate, lack of fever, and respiratory examination) and his "plan of care" included a prescription for Azithromycin ("Z Pak"), which he called in.⁶⁰

20. Regarding the purported physical examination, Respondent acknowledged not using a stethoscope, but claimed that "if someone is wearing a tight shirt, you can see whether you have some retractions" and that "[s]ometimes we might - let's just say I was able to also look at whether she was using accessory muscles."⁶¹ Although Respondent claims to have seen MC on March 11, 2019, text messages between Respondent and MC instead demonstrate that he prescribed the Z Pak based on a text message exchange:⁶²

March 11, 2019, 4:48 PM

MC: Hey love. . . I feel guilty asking but can you help me with this cough/fever/lost my voice situation? I've tried all the [over the counter] & not getting better. I can't work [crying emoji]

Respondent: That stinks. How high is the fever? What's your [date of birth] and pharmacy phone #?

MC: I don't even know my temp. I just know it's there. Mom scale 99.9 [date of birth redacted] Cvs 480.899.2183 Thank u
March 11, 2019, 10:28 PM

Respondent: Sorry just doing this now, hope they are 24 hours

MC: It's ok love I can get it in the morning. Can't thank you enough [heart emoji]

⁵⁸ See Exhibit 6, pgs. 33-34; Exhibit 7, pgs. 62-63; TR at pg. 53.

^{24 | 59} See Exhibit 6, pg. 33.

⁶⁰ See id at pg. 34 and Exhibit 15, pg. 136.

⁶¹ See TR at pg. 240.

⁶² See Exhibit 15, pgs. 120-121.

22. Respondent documented a prescription for Albuterol on his prescription log for Patient MC, but not on the encounter note. 69 Using an Internal Medicine History and Physical form, Respondent documented a patient encounter with MC on April 23, 2019.70 He documented yeast infection and light vaginal discharge as the patient's chief complaint.⁷¹ Respondent documented that he performed a physical exam, but that MC had deferred a genitourinary exam.⁷² When asked about the physical exam, Respondent explained: "We were intimate." 73 He documented that he would prescribe Fluconazole (Diflucan).⁷⁴ On an Internal Medicine History and Physical form, Respondent documented a patient encounter with MC on August 28, 2019.75 He documented yeast infection as the patient's chief complaint.⁷⁶ Respondent documented no physical exam, writing that

19 63 See Exhibit 15, pg 137.

2

4

5

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

20

21

24

⁶⁴ See TR at pg. 54.

⁶⁵ See Exhibit 6, pgs .35-36.

⁶⁶ See id at pg. 35.

⁶⁷ See id at pg. 36; TR at pg. 55.

⁶⁸ See Exhibit 6, pg. 36.

²² ⁶⁹ See Exhibit 6, pg. 36; Exhibit 7, pg. 61; TR at pg. 55.

⁷⁰ See Exhibit 6, pgs. 37-38.

⁷¹ See id at pg. 37. 23

⁷² See id at pg. 38.

⁷³ See TR at pg. 56.

⁷⁴ See Exhibit 6, pg. 38.

⁷⁵ See Exhibit 6, pgs. 39-40.

⁷⁶ See id at pg. 39.

"patient defers exam today."⁷⁷ He documented that he would prescribe Fluconazole (Diflucan).⁷⁸ He also failed to note on his prescription log for MC any prescriptions on August 28, 2019, other than Fluconazole.⁷⁹ Contrary to his medical record, he prescribed Flagyl to MC on August 28, 2019.⁸⁰ He acknowledged authorizing the prescription.⁸¹ Using an Internal Medicine History and Physical form, Respondent documented a patient encounter with MC on December 3, 2019, complete with a physical exam, where he included Flagyl as part of his "plan of care."⁸²

- 23. Respondent testified that he performed the physical examination of MC "[t]o the extent that I was intimate with her." On MC's Prescription Log, Respondent also wrote that he prescribed Flagyl on December 3, 2019. However, while Respondent's medical records purport to show that he issued a Flagyl prescription for MC on December 3, 2019, the pharmacy records show no Flagyl prescription for MC after August 28, 2019. Board Investigator Nicole Samaradellis testified that she had asked MC if Respondent had performed any examinations, and MC reported that he had not. However, while Respondent had performed any examinations, and MC reported that he had not.
- 24. Dr. Coffer testified that medical records should support the prescription provided, have appropriate documentation of what the physician is treating and the findings to support the treatment.⁸⁷ Dr. Mollen testified that a physician has an obligation to maintain adequate medical records, which need to be accurate.⁸⁸

19

20

21

25

1

2

3

4

5

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

⁷⁷ See id at pg. 40; TR at pg. 55.

⁷⁸ See Exhibit 6, pg. 40.

⁷⁹ See Exhibit 7, pg. 61.

⁸⁰ See Exhibit 15, pg. 142.

^{22 81} See TR at pgs. 60, 62-63.

⁸² See Exhibit 6, pgs. 41-42.

^{23 | 83} See TR at pg. 245.

⁸⁴ See Exhibit 7, pg. 61.

^{24 | 85} See Exhbiy 15.

⁸⁶ See TR at pg. 184.

⁸⁷ See TR at 156. 88 See TR at 280-281.

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

25.

A physician is required to maintain adequate medical records, A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(e). Testifying on behalf of Respondent, Dr. Mollen acknowledged that the Board's medical records statute does not make an exception for friends, dates, or girlfriends.90 Dr. Mollen testified that a physician must maintain medical records even when treating friends and family.91 Consistently, the AMA Ethics Opinion, which Dr. Mollen testified he had reviewed, requires physicians to document care and treatment provided even to themselves or members of their families. 92 Dr. Mollen acknowledged that the Board statutes and the AMA Code of Ethics require a physician to maintain medical records even when that physician is treating his sexual partners. 93

Respondent admitted that his medical records are "less than 100 percent."89

26. On cross, Dr. Mollen reviewed the AMA Ethics Opinion on patient physician relationships, which states that a physician-patient relationship exists when a physician serves a patient's medical needs.94 Dr. Mollen agreed that by writing a prescription, the physician is serving the patient's medical needs.95 Both Dr. Mollen and Dr. Coffer agreed that writing prescriptions for patients is the practice of medicine.96 It is evident that Respondent was engaged in the practice medicine when he provided MM, KM and MC with diagnoses and treatments. See A.R.S. § 32-1401(22). As a result, and as Dr. Coffer testified, these women became Respondent's patients.97

19

20

21

25

22

89 See TR at 60.

⁹⁰ See TR at 281 and 284.

⁹¹ See TR at 284.

²³ 92 See Exhibit 21 and TR at 284-285.

⁹³ See TR at 287.

⁹⁴ See Exhibit 20; TR at 279. 24

⁹⁵ See TR at 279.

⁹⁶ See TR at 161, 163, and 277.

⁹⁷ See TR at 166.

14

15

16

17 18

19

20

22

21

23

24

25

103 See id. ¹⁰⁴ See Exhibit 15, pg. 142.

98 See TR at 288.

99 See Exhibit 6 and 7.

- 27. Testifying on behalf of Respondent, Dr. Mollen stated that the purpose of medical records is for the patient to have continuity of care, and, without medical records, it is difficult for a patient to have continuity of care. 98
- 28. In August 2020 and September 2020, Respondent sent the Board medical records for Patients MM. KM and MC purporting to document the care he provided to these patients. 99 By submitting medical records containing false information, Respondent committed unprofessional conduct. See A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(kk). The medical record Respondent provided for the patient encounter with KM on December 19, 2018, is inconsistent with the treatment provided. On the Internal Medicine History and Physical form for that day, Respondent makes no notation of gynecological concerns, a genitourinary examination, or a Flagyl prescription in the medical record. 100 Nevertheless. Respondent prescribed Flagyl, reportedly for bacterial vaginosis, on that date. 101 The medical record Respondent provided for the patient encounter with MC on August 28, 2019, is inconsistent with the treatment provided. On the Internal Medicine History and Physical form for that day, Respondent documented a "yeast infection" as MC's chief complaint and that he would prescribe Diflucan. 102 He failed to note any prescription other than Diflucan on that date. 103 Contrary to his medical record, Respondent prescribed Flagyl to MC on August 28, 2019.104
- 29. In Respondent's sworn hearing testimony, he claimed that he had made the medical records contemporaneously with the treatment or the examination. 105 Respondent's medical records, in view of his hearing testimony and the testimony of

patients MM and KM, make his claim of contemporaneous documentation patently false. For example, according to Respondent's medical records, he reviewed the CSPMP for Patient MM on February 21, 2020. The CSPMP query history shows that he did not. Respondent's medical record for MM for February 21, 2020, documents an examination of the wrong leg. For Patient KM, he documented an examination of an abdominal/thigh/leg rash, when KM testified that the rash was on her chest. In view of these instances of false documentation as well as the additional inaccuracies listed above, it is evident that Respondent did not make the medical records for patients MM, KM and MC contemporaneously with his treatment as he testified.

- 30. The relationship between a patient and a physician is based on trust. (AMA Code of Medical Ethics, Opinion 1.1.1. Patient-Physician Relationships.¹¹⁰) Dr. Coffer testified that trust is the foundation of the relationship with the physician and a patient can be emotionally harmed if that trust is breached.¹¹¹ Both MM and KM testified that, had they known that their sexual relationship with Respondent was not exclusive, they would not have trusted Respondent to treat them.¹¹² Patient MM testified that Respondent had exploited her trust.¹¹³ Respondent acknowledged that "[w]hile I don't register any harm that was actually done to these patients, I think there could have been."¹¹⁴
- 31. Respondent participated in a neuropsychological evaluation on December 4, 2020.¹¹⁵ The evaluator recommended that Respondent complete "specific continuing

1

2

3

4

5

7

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

¹⁰⁵ See TR at 70.

¹⁰⁶ See Exhibit 6, pg. 30.

¹⁰⁷ See Exhibit 10.

^{22 | 108} See Exhibit 10. | 108 See Exhibit 10, pgs. 29-30; Exhibit 19; See Exhibit 101 and 102.

¹⁰⁹ See Exhibit 6, pgs. 31 and 32; TR at 126-127.

^{23 | 110} See Exhibit 20.

¹¹¹ See TR at 333-334.

^{24 1112} See TR at 104 and 131.

¹¹³ See TR at 323.

¹¹⁴ See TR at 228.

¹¹⁵ See Exhibit 17.

education activity with respect to professional boundaries."¹¹⁶ On November 5, 2023, three days before this hearing commenced, Respondent completed the 34-hour PBI course on Professional Boundaries and Ethics. 117 Although he had only recently completed the boundaries and ethics course, at hearing Respondent refused to acknowledge that Patients MM, KM and MC were his patients, testifying that "there's not really a yes or a no here." 118

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent and the subject matter in this case under Arizona Revised Statutes § 32-3202.
- 2. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1092.07(G)(2) and A.A.C. R2-19-119(B), the Board has the burden of proof in this matter. The standard of proof is by clear and convincing evidence. A.R.S. § 32-1451.04.
- 3. The Arizona Board established by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct, in violation of A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(a), when he failed to review the CSPMP in connection with his Tramadol prescription to MM as required by A.R.S. § 36-2606(f).
- 4. The Board established by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct, in violation of A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(e), by failing to maintain adequate records, as defined in A.R.S. § 32-1401(2).
- 5. The Board established by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct in violation of A.R.S. § 32-1401(r).

¹¹⁶ See id at pg. 157.

¹¹⁷ See Exhibit A.

¹¹⁸ See TR at 302.

6. The Board established by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct, by submitting medical records with false information to the board, in violation of A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(kk).

- 7. The Board established by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct, by prescribing medications without conducting a physician-patient physical examination, in violation of A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(tt).
- 8. Because Respondent has committed acts of unprofessional conduct, the Board has authority to discipline his license. A.R.S. § 32-1451(M).

<u>ORDER</u>

Based on the foregoing, IT IS ORDERED that the Board issue a DECREE OF CENSURE to Mark C. Okafor, MD, holder of License No. 56541.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent is placed on PROBATION for a period of two years with the following terms and conditions:

1. <u>Continuing Medical Education</u>

During the term of Probation, Respondent shall complete the PROBE ethics and boundaries program offered by the Center for Personalized Education for Physicians ("CPEP") together with the follow up six-month maintenance and accountability program (PROBE Plus). During the term of Probation, Respondent shall also complete at least 5 hours of CME in the appropriate performance and documentation of physical examinations and at least 10 hours of intensive, in-person/virtual CME in medical record keeping.

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.

. . .

2. Obey All Laws

Respondent shall obey all state, federal and local laws and all rules governing the practice of medicine in Arizona.

3. Probation Termination

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

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).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1451(M),¹¹⁹ Mark C. Okafor, M.D. be charged \$3,460.95 for the cost of the formal hearing. Dr. Okafor shall pay the Board \$3,460.95 by certified funds within 90 days of the effective date of this Order.

RIGHT TO PETITION FOR REHEARING OR REVIEW

Respondent is hereby notified that he has the right to petition for a rehearing or review. The petition for rehearing or review must be filed with the Board's Executive Director within thirty (30) days after service of this Order. A.R.S. § 41-1092.09(B). The

¹¹⁹ A.R.S. § 32-1451(M) provides, in pertinent part, as follows: "The board may charge the costs of formal hearings to the licensee who it finds to be in violation of this chapter"

petition for rehearing or review must set forth legally sufficient reasons for granting a rehearing or review. A.A.C. R4-16-103. Service of this order is effective five (5) days after date of mailing. A.R.S. § 41-1092.09(C). If a petition for rehearing or review is not filed, the Board's Order becomes effective thirty-five (35) days after it is mailed to Respondent.

Respondent is further notified that the filing of a motion for rehearing or review is required to preserve any rights of appeal to the Superior Court.

DATED this 7 day of May 2024.

THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

Patricia E. McSorley Executive Director

1	ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed this
2	day of May, 2024 with:
3	Arizona Medical Board 1740 W. Adams, Suite 4000
4	Phoenix, Arizona 85007
5	COPY of the foregoing filed this day of May 2024 with:
6	Greg Hanchett, Director
7	Office of Administrative Hearings 1740 W. Adams
8	Phoenix, AZ 85007
9	Executed copy of the foregoing
10	mailed by U.S. Mail and emailed this _7* day of May 2024 to:
11	Mark C. Okafor, M.D. Address of Record
12	
13	Sara Stark, Esq. CHELLE LAW PLC
14	Sara.Stark@chellelaw.com Attorney for Respondent
15	Elizabeth A. Campbell
16	Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General
17	SGD/LES 2005 N. Central Avenue
18	Phoenix, AZ 85004
19	NA (1 1 P
20	By: Michelle Board Arizona Medical Board
21	Anzona Medical Dualu
22	# 12070322
23	