

BEFORE THE  
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

In re: )  
 )  
James Thomas Skeen, M.D., ) CONSENT ORDER  
 )  
Respondent. )

This matter is before the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") regarding information provided to the Board concerning James Thomas Skeen, M.D. ("Dr. Skeen"). Dr. Skeen makes the following admissions and the Board makes the following findings and conclusions:

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Board is a body duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding under the authority granted to it in Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the rules and regulations promulgated thereto.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Dr. Skeen was first issued a license to practice medicine by the Board on or about July 18, 1998, license number 9801061.

At all times relevant hereto, Dr. Skeen practiced general medicine and integrative medicine in Greensboro, North Carolina.

In 2017, the Board received complaints regarding Dr. Skeen and his practice of medicine.

As a result of this information coming to the Board's attention, the Board investigated and obtained the medical records for seven (7) of Dr. Skeen's patients who shall be referred to as Patients A-G. Dr. Skeen treated patients A-G from 2015 to 2017.

Medical Expert #1

The records of Patients A-G were sent to a physician who specializes in integrative medicine and who is qualified to testify as an independent medical expert with respect to Dr. Skeen's medical care. This expert shall be referred to as "Medical Expert #1." Medical Expert #1, in relevant part, provided an opinion that Dr. Skeen's treatment of Patients A-F failed to conform to the standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice in North Carolina. Specifically, Medical Expert #1 opined that Dr. Skeen practiced below the North Carolina standard of care in his treatment of Patients A-F in many respects including, and not limited to, the following:

1. Dr. Skeen's medical record keeping was inadequate; and
2. Dr. Skeen inappropriately diagnosed and treated patients for Lyme disease without sufficient evidence to support a diagnosis of Lyme disease.

Medical Expert #2

The records of Patients A-D were sent to a second physician who specializes in the area of infectious disease and is qualified to testify as an independent medical expert with respect to Dr.

Skeen's medical care. This expert shall be referred to as "Medical Expert #2." Medical Expert #2 provided an opinion that Dr. Skeen's treatment of Patients A-D failed to conform to the standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice in North Carolina. Specifically, Medical Expert #2 opined that Dr. Skeen practiced below the North Carolina standard of care in his treatment of Patients A-D in many respects including, and not limited to, the following:

1. Dr. Skeen's medical record keeping was inadequate;
2. Dr. Skeen inappropriately diagnosed and treated heavy metal toxicity without sufficient evidence to support a diagnosis of heavy metal toxicity;
3. Dr. Skeen inappropriately diagnosed and treated patients for Lyme disease without sufficient evidence to support a diagnosis of Lyme disease; and
4. Dr. Skeen appropriately diagnosed patients for Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, but failed to treat them appropriately for such condition.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Dr. Skeen's care of Patients A through F as described above constitutes unprofessional conduct including, but not limited to, departure from or the failure to conform to, the standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6), which is grounds for the Board to

annul, suspend, revoke, condition or limit Dr. Skeen's license to practice medicine and surgery issued by the Board.

PROCEDURAL STIPULATIONS

Dr. Skeen acknowledges and agrees that the Board has jurisdiction over him and over the subject matter of this case.

Dr. Skeen knowingly waives his right to any hearing and to any judicial review or appeal in this case.

Dr. Skeen, with the advice of counsel, acknowledges that he has read and understands this Consent Order and enters into it voluntarily.

Dr. Skeen desires to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings.

The Board has determined that it is in the public interest to resolve this case as set forth below.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, with Dr. Skeen's consent, it is ORDERED that:

1. Dr. Skeen's medical license as a physician in North Carolina is hereby INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED. This INDEFINITE SUSPENSION shall be IMMEDIATELY STAYED and Dr. Skeen's North Carolina medical license shall be placed on PROBATION. The terms of Dr. Skeen's PROBATION shall be as follows:

a. Dr. Skeen shall enter into an agreement with and be assessed by Affiliated Monitors, Inc. ("Affiliated Monitors") within sixty (60) days from the date of this Consent Order.

The purpose of the Affiliated Monitors assessment shall be to evaluate Dr. Skeen's competence in general medical practice and integrative medicine. Affiliated Monitors shall embody their assessment opinions and results in a report that shall be provided to the Board. If Affiliated Monitors determines that Dr. Skeen needs educational remediation to become fully competent in (i) general medical practice and/or (ii) integrative medicine, Dr. Skeen shall timely comply with and complete all educational remediation deemed necessary by Affiliated Monitors. In the event that educational remediation is required, Dr. Skeen agrees that Affiliated Monitors shall send quarterly progress reports to the Board until such time as Affiliated Monitors deems Dr. Skeen competent to practice without any further educational remediation. All reports shall be sent to the Board via electronic mail to [compliance@ncmedboard.org](mailto:compliance@ncmedboard.org).

b. If Affiliated Monitors informs the Board that Dr. Skeen is practicing below the standard of care or not complying with their agreement or recommendations, Dr. Skeen agrees that the Board may make an ex parte determination to summarily suspend his North Carolina medical license based on any of these circumstances.

2. Dr. Skeen shall obey all laws. Likewise, he shall obey all rules and regulations involving the practice of medicine.

3. Dr. Skeen shall meet with the Board or members of the Board for an investigative interview at such times as requested by the Board.

4. Upon request, Dr. Skeen shall provide the Board with any information the Board deems necessary to verify compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order.

5. If Dr. Skeen fails to comply with any of the terms of this Consent Order, that failure shall constitute unprofessional conduct within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6) and shall be grounds, after any required notice and hearing, for the Board to annul, suspend or revoke his license to practice medicine and to deny any application he might make in the future or then have pending for a license to practice medicine.

6. This Consent Order shall take effect immediately upon its execution by both Dr. Skeen and the Board, and it shall continue in effect until specifically ordered otherwise by the Board.

7. Dr. Skeen hereby waives any requirement under any law or rule that this Consent Order be served on him.

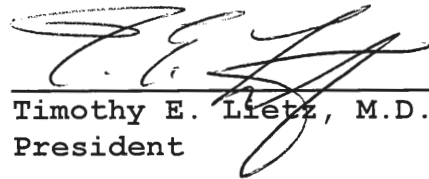
8. Upon execution by Dr. Skeen and the Board, this Consent Order shall become a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and shall be subject to public inspection and dissemination pursuant to the provisions thereof. Additionally, it will be reported to persons, entities,

agencies and clearinghouses as required and permitted by law including, but not limited to, the Federation of State Medical Boards and the National Practitioner Data Bank.

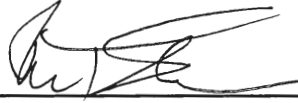
By Order of the North Carolina Medical Board this the 18 day of October, 2018.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By:

  
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Timothy E. Lietz, M.D.  
President

Consented to this the 18th day of OCTOBER, 2018.



James Thomas Skeen, M.D.

State of NORTH CAROLINA

County of WAJCE

I, WANDA A. LONG, do hereby certify that James Thomas Skeen, M.D. personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal this the 18th day of OCTOBER, 2018.

Wanda A. Long  
Notary Public

(Official Seal)

My Commission Expires: 4-18-2020