

Licensee Details

Licensee Information

Name: Caroline Ames Brooks

Address:

Alpharetta GA 30004

Primary Source License Information

Lic #: RN282576	Profession: Registered Professional Nurse	Type: Advanced Practice - NP
Secondary: Pediatrics	Method: Initial Authority	Status: Probation
Issued: 12/12/2018	Expires: 1/31/2025	Last Renewal Date: 10/18/2022

Associated Licenses

Relationship: Self Automatic

Licensee: Brooks, Caroline Ames	License Type: Registered Prof Nurse - Single State	
License #: RN282576	License Status: Probation	
Established: 12/12/2018	Association Date:	Expiry:
Type: Prerequisite User		

Relationship: NCO

Licensee: The National Certification Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners & Nurses	License Type: National Certification Organizations	
License #: NCO-000006	License Status: Active	
Established: 12/12/2018	Association Date:	Expiry:
Type: Prerequisite User		

Public Board Orders

Please see Documents section below for any Public Board Orders

Other Documents

No Other Documents

Data current as of: October 12, 2024 1:47:5

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**BEFORE THE GEORGIA BOARD OF NURSING
STATE OF GEORGIA**

Professional Licensing
Boards

IN THE MATTER OF:)

CAROLINE AMES BROOKS, (APRN),)
License No. RN282576,)

Respondent.)

DOCKET NO.

APR 01 2024
Docket Number
2024-0271

PUBLIC CONSENT ORDER

By agreement of the Georgia Board of Nursing ("Board") and Caroline Ames Brooks, ("Respondent"), the following disposition of this matter is entered pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A § 50-13-13(a)(4), as amended.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

Respondent is licensed to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse in the State of Georgia and is also authorized to practice as an advanced practice nurse ("APRN")-Nurse Practitioner in Georgia and was so licensed and authorized at all times relevant to the matters stated herein.

2.

On or about May 24, 2021, 5-year-old female patient K.L. presented at Respondent's facility of employment, The Genesis Center ("Center"), with "chronic pain to the right side of [her] neck as well as intermittent, random HAs [headaches]; arthralgia; and some fatigue ... pt states 'bones hurt.'" Respondent recommended a "Vibrant tickborne panel + Cos1 + Cos2" and a [f]ollow up for BOV once labs are back."

3.

On or about July 14, 2021, 5-year-old female patient K.L.'s mother revisited the Center, "to review vibrant[sic] labs," and reported patient's "joint stiffness is worsening, HAs [headaches] are worsening , pt seems unable to keep up with peers while playing." Respondent

noted her assessment of “Bartonella hensalae and equivocal babesia.” Respondent prescribed 5-year-old patient K.L. “Ivermectin 6mg oral suspension 3 days on, 3 days off x 4 weeks [for] (babesia); methylene blue 10 mg 3 days on, 4 days off x 4 weeks [for] (bartonella); azithromycin 3 days on, 4 days off x 4 weeks [for] (bartonella);” recommended labwork for iron, TIBC (total iron-binding capacity), and ferritin; and a follow up in 6 weeks. Respondent also recommended that patient K.L. take a twelve-week course of the supplement Artecina 90, with a reference to “babesia, bartonella.”

4.

In addition, on or about August 11, 2021, Respondent administered a “SOT [Supportive Oligonucleotide Therapy] infusion B.BURGDORFERI” to 5-year-old patient K.L.

5.

On or about August 30, 2021, 5-year-old female patient K.L. presented for emergency care, at a facility specializing in the treatment of children, with tachycardia, increased heart rate, palpitations, and “funny feeling in her chest since last night; HR [heart rate] 145 per EMS [Emergency Medical Services]; patient being treated for Lyme disease the last few weeks.” 5-year-old female patient K.L. was diagnosed with “tachycardia, unspecified,” “abnormal level of other drugs, medicaments and biological substances in specimens from other organs, systems and tissues,” “drug toxicity,” and “babesiosis, unspecified.” The emergency physician noted in her report that 5-year-old female patient K.L. was “[admitted] w/ tachycardia, likely drug toxicity. Concern for cardiac involvement due to prolonged courses of these medications ... it is highly unlikely for her to have all 3 infections concomitantly after an exposure at a zoo for only a few hours. Neither medication is indicated for any of the infections mom was told [K.L.] has.”

At the recommendation of Poison Control, patient K.L.’s use of Ivermectin and Methylene blue were discontinued, which the emergency physician noted in her written report

“can cause cardiac conditions.” During the same hospital visit, another emergency physician expressed concern regarding the “5-year-old child with isolated tachycardia” noting that “this may be a complication from the medications ivermectin and methylene blue, both of which can cause tachycardia.” Said physician also noted that 5-year-old female patient K.L. had “been on these medications for 6 weeks now.”

6.

On August 31, 2021, the Georgia Board of Nursing received communication from the treating emergency facility noting the following concerns:

- 1) The medications prescribed by [Respondent] under Dr. Khurana are not used in pediatrics to ... treat the above pediatric infectious diseases. Treating with ivermectin and methylene blue is well out of the range of standard of care.
- 2) The medications above can be extremely toxic to children, and are well known to cause adverse cardiac events.
- 3) [Respondent] portrayed herself as a medical doctor to the child’s mother, when she is indeed not a medical doctor.”⁷.

On April 2, 2023, a Board-appointed peer reviewer reviewed this matter, to include a thorough review of all associated medical records, and confirmed that Respondent “did not treat this child appropriately ... [t]hese are complex treatment regimens with risks,” and the reviewer outlined “a number of concerns ... specifically surrounding the diagnosis, treatments, clinician[’]s experience and background training.” Specifically, the reviewer explained that “before prescribing such a complex treatment regimen[,] [Respondent] should have referred the patient ... [it] would have been in the child’s best interest to consult an Infectious Disease Physician for an accurate diagnosis and treatment plan.” In addition, the peer reviewer had “major concerns” with the SOT (Supportive Oligonucleotide Therapy) infusions being given to a

child in an office, citing dosing, whether the office is equipped for an emergency, whether the NP knows what to do in an emergency, and whether the NP is certified in Pediatric Advanced Life Support. The peer reviewer concluded that “[a]ccording to the consensus statement, one needs to know when to seek consultation. Ms. Brooks did not practice as any reasonable NP would have practiced in this case ... her conduct fell below acceptable standards of practice.”

8.

Respondent admits the above findings of fact, and waives any further findings of fact with respect to the above-styled matter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Under the statutory provisions related to professional licensing boards, O.C.G.A. § 43-1-1, *et seq.*; the Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act, O.C.G.A. § 43-26-1, *et seq.*; and the rules of the Georgia Board of Nursing, found at Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. Ch. 410, the Georgia Board of Nursing is authorized to impose sanctions upon Respondent's license to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse and Respondent's authorization to practice as an advanced practice nurse in the State of Georgia for the conduct stated above. Respondent waives any further conclusions of law with respect to this matter.

ORDER

The Board, having considered the particular facts and circumstances of this case, hereby ORDERS, and Respondent hereby AGREES, that the following sanctions shall be imposed upon Respondent's license to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse and Respondent's authorization to practice as an advanced practice nurse in the State of Georgia:

1.

Upon the effective date of this Consent Order, Respondent's license to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse, and Respondent's authorization to practice as an advanced

practice nurse, shall be placed on **PROBATION for one (1) year**, subject to the following terms and conditions:

(a) **EFFECTIVE DATE.** The effective date of this Consent Order is the date the Consent Order is docketed. Respondent must comply with the terms and conditions of the Consent Order beginning on the effective date.

(b) **REVIEW OF CONSENT ORDER.** After acceptance by the Board and docketing, a copy of the docketed Consent Order shall be mailed to Respondent's address of record **within ten (10) business days** of the docket date, along with a Consent Order Review Form. If Respondent has not received a docketed copy of the Consent Order, it is Respondent's responsibility to obtain a docketed copy of the Consent Order from the Board. **Within ten (10) days** of Respondent's receipt of such form, Respondent shall submit the completed form to the Board. **Failure to comply with this requirement shall be deemed a violation of this Consent Order.**

(c) **FINE.** Respondent shall submit to the Board a fine in the amount of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** for unprofessional conduct. Such fine shall be payable **within sixty (60) days** from the effective date of this Public Consent Order. Payment shall be in the form of a cashier's check or money order made payable to the Georgia Board of Nursing and sent to: Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia Board of Nursing, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. **Respondent's failure to pay the fine by the sixtieth day shall be deemed a violation of this Consent Order, and shall subject Respondent's license to further disciplinary action, including revocation.**

(d) **REQUIRED COURSES.** Within **ninety (90) days** of the docket date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall provide to the Board proof of successful completion of the following nursing education courses: **(1) Upholding the Standard: Professional**

Accountability in Nursing, which can be found at icrsncsbn.org; (2) **Righting a Wrong: Ethics and Professionalism in Nursing**, which can be found at icrsncsbn.org; and (3) **Principals of Safe Prescribing: Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, Pharmacogenomics & Drug Interactions**, which can be found at fhea.com/np-continuing-education. Documentation of successful completion of the nursing education courses shall be submitted to the Georgia Board of Nursing at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217-3858, in care of the Legal/Disciplinary Nurse Consultant. **Failure to provide documentation of completion of the nursing education courses within ninety (90) days shall be deemed a violation of this Consent Order, and shall subject Respondent's license to further disciplinary action, including revocation.**

(e) **QUARTERLY REPORTS FROM EMPLOYERS.** If Respondent is employed as a nurse, Respondent shall provide a copy of this Order to each of such employers or supervisors **within ten (10) days** of Respondent's receipt of a docketed copy of the Order. Respondent shall cause such employers or supervisors to submit quarterly reports to the Board by March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31, commencing on the first reporting date following the effective date of this Order, and continuing throughout the period of probation. Each report shall evaluate Respondent's performance of Respondent's duties. The receipt of an unfavorable report shall be deemed a violation of this Order and, upon substantiation thereof, shall be grounds for sanction or revocation of Respondent's license. Respondent is under a continuing duty to provide a copy of this Consent Order to any new employer **prior to accepting nursing employment.**

(f) **PERSONAL QUARTLERY REPORTS.** Respondent shall submit personal quarterly reports to the Board by March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31, commencing on the first reporting date following the effective date of this Order, and continuing

throughout the period of probation. Failure to submit such reports, upon substantiation thereof, shall be grounds for sanction or revocation of Respondent's license.

(g) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.** Respondent shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to all reporting individuals. It shall be the responsibility of Respondent to ensure that all required reports are timely submitted to and received by the Georgia Board of Nursing. The preferred way to submit the reports is by email to nursingcompliance@sos.ga.gov. Reports may also be sent to Georgia Board of Nursing, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon Georgia 31217-3858 in care of the Legal/Disciplinary Nurse Consultant. Respondent shall report to the Board any change in Respondent's place of employment, residence, and current status as a practicing registered professional nurse **within ten (10) days** of said change.

(h) **CONSENT TO RELEASE OF INFORMATION.** By executing this Consent Order, Respondent specifically consents to any individuals or entities reporting to the Board information which would relate to Respondent's ability to practice as a registered professional nurse with reasonable skill and safety to patients or which constitutes a violation of the Nurse Practice Act or this Consent Order, notwithstanding any privilege provided by State or Federal law, and Respondent agrees to provide to the Board any release or other documentation which may be necessary for the Board to obtain such information.

(i) **REQUIREMENT TO KEEP ADDRESS CURRENT.** Pursuant to Board Rule 410-1.03(2), Respondent agrees to maintain a current mailing address, email address, and phone number with the Board. Respondent shall report to the Board in writing any changes in Respondent's mailing address, email address or phone number within thirty (30) days of said change and shall make such changes on the Board's website. **Respondent's failure to update Respondent's address, email, or phone number on the Board's website shall be a violation**

of this Consent Order, and will subject Respondent to disciplinary action, including indefinite suspension or revocation.

(j) **COPY OF CONSENT ORDER TO DIRECTOR OF NURSING EDUCATION COURSE.** If Respondent should be enrolled in any clinical nursing course, Respondent shall also provide a copy of this Consent Order to the Dean or Director of such program.

(k) **ABIDE BY LAWS, RULES, AND TERMS OF CONSENT ORDER.** If Respondent shall fail to abide by all State and Federal laws relating to drugs and regulating the practice of registered professional nursing in the State of Georgia, the Rules and Regulations of the Georgia Board of Nursing, and the terms of this Consent Order, or if it should appear from reports submitted to the Board that Respondent is unable to practice as a registered professional nurse with reasonable skill and safety to patients, Respondent's license may be sanctioned or revoked, upon substantiation thereof.

(l) **TERMINATION OF PROBATION.** Respondent shall not be eligible to petition for termination of the period of probation until one (1) year from the docket date. At such time, Respondent may petition for termination by certifying under oath before a notary public that Respondent has complied with all conditions of the period of probation. The Board shall review and evaluate the practice of Respondent prior to terminating the period of probation. At such time, should the Board determine that reasonable cause exists for maintaining probations on Respondent's license, the Board shall notify Respondent of its intent to extend the period of probation, and Respondent may respond to such notice in writing or request an appearance before the Board as in a non-contested case. **In any event, this Consent Order shall remain in effect pending a final written determination by the Board and notification that the period of probation has been terminated.**

2.

Approval of this Consent Order by the Georgia Board of Nursing shall not be construed as a waiver of any of the lawful rights possessed by the Board.

3.

This Consent Order and its dissemination shall constitute a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND** to Respondent for Respondent's conduct.

4.

Respondent, Caroline Ames Brooks, has read this Consent Order and understands its contents. Respondent understands that Respondent has the right to a hearing in this matter, and freely, knowingly and voluntarily waives such right by entering into this Consent Order. Respondent understands that this Consent Order will not become effective until approved by the Georgia Board of Nursing and docketed by the Division Director, Professional Licensing Boards Division. Respondent further understands and agrees that the Board shall have the authority to review the investigative file and all relevant evidence in considering the Consent Order. Respondent understands that this Consent Order, once approved and docketed, shall constitute a public record, evidencing disciplinary action by the Board. However, if the Consent Order is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the Board's ability to adjudicate this matter. Respondent hereby consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein. Respondent understands that, by entering into this Consent Order, Respondent may not be eligible for a multistate license.

Approved by the Board, this 28 day of March, 2024.

GEORGIA BOARD OF NURSING

BY: Ashlan Porter, BSN, RN

ASHLAN PORTER, BSN, RN
President



ATTEST: *Gabriel Sterling* signed with express permission
GABRIEL STERLING
Interim Division Director,
Professional Licensing Boards Division

CONSENTED TO:
Caroline Ames Brooks
CAROLINE AMES BROOKS
Respondent

AS TO SIGNATURE OF RESPONDENT ONLY:
CAROLINE AMES BROOKS

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 27 day of March, 2024.

Heidi Shirey
NOTARY PUBLIC
My commission expires:
8-3-2027

