

FILED

ROBERT J. DEL TUFO
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

June 5, 1990

**NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF

Administrative Action

LINDA CHOI, M.D.

CONSENT ORDER

TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners upon investigation of information pertaining to the medical practice of Linda Choi at Medical Nutrition Center in Paramus, New Jersey. Respondent regularly treats certain patients suffering from chronic degenerative disease, including coronary artery disease and peripheral vascular disease, by means of disodium magnesium EDTA chelation therapy, a therapy not widely accepted and practiced by physicians in the United States. Respondent has represented to the Board that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has recently issued an IND (Investigational New Drug) [application] number for double-blind studies of EDTA

Chelation therapy in the treatment of peripheral vascular disease. Nonetheless, the use of EDTA for the purposes for which respondent uses it has not been approved by the FDA, and furthermore, in the Board's opinion, its clinical safety and efficacy for the purposes for which she uses it have not been sufficiently established by credible controlled clinical trials or double-blind studies.

The Board's investigation has further disclosed that respondent's clinical evaluation of patients includes the use of hair analysis as one tool for her assessment of the levels of essential nutrients, trace elements and heavy metals in the patient. In the Board's opinion, hair analysis has no medically valid purpose except as a diagnostic screening device for lead poisoning in at-risk populations, a purpose for which respondent was not using it.

Additionally, respondent diagnoses and treats certain patients as suffering from a syndrome called "Candida albicans overgrowth syndrome" which she claims is caused by a polysystemic chronic candidiasis. The existence of this condition as a clinical entity is not generally recognized, and the Board is of the belief that "Candida albicans overgrowth" has not been scientifically established as the cause of the conditions treated by respondent.

Finally, respondent has permitted and continues to permit unlicensed "physicians assistants" to give injections and to mix and administer intravenous vitamin, mineral and chelation mixtures to the patients in her practice at Medical Nutrition Center. She

maintains that these assistants functioned under her supervision. Nevertheless, the Board views their activity as improper.

It appearing that the parties desire to resolve this matter without the necessity for formal proceedings, and it appearing to the Board that the within Order adequately protects the public health, safety and welfare, and it further appearing that Dr. Choi, without admitting to any ground for action and expressly denying any violation of any statutes or regulations administered by the Board, nevertheless, agrees to the entry of the within Order and consents to be bound by its terms, and good cause therefore having been shown,

IT IS on this 25 day of MAY, 1990,

ORDERED:

1. The license of Linda Choi to practice medicine in the State of New Jersey is hereby suspended for one year, which suspension is hereby stayed and shall serve as a period of probation, commencing 30 days from the filing date of the within Order.

2. During the period of probation, respondent shall permit the Board of Medical Examiners to perform quarterly examinations of a random selection of her patient records chosen by the Board for one year.

3. The cease and desist provisions of this Order shall be applicable wherever in the State of New Jersey respondent chooses to practice medicine, and shall not be limited to her prac-

tice at Medical Nutrition Center or in the format of Nutritional Health Care Associates, P.A.

4. Respondent shall ensure that publications, brochures, pamphlets, and advertising pertaining to her medical practice are modified or withdrawn as necessary so as to conform to the requirements of this Order.

5. Respondent shall cease and desist from treating vascular diseases, including but not limited to coronary insufficiency, atherosclerosis and cerebral vascular insufficiency, with di-sodium magnesium EDTA chelation therapy.

6. Respondent shall cease and desist from diagnosing and treating "Candida Albicans Overgrowth Syndrome."

7. Respondent shall cease and desist from ordering, performing or utilizing hair analysis tests as part of her clinical evaluation of patients except that she may use hair analysis as one screening mechanism for lead poisoning in at-risk population.

8. Respondent shall cease and desist from permitting unlicensed assistants to administer intravenous solutions and to give injections, whether or not such assistants are supervised by her.

9. Respondent shall submit her current fee schedule to the Board for review within 30 days of the filing of the within Order.

10. Respondent shall pay to the State Board of Medical Examiners \$3,000 in investigative costs prior to the end of the one

year stayed suspension period, with \$400 to be paid by certified check upon her tendering of the Order for entry.

11. With the exception of paragraph 10 hereinabove, the provisions of this Order shall take effect 30 days from the filing date of this Order.

12. Respondent shall have leave to petition the Board in the future for modification of the cease and desist portions of this Order, namely paragraphs 5, 6 and 7, by submitting her petition in writing accompanied by documentation to support her belief that the prohibited practices should be permitted.

13. In the event that respondent changes the structure, format or location of her medical practice such that she believes the provisions of paragraph 2 should not be enforced, she shall have leave to petition the Board in writing for modification of the provisions that paragraph.

STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: Michael B. Grossman D.O.
Michael B. Grossman, D.O.
President

I have read the above Order and I understand and agree with its terms. I consent to its entry by the State Board of Medical Examiners.

Linda Choi M.D.
Linda Choi, M.D.