

BEFORE THE
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

In re:)	
)	
Elizabeth R. Vaughan, M.D.,)	CONSENT ORDER
)	
Respondent.)	

This matter is before the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") on information and belief that Elizabeth R. Vaughan ("Dr. Vaughan"), committed unprofessional conduct within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6) by failing to conform to the accepted and prevailing standards of medical practice.

Whereas 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 it in Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes; and

Whereas Dr. Vaughan is a physician licensed by the Board on or about March 17, 1984, license number 27863; and

Whereas, during the times relevant herein, Dr. Vaughan practiced internal medicine in Greensboro, North Carolina; and

Whereas, in July 2009, the Board received a complaint from a former employee alleging unprofessional conduct by Dr. Vaughan; and

Whereas the Board obtained five patient charts from Dr. Vaughan and submitted them for review by two medical experts to

determine if the care provided to Patients A - D was within the accepted and prevailing standard of care; and

Whereas, the medical experts identified areas where Dr. Vaughan's medical records, and supervision of treatment of allied health professionals including a physician assistant and certified medical assistant were below the accepted and prevailing standard of care; and

Whereas the reviewing experts specifically identified the following concerns with regard to Patient A: (1) the medical records did not indicate the justification for the choice of substances used during infusion therapy; (2) vital signs were not monitored during infusion treatments and Dr. Vaughan did not sign the majority of record sheets for the infusion treatments; (3) the medical records do not adequately document the rationale or justification for the supplements suggested to Patient A; and (4) prescriptions were poorly documented;

Whereas the reviewing experts specifically identified the following concerns with regard to Patient B: (1) the use of chelation therapy was poorly justified; (2) documentation of the patient's vital signs during chelation procedures was poorly documented; (3) the medical records indicated minimal contact with the patient; (4) the medical records indicate minimal supervision of allied health professional who provided the infusion therapies to Patient B;

Whereas the reviewing experts specifically identified the following concerns with regard to Patient C: 1) the medical records do not indicate the justification for the choice of substances used during infusion therapy; (2) vital signs were not monitored during infusion treatments and Dr. Vaughan did not sign the majority of record sheets for the infusion treatments; (3) the medical records have sparse indications for the rationale or justification for the supplements suggested to Patient B; (4) the medical records indicate minimal supervision of allied health professional who provided the infusion therapies to Patient C;

Whereas the reviewing experts specifically identified the following concern with regard to Patient D: the medical records do not adequately document office visits, laboratory tests, or clinical monitoring for approximately 16 months even though Patient D was receiving infusion treatments during that time, which were documented;

Whereas Dr. Vaughan's supervision of care provided to Patients A through D and her medical record documentation, as described above, constitute 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 under that section of the North Carolina General

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

Whereas Dr. Vaughan would like to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings, and

Now, therefore, with Dr. Vaughan's consent, it is ORDERED that:

1. Dr. Vaughan is hereby formally REPRIMANDED.
2. Dr. Vaughan shall strictly comply with the Board's Position Statement entitled "MEDICAL RECORD DOCUMENTATION."
3. Dr. Vaughan shall strictly comply with the Board's Position Statement entitled "Physician supervision of other licensed health care practitioners".
4. Within six (6) months of the date of this consent order, Dr. Vaughan shall attend the Intensive Course in Medical Record Keeping with Individual Preceptorships offered at Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Vaughan shall provide proof of satisfactory completion of the course to the Medical Director of the Medical Board within thirty (30) days of completing the course.
5. Dr. Vaughan shall obey all Federal and State laws. Likewise, Dr. Vaughan shall obey all rules or regulations involving the practice of medicine.

6. If Dr. Vaughan 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, revoke, suspend, or limit his license or to deny any application he might then have pending or might make in the future for a license.

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

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

9. This Consent Order or any portion of it shall not be construed as a violation of the requisite standard of health care as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-21.12 to support a Medical Malpractice action as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-21.1.

10. Upon execution by Dr. Vaughan 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. By Order of the North Carolina Medical Board
this the 24th day of September, 2010.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By:

Donald E. Jablonski, D.O., FALOP

Donald E. Jablonski, D.O.
President

Consented to this the 21 day of September, 2010.

Elizabeth R. Vaughan M.D.
Elizabeth R. Vaughan, M.D.

State of North Carolina

Guilford County

I, Adam G. Dupuis, a Notary Public for the
above named County and State, do hereby certify that Elizabeth
R. Vaughan, 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 21 day of September, 2010.

Adam G. Dupuis
Notary Public

(SEAL)

My Commission expires: Dec. 24, 2011