
**BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI STATE
BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF:
LAURA PURDY, M.D.**

CORRECTED DETERMINATION AND ORDER

THIS MATTER came before the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure (hereinafter “Board”) in Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi, on May 18, 2023, pursuant to a Summons and Affidavit issued to Laura Purdy, M.D. (hereinafter “Licensee”). A hearing was conducted on May 18, 2023.

At the hearing, Board Counsel Paul Barnes, Esq. presented the charges set forth in the Affidavit. Licensee, having been served with the Summons and being fully informed of her rights to a formal hearing before the Board, was present and represented by Johnny Chapman, Esq. Alexis Morris, Esq., Special Assistant Attorney General, served as Administrative Hearing Officer, presided at the hearing and was directed to prepare the Board’s written decision in accordance with its deliberations.

Board members present for the proceedings were David McClendon, M.D.; Ken Lippincott, M.D.; Thomas Joiner, M.D.; Kirk Kinard, D.O.; Allen Gersh, M.D.; Roderick Givens, M.D.; and William Eugene Loper, III, M.D. The Consumer member

present was Koomarie “Shoba” Gaymes. Accordingly, a quorum of the Board members was present throughout the hearing and deliberation in this matter.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Board is established pursuant to the Mississippi State Board Medical Licensure Act, Title 73, Chapter 43 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 as amended, and is charged with the duty of licensing and regulating the practice of medicine in the State of Mississippi pursuant to Title 73, Chapter 25 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 as amended.
2. Sections 73-25-29, 73-25-83 and 73-25-87 of the Mississippi Code Annotated (1972) as amended provide that the Board may revoke or suspend a license or take any other actions as deemed necessary if a license has violated any provisions therein.
3. All parties have been properly noticed of the matter now pending.
4. Laura Purdy, M.D., hereby referred to as “Licensee,” currently holds Mississippi Medical License Number 25959, and said number is valid until June 30, 2023.
5. Licensee is licensed to practice medicine in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
6. On or about May 23, 2022, the Board received a complaint from a physician alleging that Licensee was prescribing medications such as Ozempic via telehealth with no audio and or video contact with at least one (1) patient. It

was also alleged that side effects of those drugs were not discussed with the patient prior to prescribing.

7. During the Board's investigation, it was discovered that Licensee was also prescribing medications to at least two (2) other patients in the State of Mississippi. The investigation found that that all patient encounters were conducted via instant messages through a phone application and website called "Push Health."
8. Communication for all patient encounters was conducted via instant messages on the website "Push Health." *See* MSB 000036-MSB 000043 and MSB 000054-000055.
9. Licensee testified that she only reviewed questionnaires completed by patients when they registered for "Push Health" prior to prescribing medication. Other than the instant messages, Licensee testified that she does not ask any questions or engage in any relevant communication with patients to establish the physician/patient relationship needed to practice telemedicine in the state of Mississippi.
10. Licensee did not contest **Count I** of the Affidavit; however, she testified that she did not willfully violate the Board's Administrative Code, Title 30, Part 2635, Rules 5.4 and 5.5.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board has jurisdiction in this matter under Miss. Code Ann. 73-25-29 and 73-25-83(a). Venue is likewise properly placed before the Board to hear this

matter in Hinds County, Mississippi.

2. These proceedings were duly and properly convened, and all substantive and procedural requirements under law have been satisfied. This matter is, therefore, properly before the Board.
3. The Board is authorized to license and regulate persons who apply for or hold medical licenses and prescribe conditions under which persons may practice to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.
4. The Board made certain amendments to the regulations in Part 2635, Chapter 5: Practice of Telemedicine, effective July 26, 2022. The violations of the Board's Administrative Code by Licensee occurred prior to July 26, 2022, which required that Licensee be charged under the old version(s) of the applicable regulations, and the old version(s) were cited in the Affidavit.
5. Based on the evidence and testimony presented, Licensee is guilty of **Count I** of the Affidavit, that is guilty of failing to establish a valid physician patient relationship and utilizing a questionnaire in lieu of a physical examination, all in violation of Miss Code Ann. § 73-25-29(13).
6. Based on the evidence and testimony presented, Licensee is guilty of **Count II** of the Affidavit, that is, guilty of unprofessional conduct, which includes but is not limited to, being guilty of any dishonorable or unethical conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public, all in violation of Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-25-29(8)(d) and 73-25-83(a).

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board finds the following order to be appropriate under the circumstances.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Mississippi Medical license No. 25959, issued to Laura Purdy, M.D. is hereby suspended for three (“3”) months—with the suspension immediately stayed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Licensee shall successfully complete the PROBE course offered by CPEP and provide confirmation of completion to the Board.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Licensee is prohibited from practicing medicine via telehealth in the state of Mississippi until June 17, 2023.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Licensee must report to the Board for review of her current telehealth standard operating procedures prior to returning to practicing telehealth in the state of Mississippi.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. Section 73-25-27, that a copy of this Order shall be sent by registered mail or personally served upon Laura Purdy, M.D.

SO ORDERED, this the 18th day of May 2023.

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL LICENSURE

BY: 
WILLIAM D. MCCLENDON, JR., M.D.,
PRESIDENT