# IN THE MATTER OF PHYSICIAN'S LICENSE

OF

## ALEXANDAR JOVANOVICH, M.D.

## CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Alexandar Jovanovich, M.D., hereinafter referred to as "Licensee," is the current holder of License No. 26061, issued August 3, 2018, for the practice of medicine in the State of Mississippi;

WHEREAS, on August 28, 2020, Licensee, in order to avoid a disciplinary hearing, voluntarily entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Iowa Board of Medicine for an act or acts that would be grounds for disciplinary action under Iowa Code sections 148.6(2)(c), and Iowa Administrative Code rules 653-13.11(7) and (8) and 23.1(1). Licensee was cited for violating the standards of practice for telemedicine in Iowa, and he was also warned that engaging in such conduct in the future may result in further disciplinary action against his Iowa license. In addition, Licensee was ordered to pay a \$5,000.00 civil penalty and required to take corrective action to address the deficiencies in his telemedicine practice.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Subsection (9) of Section 73-25-29, Mississippi Code (1972), Annotated, the aforementioned actions by the Iowa Board constitute action against Licensee's ability to practice in another jurisdiction, grounds for which the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure may revoke the Mississippi medical license of Licensee, suspend his right to practice for a time deemed proper by the Board, place

his license on probation, the terms of which may be set by the Board, or take any other action in relation to his license as the Board may deem proper under the circumstances;

WHEREAS, Licensee wishes to avoid a hearing before the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure and, in lieu thereof, has consented to certain restrictions and conditions on his license to practice medicine in the State of Mississippi.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, with consent of Licensee as signified by his joinder herein, does hereby formally **REPRIMAND** Licensee, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- Licensee must comply with all requirements set forth in the aforementioned lowa Settlement Agreement. Licensee shall provide proof of the successful completion of the Settlement Agreement prior to requesting lifting of this Consent Order.
- 2. Licensee shall reimburse the Board for all costs incurred in relation to the pending matter pursuant to Miss. Code Ann., § 73-25-30. Licensee shall be advised of the total assessment by separate written notification, and shall tender to the Board a certified check or money order made payable to the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, on or before forty (40) days from the date the assessment is mailed to Licensee via U.S. Mail to Licensee's current mailing address.

Should the Board hereafter receive documented evidence of Licensee violating any of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, the Board shall have the right, pursuant to a full evidentiary hearing, to revoke the medical license of Licensee, suspend it for a time deemed proper by the Board, or take any other action determined as necessary by the Board.

This Consent Order shall be subject to approval by the Board. If the Board fails to approve this Consent Order, in whole or in part, it shall have no force or effect on the parties. It is further understood and agreed that the purpose of this Consent Order is to avoid a hearing before the Board. In this regard, Licensee authorizes the Board to review and examine any documentary evidence or material concerning the Licensee prior to or in conjunction with its consideration of this Consent Order. Should this Consent Order not be accepted by the Board, it is agreed that presentation to and consideration of this Consent Order and other documents and matters pertaining thereto by the Board shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Board or any of its members from participation in any further proceedings.

Licensee understands and expressly acknowledges that this Consent Order, if approved and executed by the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, shall constitute a public record of the State of Mississippi. Licensee further acknowledges that the Board shall provide a copy of this Order to, among others, the Federation of State Medical Boards, and the Board makes no representation as to action, if any, which any other agency or jurisdiction may take in response to this Order.

Recognizing his right to notice of charges specified against him, to have such charges adjudicated pursuant to <u>Miss. Code Ann.</u>, § 73-25-27 (1972), to be represented therein by legal counsel of his choice, and to a final decision rendered upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law, **ALEXANDAR JOVANOVICH**, **M.D.**, nonetheless, hereby waives his right to notice and a formal adjudication of charges and authorizes the Board to enter an order accepting this Consent Order.

EXECUTED, this the 1, day of February 2021.
Alexandar Jovanovich, M.D.

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED this the 24th, day of March, 2021, by the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure.

EANNE ANN REA, M.D.

**Board President** 

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COMES NOW the Iowa Board of Medicine (Board), and Alexandar Jovanovich, M.D., (Respondent), on Acquire 12.8, 2020, and pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.10(2) and 272C.3(4), enter into this combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement.

#### STATEMENT OF CHARGES

- 1. **Iowa Medical License:** Respondent was issued Iowa medical license MD-44840 on December 20, 2017. Respondent's Iowa medical license is active and will next expire on May 1, 2022.
- 2. **Jurisdiction:** The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 147, 148, and 272C.

## SECTIONS OF STATUTES AND RULES INVOLVED

#### **COUNT I**

3. Violation of the Standards of Practice for Telemedicine: Respondent is charged pursuant to Iowa Code sections 148.6(2)(c), and Iowa Administrative Code rules 653—13.11(7) and (8), and 23.1(1) with violating the standards of practice for telemedicine in Iowa.

## STATEMENT OF THE MATTERS ASSERTED

- 4. **Practice Setting:** Respondent is an Iowa-licensed physician who practices family medicine in Chicago, Illinois.
- 5. Violation of the Standards of Practice for Telemedicine: The Board alleges that Respondent violated the standards of practice for telemedicine in Iowa when Respondent failed to establish a valid physician-patient relationship with patients receiving telemedicine services in Iowa; failed to perform interviews of his patients sufficient for the diagnosis and treatment of patients in Iowa prior to providing medical treatment, including issuing prescriptions; and prescribed medications to patients in Iowa based solely on an internet questionnaire.
- 6. Compromise of Disputed Claims: Respondent denies the Board's allegations of wrongdoing and denies any breach of the Iowa Code or the Board's administrative rules. The Board and the Respondent expressly state that this Settlement Agreement is in compromise of disputed claims and that the allegations have been and are expressly denied by the Respondent.

#### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

- 7. CITATION AND WARNING: Respondent is hereby CITED for violating the standards of practice for telemedicine in Iowa. Respondent is hereby WARNED that engaging in such conduct in the future may result in further disciplinary action against his Iowa medical license.
- 8. CIVIL PENALTY: Respondent shall pay a \$5,000 civil penalty within twenty (20) days of the date of this order. The civil penalty shall be made payable to the Treasurer of Iowa and mailed to the executive director of the Board. The civil penalty shall be deposited into the State General Fund.
- 9. CORRECTIVE ACTION: Respondent shall take corrective action to address the deficiencies in Respondent's telemedicine practice identified by the Board and come into compliance with Iowa Administrative Code rule 653—13.11 to the satisfaction of the Board within the timeframe described in subparagraph 9(A) below, including establishing an adaptive, interactive, and responsive online interview for diagnosis and treatment. A questionnaire that is later reviewed by Respondent is insufficient. At a minimum, the interview must also provide for a live interaction between the prescribing licensee and patient, which may take place via videoconferencing, such that the requirements of subrule 653—13.11(8) are met and the patient has the opportunity to ask questions of the licensee in real-time.
  - A. Governor Kim Reynolds suspended Iowa Administrative Code rule 653—13.11 on March 17, 2020 and the suspension has been reauthorized on several occasions. (State Public Health Emergency Declaration, Kim

Reynolds, Governor of the State of Iowa, 6/25/2020). That suspension is currently in place and may be reauthorized for some time pending the outcome of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Within thirty (30) days of reinstatement of Iowa Administrative Code rule 653—13.11 by Governor Reynolds, Respondent shall file a report with the Board describing what corrective action Respondent has taken pursuant to this paragraph 9. Respondent shall file the report with Joseph Fraioli, J.D., Legal Director by email at or by mail to Iowa Board of Medicine, 400 S.W. Eighth Street, Ste. C, Des Moines, Iowa 50309. The Board will review the report and determine whether corrective action has met the expectations of paragraph 9 above and then provide a confirmation to Respondent whether the actions are acceptable to the Board.

- B. If Respondent fails to timely file this report, Respondent will be notified by the Board and be given fifteen (15) days to cure the failure to file the report. Should Respondent not cure within the allotted time, Respondent shall be immediately prohibited from the practice of telemedicine in Iowa until otherwise determined by the Board.
- 10. Respondent voluntarily submits this Order to the Board for consideration.
- 11. Respondent agrees that the State's counsel may present this Order to the Board for consideration.

- 12. This Order constitutes the final resolution of a contested case proceeding and is the binding disposition of any and all currently pending claims asserted by the Board against the Respondent.
- 13. Respondent shall submit a written statement to the Board, which demonstrates that he has shared a copy of this order with all medical licensing boards where Respondent holds a license, whether active or not, within thirty (30) days of the date of Board approval of this order.
- 14. Respondent shall submit a written statement to the Board, which demonstrates that he has shared a copy of this order with all hospitals, clinics and/or agencies where Respondent is employed as a physician, within thirty (30) days of the date of Board approval of this order.
- 15. Respondent understands that by entering into this Order he has a right to legal counsel in this matter, voluntarily waives any rights to a contested case hearing on the allegations in the Statement of Charges and waives any objections to the terms of this Order.
- 16. Respondent understands that by entering into this combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, he cannot obtain a copy of the investigative file. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.6(4), a copy of the investigative file may only be provided to a licensee after a Statement of Charges is filed but before the final resolution of those charges.
- 17. Respondent understands that the Board is required by Federal law to report this Order to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

- 18. This Order becomes a public record available for inspection and copying upon execution in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code Chapters 17A, 22, and 272C.
- 19. This Order is subject to approval of the Board. If the Board fails to approve this Order, it shall be of no force or effect to either party.
- 20. The Board's approval of this Order shall constitute a Final Order of the Board.

Alexandar Jovanovich, M.D., Respondent

Subscribed and sworn to before me on \_\_\_\_\_\_July 8 \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

Notarized online using audio-video communication

This Order is approved by the Board on August 28, 2020.

Warren E. Gall, M.D., Chair Iowa Board of Medicine 400 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite C Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4686

04/18/2024