

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of)
)
SARDEV S. SIDHU, M.D.)
)
Holder of License No. **23778**)
For the Practice of Medicine)
In the State of Arizona.)
)
Re: ComCare vs. Sardev S. Sidhu, M.D.)
(Inv. #10101))
_____)

**AMENDMENT TO
ORDER OF PROBATION**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED amending the Order dated January 25, 1997
by deleting paragraph 1 of the Order and substituting the following in its place:

1. **SARDEV S. SIDHU, M.D. is placed on probation for an indefinite term. Dr. SIDHU shall not see, treat, or provide care to any female patient unless a chaperone is present at the time. The chaperone shall sign the chart at the time of the visit. Dr. SIDHU shall not perform a physical examination on any female patient.**

DATED this 3rd day of March, 1998.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

[SEAL]

By Donna M. Nemer
MARK R. SPEICHER
Executive Director
DONNA NEMER
Acting Deputy Director

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of)	
)	
SARDEV S. SIDHU, M.D.)	FINDINGS OF FACT,
)	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW,
Holder of License No. 23778)	ORDER OF PROBATION
For the Practice of Medicine)	AND DECREE OF CENSURE
In the State of Arizona.)	
)	
Re: ComCare vs. Sardev S. Sidhu, M.D.)	
(Inv. #10101))	
)	

SARDEV S. SIDHU, M.D., holder of License No. 23778 for the practice of medicine in Arizona, appeared before the Arizona Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") for an informal interview on January 25, 1997. Based upon the information presented, the Board adopted the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order of Probation and Decree of Censure.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Board of Medical Examiners of the State of Arizona is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of medicine in the State of Arizona.
2. SARDEV S. SIDHU, M.D., is the holder of License No. 10101 for the practice of medicine in the State of Arizona.
3. Dr. SIDHU is a psychiatrist.

Patient No. 1

4. Patient K.M., a 53 year old female, was diagnosed with bipolar disorder during a psychiatric office visit. Dr. SIDHU approached the patient from behind, reached over her shoulders, and listened to her heart with a stethoscope. While using

the stethoscope with one hand, he reached into her blouse and touched the patient's breast with his other hand. (She was not wearing a bra.)

5. During an office visit on July 8, 1996, Dr. SIDHU asked the patient to unbutton her dress. After she did so, without explanation, Dr. SIDHU placed both his hands inside her dress and fondled her breasts. When he moved his hands to her nipples and pinched them, the patient yelled, "What in the hell are you doing?" Dr. SIDHU replied that he was just looking for lumps and continued to touch her breasts and nipples. He then returned to his chair and wrote her a prescription. When he handed the prescription to her, Dr. SIDHU stated, "I'm a good doctor, aren't I? Don't I give you anything you want?" He told the patient her right lung was inflamed and she should tell her doctor.

Patient No. 2

6. Patient No., H.C., 2 was a 33 year old female with a diagnosis of depression and post traumatic stress syndrome. She had been raped three months before she saw Dr. SIDHU on January 26, 1996. She told Dr. SIDHU that she had had a stressful month because a friend had attempted suicide by hanging. She had found him hanging from an air conditioning duct in his apartment, she told Dr. SIDHU. Dr. SIDHU immediately began to ask her questions about her sex life, including whether she had had sex with the friend. Each time she mentioned a person, whether friend, support person, or family member, Dr. SIDHU asked whether she had had sex with that person. The patient left the office angry and upset and refused to see Dr. SIDHU again.

Patient No. 3

7. Patient No. 3, A.M., was a 55 year old female diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder, who saw Dr. SIDHU in June 1996. Dr. SIDHU focused his questioning of the patient solely on her sex life. When she told him that she did not

have sexual relations, he said "Why not? You should make love because it's healthy." Dr. SIDHU's questions and comments made the patient feel very uncomfortable.

Patient No. 4

8. On July 12, 1996, D.H., a 27 year old female, complained to the nurse that on the patient's three previous visits, Dr. SIDHU made her feel very uncomfortable because of his persistent questions about her sex life. The patient, whose diagnosis was bipolar I disorder, indicated that the questions seemed unrelated to her medical care and treatment. She said Dr. SIDHU made her "feel like a whore" and she ended up feeling more depressed than when she went in.

Patient No. 5

9. Patient No. 5, I.M., an unmarried 45 year old female, was diagnosed with depression, anxiety disorder, and borderline personality disorder. When Dr. SIDHU asked whether she had a boyfriend, she said "no". He nevertheless pressed her with questions about her sexual activity, even after she said her religious beliefs did not allow sexual activity. The patient requested transfer to another physician.

Patient No. 6

10. According to patient C.W., a 28 year old female who was diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder and borderline personality disorder, Dr. SIDHU started "hitting on her" after her third visit. He asked for her home phone number, telling her "he wanted to get to know her." After she gave him the number, Dr. SIDHU began calling her every day, initially asking about her medications and then talking about his divorce, his son, and the fact that "nobody takes care of him."

11. During the patient's monthly appointments, Dr. SIDHU repeatedly hugged and kissed the patient and told her how pretty she was. On one occasion during an office visit, he ran his hands over her chest and grabbed her buttocks, and took her hand and put it on his crotch.

12. On July 1, 1996, Dr. SIDHU phoned the patient at home and asked her to meet him at the restaurant across from the clinic the next morning at 7:30 a.m. When Dr. SIDHU arrived, he sat next to the patient and began touching and kissing her. He asked what bra size she wore. He continued to fondle her and to hold her hand over his crotch during the entire time they were in the restaurant. He seemed oblivious to the stares of restaurant personnel.

13. The patient missed her next appointment with Dr. SIDHU because she was ill. He phoned her while he was a patient at Desert Vista Hospital, indicating he was hospitalized for depression and was taking Serzone. When he was released from the hospital, he called the patient and told her the clinic had put him on "leave of absence" and then fired him. He blamed her for the firing because someone had seen them at the restaurant. He told her he couldn't find a job because of the allegations and needed her help to get his job back. He asked her to lie to clinic personnel about his hugging and kissing her. At first she agreed to do so, and then changed her mind. Dr. SIDHU continued to call her frequently at home to ask whether anyone at the clinic had questioned her.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board of Medical Examiners of the State of Arizona possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over SARDEV S. SIDHU, M.D.

2. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. §32-1401(25)(q) (any conduct or practice which is or might be harmful or dangerous to the health of the patient or the public).

3. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. §32-1401(25)(z) (sexual intimacies with a patient).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. SARDEV S. SIDHU, M.D. is placed on probation for an indefinite term. As a term of probation, Dr. SIDHU shall not see, treat, or provide care to any female patient.
2. Dr. SIDHU is issued a Decree of Censure.

DATED this 25th day of January, 1997.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

[SEAL]

By *Mark R. Speicher*
MARK R. SPEICHER
Executive Director
ELAINE HUGUNIN
Deputy Director

COPY of the foregoing Findings of Fact,
Conclusions of Law, Order of Probation and
Decree of Censure mailed by Certified Mail
this 14th day of February, 1997
to:

Sardev S. Sidhu, M.D.
Address of Record

Elaine Hugunin
Secretary

COPY of the foregoing
mailed by Certified Mail
this 4th day of March, 1998
to:

Sardev S. Sidhu, M.D.
Address of Record

Marie Gozhamella
Secretary

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