

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH
CONNECTICUT MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD**

In re: Cornelia Gallo, M.D.

Petition No. 2018-1213

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Cornelia Gallo, M.D., of Westport, Connecticut (hereinafter "respondent") has been issued physician and surgeon number 034522 to practice as a physician and surgeon by the Department of Public Health (hereinafter "the Department") pursuant to Chapter 370 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, the Department alleges that:

1. Respondent is a psychiatrist with an office-based practice in Westport. She provided care to Patient 1 at various times from on or about October 13, 2015 through on or about August 30, 2018. Patient 1 was an adult with principal diagnoses of autism, obesity, and diabetes type 1, with a history of agitated and/or aggressive behaviors. He lived with his family and had both a Department of Developmental Services (hereinafter, "DDS") case manager and a long-standing relationship with a communications facilitator. At the initial encounter, respondent prescribed Quetiapine (Seroquel®) 100mg TID, Amantadine (Symmetrel®) 100mg BID, Trazadone (Desyrel®) 50mg QHS, Escitalopram (Lexapro®) 20mg QD, and Carbamazepine (Tegretol®) 500g QID, all by mouth. At a later date, she added Risperidone (Risperdal®) 2mg BID, by mouth.
2. Respondent's care for Patient 1 failed to meet the standard of care in one or more of the following ways; in that respondent:
 - a. Failed to obtain his previous treatment records;
 - b. Failed to document, or adequately document, any communication with his previous provider:

- c. Respondent's initial history and evaluation and/or the history and evaluation at two subsequent encounters were incomplete and/or incompletely documented;
 - d. Failed to examine Patient 1 at appropriate intervals;
 - e. Failed to perform appropriate laboratory tests pertinent to the medications she prescribed, or she failed to obtain laboratory reports from Patient 1's primary care physician; and/or
 - f. Failed to make timely report to, or failed to obtain timely assistance from, the DDS case manager.
3. The above described facts constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, §20-13c(4).

WHEREAS, respondent, in consideration of this Consent Order, has chosen not to contest this matter and agrees that for purposes of this or any future proceedings before the Connecticut Medical Examining Board (hereinafter "the Board"), this Consent Order shall have the same effect as if proven and ordered after a full hearing held pursuant to §§19a-10, 19a-14 and 20-13c of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to §§19a-14, 19a-17 and 20-13c of the General Statutes of Connecticut, respondent hereby stipulates and agrees to the following:

1. Respondent waives her right to a hearing on the merits of this matter.
2. Respondent's license number 034522 to practice as a physician and surgeon in the State of Connecticut is hereby reprimanded.
3. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) by certified or cashier's check payable to "Treasurer, State of Connecticut." The check shall reference the Petition Number on the face of the check, and shall be payable at the time respondent submits the executed Consent Order to the Department.
4. Respondent's license shall be placed on probation for a period of one year under the following terms and conditions:
 - a. Respondent shall obtain at her own expense, the services of a physician and surgeon who is board certified in psychiatry, pre-approved by the Department (hereinafter "supervisor"), to conduct a random review of twenty percent (20%) or twenty (20)

of respondent's records of patients seen in the preceding thirty days, whichever is the larger number. In the event respondent has twenty (20) or fewer patients, the supervisor shall review all of respondent's patient records.

- (1) Respondent shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to her practice supervisor. Respondent's supervisor shall furnish written confirmation to the Department of his or her engagement in that capacity and receipt of a copy of this Consent Order within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this Consent Order.
 - (2) Respondent's supervisor shall conduct such review and meet with her not less than once every three months of the entire probationary period.
 - (3) The supervisor shall have the right to monitor respondent's practice by any other reasonable means which he or she deems appropriate. Respondent shall fully cooperate with the supervisor in providing such monitoring.
 - (4) Respondent shall be responsible for providing written supervisor reports directly to the Department not less than once every three months for the entire probationary period. Such supervisor's reports shall include documentation of dates and duration of meetings with respondent, number and a general description of the patient records and patient medication orders and prescriptions reviewed, additional monitoring techniques utilized, and statement as to whether respondent is practicing with reasonable skill and safety, in conformity to standards of documentation, and in accord with the provisions of this consent order. A supervisor report indicating that respondent is not practicing with reasonable skill and safety and/or not in conformity to standards of documentation or in accord with the provisions of this consent order, shall be deemed to be a violation of this Consent Order.
- b. Within the first four months of the probationary period, respondent shall attend and successfully complete courses in: (a) documentation standards, and (b) laboratory testing pertinent to prescriptions, and (c) communications with patients who have limited communication and with guardians or case managers, pre-approved by the Department. Within fifteen days of the completion of such coursework, respondent shall provide the Department with proof, to the Department's satisfaction, of the successful completion of such course(s).

5. All correspondence and reports are to be addressed to:

Lavita Sookram, R.N., Nurse Consultant
Practitioner Compliance and Monitoring Unit
Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12HSR
P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, CT 06134-0308
6. All reports required by the terms of this Consent Order shall be due according to a schedule to be established by the Department of Public Health.
7. Respondent shall comply with all state and federal statutes and regulations applicable to her licensure.
8. Respondent shall pay all costs necessary to comply with this Consent Order.
9. Any alleged violation of any provision of this Consent Order may result in the following procedures at the discretion of the Department:
 - a. The Department shall notify respondent in writing by first-class mail that the term(s) of this Consent Order have been violated, provided that no prior written consent for deviation from said term(s) has been granted.
 - b. Said notification shall include the acts or omission(s) which violate the term(s) of this Consent Order.
 - c. Respondent shall be allowed fifteen (15) days from the date of the mailing of notification required in paragraph 9.a. above to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department that she has complied with the terms of this Consent Order or, in the alternative, that she has cured the violation in question.
 - d. If respondent does not demonstrate compliance or cure the violation within the fifteen (15) days specified in the notification of violation to the satisfaction of the Department, she shall be entitled to a hearing before the Board which shall make a final determination of the disciplinary action to be taken.
 - e. Evidence presented to the Board by either the Department or respondent in any such hearing shall be limited to the alleged violation(s) of the term(s) of this Consent Order.
10. In the event respondent does not practice as a physician and surgeon for periods of thirty (30) consecutive days or longer, respondent shall notify the Department in writing. Such periods of times shall not be counted in reducing the probationary period covered by this

Consent Order and such terms shall be held in abeyance. During such time period, respondent shall not be responsible for complying with the terms of probation of this Consent Order. In the event respondent resumes the practice as a physician and surgeon, respondent shall provide the Department with thirty (30) days prior written notice.

Respondent shall not return to practice as a physician and surgeon without written pre-approval from the Department. Respondent agrees that the Department, in its complete discretion, may require additional documentation from respondent and/or require respondent to satisfy other conditions or terms as a condition precedent to respondent's return to practice. Respondent agrees that any return to practice as a physician and surgeon without pre-approval from the Department shall constitute a violation of this Consent Order and may subject the respondent to further disciplinary action.

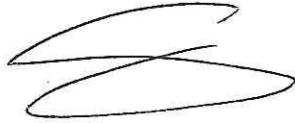
11. If, during the period of probation, respondent practices as a physician and surgeon outside Connecticut, she shall provide written notice to the Department concerning such practice. During such time period, respondent shall not be responsible for complying with the terms of probation of this Consent Order, and such time period shall not be counted in reducing the probationary period covered by this Consent Order. Respondent may comply with the terms of probation while practicing outside Connecticut if pre-approved by the Department. In the event respondent intends to return to practice as a physician and surgeon in Connecticut, respondent shall provide the Department with thirty (30) days prior written notice and agrees to comply with all terms and conditions contained in paragraph 4 above.
12. In the event respondent violates any term of this Consent Order, said violation may also constitute grounds for the Department to seek a summary suspension of her license before the Board.
13. Legal notice shall be sufficient if sent to respondent's last known address of record reported to the Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section of the Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch of the Department.
14. This Consent Order is effective on the first day of the month immediately following the date this Consent Order is accepted and ordered by the Board.
15. This Consent Order is a public document. Respondent understands and agrees that the Department's allegations as contained in this Consent Order shall be deemed true in any subsequent proceeding before the Board in which her compliance with this Consent Order or with §20-13c of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended, is at issue. Further, respondent understands that any discipline imposed by this Consent Order shall be

reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank maintained by the United States Department of Health and Human Services and that all disciplinary actions will appear on her physician profile pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 20-13j.

16. In the event respondent violates a term of this Consent Order, respondent agrees immediately to refrain from practicing as a physician and surgeon, upon request by the Department, with notice to the Board, for a period not to exceed 45 days. During that time period, respondent further agrees to cooperate with the Department in its investigation of the violation, and to submit to and complete a medical, psychiatric or psychological evaluation, if requested to do so by the Department; and, that the results of the evaluation shall be submitted directly to the Department. Respondent further agrees that failure to cooperate with the Department in its investigation during said 45 day period shall constitute grounds for the Department to seek a summary suspension of respondent's license. In any such summary action, respondent stipulates that failure to cooperate with the Department's investigation shall be considered by the Board and shall, as a matter of law, constitute a clear and immediate danger as required pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, sections 4-182(c) and 19a-17(c). The Department and respondent understand that the Board has complete and final discretion as to whether a summary suspension is ordered.
17. Any extension of time or grace period for reporting granted by the Department shall not be a waiver or preclude the Department from taking action at a later time. The Department shall not be required to grant future extensions of time or grace periods.
18. This Consent Order and terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review under any form or in any forum. Respondent agrees that this Consent Order shall not be subject to modification as a result of any claim that the terms contained herein may result in action by third parties, including, but not limited to, healthcare facilities and/or credentialing or licensure boards and respondent waives any right to seek reconsideration or modification of this Consent Order pursuant to §4-181a of the General Statutes of Connecticut without the express consent and agreement of the Department. Respondent assumes all responsibility for assessing such actions prior to the execution of this document. Further, this Consent Order is not subject to appeal or review under the provisions of Chapters 54 or 368a of the General Statutes of Connecticut, provided that this stipulation shall not deprive respondent of any rights that she may have under the laws of the State of Connecticut or of the United States.

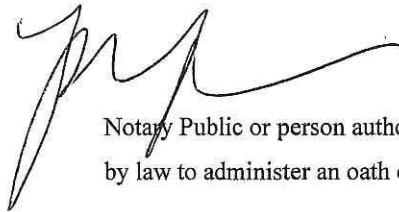
19. This Consent Order is a revocable offer of settlement which may be modified by mutual agreement or withdrawn by the Department at any time prior to its being executed by the last signatory.
20. Respondent permits a representative of the Department to present this Consent Order and the factual basis for this Consent Order to the Board. Respondent understands that the Board has complete and final discretion as to whether this executed Consent Order is approved or accepted. Respondent hereby waives any claim of error that could be raised that is related to or arises during the course of the Board's discussions regarding whether to approve or reject this Consent Order and/or a Board member's participation during this process, through the Board member's review or comments, including but not limited to bias or reliance on evidence outside the administrative record if this matter proceeds to a hearing on a statement of charges resulting in a proposed decision by the Board and/or a panel of the Board and a final decision by the Board.
21. Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to signing this document.
22. The execution of this document has no bearing on any criminal liability without the written consent of the Director of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit or the State's Attorney's Office where the allegation occurred or Bureau Chief of the applicable unit in the Chief State's Attorney's Office. The purpose of this Consent Order is to resolve the pending administrative license disciplinary petition only, and is not intended to affect any civil or criminal liability or defense.
23. This Consent Order embodies the entire agreement of the parties with respect to this case. All previous communications or agreements regarding the subject matter of this consent order, whether oral or written, between the parties are superseded unless expressly incorporated herein or made a part hereof.

I, Cornelia Gallo, M.D., have read the above Consent Order, and I stipulate and agree to the terms as set forth therein. I further declare the execution of this Consent Order to be my free act and deed.



Cornelia Gallo, M.D.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16 day of October 2019.



Notary Public or person authorized by law to administer an oath or

affirmation

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health on the _____ day of _____ 2019, it is hereby accepted.



Christian D. Andresen, M.P.H., Section Chief

Section _____

Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Connecticut Medical Examining Board on the 19th day of November 2019, it is hereby ordered and accepted.



Kathryn Emmett, Esq., Chairperson

Connecticut Medical Examining Board