

**BEFORE THE
LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

In The Matter of:	:	
	:	NO. 93-I-002-X
CHANDRA M. KATTA	:	
(CERTIFICATE NO. 08484R)	:	CONSENT ORDER
	:	
Respondent	:	

An investigation conducted on behalf of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (Board) beginning in 1993 developed information indicating that Chandra M. Katta, M.D. (Dr. Katta), a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana, and practicing psychiatry in the Morgan City, Louisiana area, had written and issued prescriptions for a variety of legally controlled dangerous substances, to a number of patients in suspicious quantities over an excessive period of time. The investigation included analysis of prescription records maintained by pharmacies together with the physician's own office records with respect to these patients. In many cases, Dr. Katta's own charts revealed objective evidence of substance abuse by the patients. The investigation was directed and managed by the Board's Investigating Officer, John Bobear, M.D ("Dr. Bobear").

The investigation of this matter has revealed to the satisfaction of Dr. Bobear that just and sufficient cause exists to warrant the filing of specific charges under the Louisiana Medical Practice Act, LSA-R.S. 37:1261-92, setting forth the following violations: "[p]rescribing, dispensing, or administering legally controlled substances or any dependency-inducing medication without legitimate medical justification therefor, or in other than a legal or legitimate manner" LSA-R.S. 37:1285A(6); "[p]rofessional or medical incompetency" LSA-R.S. 37:1285A(12); and "[c]ontinuing or recurring medical practice which fails to satisfy the prevailing and usually accepted standards of medical practice in this State" LSA-R.S. 37:1285A(14).

Recognizing his right to have any allegations and charges asserted in a formal Administrative Complaint, together with subsequent adjudication pursuant to LSA-R.S. 49:955-58, and to a final decision rendered upon findings of fact and conclusions of law, Dr. Katta, nonetheless, hereby waives his right to formal adjudication and, pursuant to LSA-R.S. 49:955D, consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. By his subscription hereto, Dr. Katta also hereby authorizes the Investigating Officer

designated by the Board with respect hereto (Dr. Bobear), personally, and/or through legal counsel to present this Consent Order to the Board for its consideration and to fully disclose to and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation, without prejudice to any subsequent formal proceedings that may be required in the event that this Consent Order is not accepted by the Board in its present form.

Based upon the information provided, accordingly, and on the recommendation of the Investigating Officer assigned to this matter, the Board has concluded that its responsibility to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this State, pursuant to LSA-R.S. 37:1261, will be effectively served by entry of the Order set forth hereinafter, by consent.

Accordingly, in consideration of the foregoing, and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by LSA-R.S. 37:1285 and LSA-R.S. 49:955D;

IT IS ORDERED that the license of Chandra M. Katta, M.D., to engage in the practice of medicine in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No. 08484R be, and the same is hereby SUSPENDED for a period of five (5) years, beginning September 1, 1995, and concluding on September 1, 2000.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the foregoing order of suspension is itself hereby suspended and stayed effective six (6) months after the term of suspension begins, (March 1, 1996), at which time Dr. Katta's medical license shall be restored ON PROBATION, conditioned on Dr. Katta's strict and immediate compliance with the following terms and conditions of probation for the balance of the five year period, beginning March 1, 1996, and continuing uninterrupted for a period of four years and six months thereafter, concluding on September 1, 2000:

(a) DISPENSATION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ; RIGHT TO REAPPLY: Dr. Katta may not, at any time following the execution of this agreement by the Board and for the remainder of his medical career, prescribe, dispense, or administer any legally controlled dangerous substance, regardless of schedule, as defined, enumerated, or included in 21CFR § 1308 and/or LSA-R.S. 40:964, and any substance which may hereafter be included in such schedules by amendment or revision of the cited regulations or statutes. This prohibition shall not extend to medications ordered or prescriptions written by Dr. Katta for institutional or hospital in-patients, under the permit or license of said institution or hospital. At the conclusion of the period of probation ordered herein, Dr. Katta may petition the Board for relief from all or part of this condition of probation, which the Board is free to grant or deny in its sole discretion.

(b) CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION: Dr. Katta shall obtain not less than fifty (50) credit hours per year for five (5) years (September

1, 1995 through September 1, 2000) through attendance at and participation in continuing medical education (CME) programs accredited by and qualifying for the Physicians Recognition Award of the American Medical Association, and he shall obtain such award on or before September 1, 1998. On or before September 1, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000, Dr. Katta shall cause to be submitted to the Board, through its probation and compliance officer, written certification of the CME programs and credits completed by him during the preceding twelve (12) months.

(c) COURSE STUDY IN PAIN MANAGEMENT/JUDICIOUS USE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: At some point during the first two years of probation, Dr. Katta shall attend a course study in pain management/judicious use of controlled substances, approved in advance by the Board, and he shall submit written proof of his successful completion of such course to the Board's probation and compliance officer together with his proof of CME completion as set forth above¹

(d) PERSONAL APPEARANCE BEFORE THE BOARD: Prior to full restoration of licensure at the conclusion of the probationary period, Dr. Katta shall, by appointment coordinated by Dr. Katta with the offices of the Board's Executive Director, make a personal appearance before the Board to discuss his then-current practice, plans, and intentions.

(e) ADMINISTRATIVE FINE: Dr. Katta shall pay the Board an administrative fine in the amount of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars, on or before September 1, 1996.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms, conditions or restrictions of this Order by Dr. Katta shall, upon proof of such violation or failure, be deemed adequate and/or sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the lifting of the stay and the immediate restoration of the five (5) year suspension period ordered hereinabove, and/or the revocation of Dr. Katta's medical license or for such other disciplinary action as the Board deems appropriate, as if such violations were enumerated among the causes provided in LSA-R.S. 37:1285.

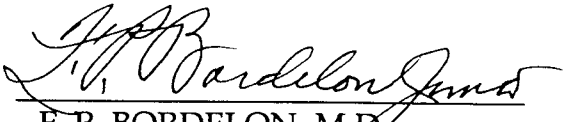
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the investigation herein be, and the same is hereby dismissed, without prejudice.

¹ Dr. Katta may contact the offices of the Board's Executive Director for assistance in locating appropriate courses to satisfy this condition. Dr. Katta may apply any CME credits obtained as a result of attending the course study required herein to the satisfaction of the 50 hour annual CME requirement ordered hereinabove.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Consent Order shall be, and shall be deemed to be a public record, copies of which shall be released by the Board to the National Health Care Practitioners Data Bank, the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, and such other persons or entities which request the same and/or have a reason to know of such order, as determined by the Board in its sole discretion and in accordance with applicable law.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 24 day of August 1995.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

BY: 
F. P. BORDELON, M.D.
PRESIDENT

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSENT

I, CHANDRA M. KATTA, M.D., hereby acknowledge, approve, accept and consent to entry of the above and foregoing Order, this 24th day of August, 1995.


CHANDRA M. KATTA, M.D.

prescribe, dispense or administer any non-benzodiazepine drug of any Schedule, nor shall he prescribe any benzodiazepine for the treatment of pain, any general medical condition or any physical condition which may be associated with a psychiatric condition; and (ii) the prohibition contained herein does not extend to medications ordered or written by Dr. Katta for institutional or hospitalized in-patients, under the permit or license of said institution or hospital. Dr. Katta may petition the Board for further relief from this condition which request the Board, in its sole discretion, is free to grant or deny.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that except as expressly amended by the foregoing Order that the lifetime prohibition contained in paragraph (a) of the Order against Chandra M. Katta, M.D., prescribing, dispensing or administering any controlled substance is, and does hereby remain, in full force and effect.

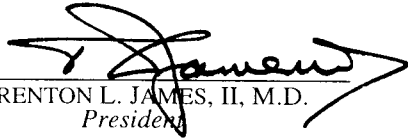
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation or failure of strict compliance with the remaining condition set forth by the Order, as amended herein, by Dr. Katta shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the revocation, suspension or imposition of such other terms and conditions upon Dr. Katta's license to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana as the Board may deem appropriate, as if such violations were enumerated among the causes provided by La. Rev. Stat. § 37:1285(A).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a public record.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 25th day of July, 2001.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:


TRENTON L. JAMES, II, M.D.
President

Upon review of the physician's history the Board, during its September 2006 meeting, noted that Dr. Katta successfully completed his term of probation in August 2000 and that he has remained compliant with the restrictions on his controlled substance authority. Accordingly, the Board concluded that the public interest would be properly served and protected by granting the physician's further request for modification, but not elimination, of the limitations on his controlled substance authority to permit him to prescribe, but not dispense, any stimulant classified as a Schedule II controlled substance for the treatment of psychiatric conditions presented by his patients in connection with the state-associated practice of psychiatry that he has described. To that end, the Board will and does hereby amend paragraph (a) of the Order, which, as amended, shall read as follows:

(a) *Controlled Substances.* Until and unless otherwise permitted by written Order of the Board Dr. Katta shall not, for the remainder of his medical career and for so long as Dr. Katta shall hold any form of license or permit to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana, prescribe, dispense or administer any controlled substance which may be classified, defined, enumerated or included in 21 C.F.R. §§1308 or La. Rev. Stat. §40:964 or any substance which may hereafter be designated a controlled substance by amendment or supplementation of such regulations and statute, *except*, as follows: (i) the prohibition contained herein shall not prohibit Dr. Katta from ordering or prescribing, but not dispensing, any stimulant within the category of Schedule II controlled substance and any benzodiazepine within the categories of Schedule IV-V controlled substances solely for the treatment of psychiatric conditions suffered by patients seen exclusively in connection with his practice of psychiatry for Louisiana state related agencies, *provided, however*, that Dr. Katta shall not prescribe, dispense or administer any non-stimulant Schedule II drug, any non- benzodiazepine drug within Schedule IV-V, nor shall he prescribe any stimulant or benzodiazepine of any Schedule for the treatment of pain, any general medical condition or any condition in association with a psychiatric condition; and (ii) the prohibition contained herein does not extend to medications ordered or written by Dr. Katta for institutional or hospitalized in-patients, under the permit or license of said institution or hospital. Dr. Katta may petition the Board for further relief from this condition, which request the Board is free to grant or deny in its sole discretion.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as expressly amended by the foregoing Order, the lifetime prohibition contained in paragraph (a) of the Order against Chandra M. Katta, M.D. prescribing, dispensing or administering any controlled substance is and does hereby remain in full force and effect.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation or failure of strict compliance with the remaining condition set forth by this Order by Dr. Katta shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the revocation, suspension or imposition of such other terms and conditions upon Dr. Katta's license to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana as the Board may deem appropriate, as if such violation were enumerated among the causes provided by La. Rev. Stat. § 37:1285(A).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a public record.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 27th day of September, 2006.

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

By: *KE LeBlanc MD*
KIM EDWARD LEBLANC, M.D., PH.D.
President

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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Ext _____

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In The Matter Of: :
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CHANDRA M. KATTA, M.D. :
 (Certificate No. 08484R) :
 :
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X

No. 93-I-002-X
THIRD
SUPERSEDING ORDER

This matter is before the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") on the request of Chandra M. Katta, M.D. ("Dr. Katta"), for relief from the restrictions imposed upon his controlled substance privileges. Heretofore, by Consent Order (the "Order"), action was taken against the physician's medical license as a result of his controlled substance prescribing practices.¹ Among other terms and conditions imposed by the Order, Dr. Katta was prohibited from prescribing, dispensing or administering controlled substances for the remainder of his medical career. By Superseding Order entered in 2001 the Board granted Dr. Katta's request for authority to order or prescribe, but not dispense, any benzodiazepine within the categories of Schedule IV-V controlled substances for the treatment of psychiatric conditions presented by patients in connection with his practice of psychiatry.² In 2006 Dr. Katta requested additional relief, informing the Board that he worked exclusively for two state agencies in and around the Lake Charles, Louisiana area, that many of his patients had a history of a positive response to stimulant therapy and others would benefit from such therapy. Following review of the physician's history the Board granted the physician's request and permitted him to prescribe, but not dispense, any stimulant classified as a Schedule II controlled substance for the treatment of psychiatric conditions presented by his patients in connection with the practice of psychiatry that he performed for state entities.³ Although Dr. Katta has been working for state facilities, he has informed the Board that he has been offered employment in the private sector that would allow him to continue treatment of patients in the outpatient setting. Accordingly, he has requested authority to prescribe controlled substances, under the same terms, conditions and restrictions granted by the Board's most recent Order, while working in either the public or private sectors.

¹ *Consent Order*, In Re: Chandra M. Katta, M.D., Cert. No. 08484R, No. 93-I-002-X, La. St. Board of Med. Exam. (Aug. 24, 1995).
² *Superseding Order*, In Re: Chandra M. Katta, M.D., Cert. No. 08484R, No. 93-I-002-X, La. St. Board of Med. Exam. (July 25, 2001).
³ *Second Superseding Order*, In Re: Chandra M. Katta, M.D., Cert. No. 08484R, No. 93-I-002-X, La. St. Board of Med. Exam. (Sept. 27, 2006).

Upon review of the physician's history during its March 2007 meeting the Board noted that Dr. Katta has continued to remain compliant with the restrictions on his controlled substance authority, and concluded that the public interest would be properly served and protected by granting his request to extend the authority previously provided to him in connection with his practice of psychiatry for state related agencies to his private practice of psychiatry. To that end, the Board will and does hereby amend paragraph (a) of the Second Superseding Order, solely to delete the wording "for Louisiana state related agencies." In all other respects, the wording of paragraph (a), and the terms, conditions and restrictions imposed thereby, shall remain as set forth in the Second Superseding Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as expressly amended by the foregoing Order that the lifetime prohibition set forth in paragraph (a) of the Second Superseding Order against Chandra M. Katta, M.D. prescribing, dispensing or administering any controlled substance is, and does hereby remain, in full force and effect.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation or failure of strict compliance with the remaining conditions set forth by this Order or the Second Superseding Order by Dr. Katta shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the revocation, suspension or imposition of such other terms and conditions upon Dr. Katta's license to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana as the Board may deem appropriate, as if such violation were enumerated among the causes provided by La. Rev. Stat. § 37:1285(A).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a public record.

Singed at New Orleans, Louisiana, and effective this 16th day of April
2007.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: KJ Amusa, MD
KWELI J. AMUSA, M.D.
President