

BEFORE THE
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

In re:)	
)	
Eric Dalton Morse, M.D.,)	CONSENT ORDER
)	
Respondent.)	

This matter is before the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") regarding information provided to the Board concerning Eric Dalton Morse, M.D. ("Dr. Morse"). Dr. Morse makes the following admissions, and the Board makes the following findings and conclusions:

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Board is a body duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding under the authority granted to it in Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the rules and regulations promulgated thereto.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Dr. Morse was first issued a license to practice medicine by the Board on or about October 21, 1999, license number 9901445.

At the times relevant hereto, Dr. Morse practiced addiction psychiatry in or around various counties in central North Carolina.

In August and September 2017, the Board received complaints regarding Dr. Morse's admitting and prescribing practices.

Specifically, the complaints alleged that on numerous occasions at the Opioid Treatment Programs ("OTP") where Dr. Morse either served as the Medical Director or Program Sponsor, Dr. Morse gave verbal orders by phone to nurses to admit patients and administer methadone without Dr. Morse first having physically examined the patients.

The Board conducted an investigation regarding the complaints, including sending the medical records of six patients to an independent reviewing expert. All six patients were admitted to the OTP and given their first dose of methadone without first undergoing a complete, fully documented physical evaluation within the OTP.

The reviewing expert opined that the overall care of the six patients was not consistent with prevailing medical practice in terms of clinical care and documentation. The reviewing expert's criticisms of Dr. Morse's care of the six patients included concerns that: Dr. Morse authorized orders for methadone without first performing a physical examination; Dr. Morse failed to provide adequate follow-up care or refer-out patients with comorbid psychiatric disorders; and Dr. Morse failed to appropriately document his care.

Dr. Morse acknowledged to the Board that he gave clinic nursing staff verbal orders by phone or a telemedicine platform to administer the initial dose of methadone and to admit patients to

the OTP without having first physically examined the patients himself.

Dr. Morse is prepared to present evidence that all six patients were seen via telemedicine by Dr. Morse before their first dose and recent physical exams were reviewed by Dr. Morse and his nurse via UNC Carelink. In five of the six patients, the physical evaluation was completed the next day. In one of the six cases, a transfer from another OTP, the physical evaluation was completed on Day 3.

Although Dr. Morse could not find required documentation of all approved CSAT Extranet Exception Requests to do telemedicine admissions in his OTPs, he did find several that mentioned that he could use the 72-hour rule. Dr. Morse also misinterpreted the requirement of face-to-face evaluations in 42 CFR 8.12 to be covered by a telemedicine platform, but he now recognizes that the initial evaluation needs to be in person if not approved by a CSAT Extranet Exception Request in advance.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Dr. Morse admits that the Board has evidence on which it could conclude that Dr. Morse's conduct, as described above, constitutes a departure from, or the failure to conform to, prevailing medical practice within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6) which is grounds under that section of the North Carolina General

Statutes for the Board to annul, suspend, revoke, condition, or limit Dr. Morse's license to practice medicine issued by the Board.

PROCEDURAL STIPULATIONS

Dr. Morse acknowledges and agrees that the Board has jurisdiction over him and over the subject matter of this case.

Dr. Morse knowingly waives his right to any hearing and to any judicial review or appeal in this case.

Dr. Morse, with the advice of legal counsel, acknowledges that he has read and understands this Consent Order and enters into it voluntarily.

Dr. Morse desires to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings.

The Board has determined that it is in the public interest to resolve this case as set forth below.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, with Dr. Morse's consent, it is ORDERED that:

1. Dr. Morse is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Dr. Morse shall obey all laws. Likewise, he shall obey all rules and regulations involving the practice of medicine.
3. Dr. Morse shall meet with the Board or members of the Board for an investigative interview at such times as requested by the Board.

4. Upon request, Dr. Morse shall provide the Board with any information the Board deems necessary to verify compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order.

5. If Dr. Morse fails to comply with any of the terms of this Consent Order, that failure shall constitute unprofessional conduct within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6) and shall be grounds, after any required notice and hearing, for the Board to annul, suspend, or revoke his license to practice medicine and to deny any application he might make in the future or then have pending for a license to practice medicine.

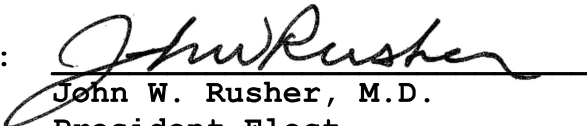
6. This Consent Order shall take effect immediately upon its execution by both Dr. Morse and the Board, and it shall continue in effect until specifically ordered otherwise by the Board.

7. Dr. Morse hereby waives any requirement under any law or rule that this Consent Order be served on him.

8. Upon execution by Dr. Morse and the Board, this Consent Order shall become a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and shall be subject to public inspection and dissemination pursuant to the provisions thereof. Additionally, it will be reported to persons, entities, agencies, and clearinghouses as required and permitted by law including, but not limited to, the Federation of State Medical Boards and the National Practitioner Data Bank.

By Order of the North Carolina Medical Board this the 30th
day of April, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By: 
John W. Rusher, M.D.
President Elect

Consented to this the 29 day of April, 2021.



Eric Dalton Morse, M.D.

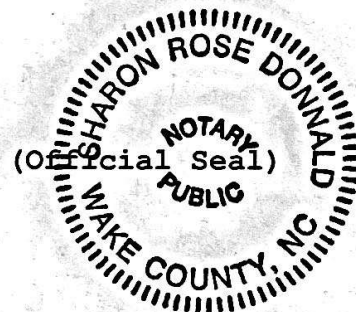
State of North Carolina

County of Wake

I, Sharon Rose Donald, do hereby certify that Eric Dalton Morse, M.D. personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal this the 29th day of April, 2021.

Sharon Rose Donald
Notary Public



My Commission Expires: 10-29-2022