

BEFORE THE  
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

In re:	)	
	)	
Brenda Sue Willis, M.D.,	)	CONSENT ORDER
	)	
Respondent.	)	

This matter is before the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") regarding information provided to the Board concerning Brenda Sue Willis, M.D. ("Dr. Willis"). Dr. Willis 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. Willis was first issued a license to practice medicine by the Board on or about December 15, 2010, license number 2010-02109.

At all times relevant, Dr. Willis practiced Psychiatry in Lincolnton, North Carolina.

In September 2021, the Board received a complaint alleging that Dr. Willis was prescribing controlled substances to her patients in an inappropriate manner.

The Board thereafter opened an investigation and obtained five patient records for review regarding care that Dr. Willis provided between August 2019 to November 2021. These patient records were sent to a physician who is qualified to testify as an independent medical expert with respect to Dr. Willis's care.

This independent expert found that Dr. Willis treated one of these five patients appropriately. However, this expert opined that Dr. Willis's treatment of the remaining four patients was below the acceptable and prevailing standard of care in the following areas:

1. Dr. Willis should have made better efforts to wean patients off of benzodiazepine medication for the patients that were receiving an opioid medication and benzodiazepine medication at the same time.

2. Dr. Willis treated these patients for conditions outside of her specialty in psychiatry, such as allergic rhinitis, urinary tract infection, ear infection and menopause, and did not keep adequate records regarding such treatment.

3. Dr. Willis conducted urine drug testing of her substance use disorder patients that she was treating with

medication assisted treatment at a frequency that is more than appropriate.

In December 2022, Dr. Willis met with the North Carolina Professionals Health Program ("NCPHP") for a comprehensive examination. NCPHP did not find any type of untreated or undiagnosed medical condition that made Dr. Willis unsafe to practice medicine. However, NCPHP offered Dr. Willis a monitoring contract to assist her with issues surrounding her medical practice that generally relate to this investigation.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Dr. Willis's conduct as described above constitutes unprofessional conduct including, but not limited to, departures from, or the failure to conform to, the standards of acceptable and 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. Willis's license to practice medicine or to deny any application she may make in the future.

#### PROCEDURAL STIPULATIONS

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

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

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

Dr. Willis 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. Willis's consent, it is ORDERED that:

1. Dr. Willis is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Dr. Willis shall take the psychiatry maintenance of certification examination ("MOC") within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Consent Order. Within fifteen (15) days of receiving the results of the MOC, Dr. Willis shall provide the results to the Board's Compliance Coordinator at [compliance@ncmedboard.org](mailto:compliance@ncmedboard.org).

3. In the event Dr. Willis does not pass the MOC examination, she shall obtain a comprehensive competency examination and comply with following terms and conditions surrounding such:

- a. Within thirty (30) days from the date she receives notification that she did not pass the MOC examination, Dr. Willis shall schedule a comprehensive competency examination at an

examination center approved in advance by the Board's Office of the Medical Director by contacting the Board's Legal Administrator at [legaladmin@ncmedboard.org](mailto:legaladmin@ncmedboard.org).

- b. This comprehensive competency examination must be completed within ninety (90) days from the date Dr. Willis is notified that she did not pass the MOC examination.
- c. Dr. Willis shall cooperate fully with the comprehensive competency examination center and its staff, including the timely payment of all fees required by the comprehensive competency examination center, and shall promptly submit to all further examinations deemed necessary by the comprehensive competency examination center. Further, Dr. Willis shall authorize and request that the comprehensive competency examination center communicate with the Board and send a copy of the examination report and all other examination center records to the Board's Compliance Administrator. Dr. Willis shall sign all waivers and releases that the comprehensive competency examination center requires to communicate with the Board about the results of its examination.

d. In the event the approved examination center makes remedial, educational, and/or other recommendations and directives, Dr. Willis agrees that she shall timely comply with all remedial, educational, and/or other recommendations and directives made by the approved comprehensive competency examination center and inform the Board's Compliance Coordinator at [compliance@ncmedboard.org](mailto:compliance@ncmedboard.org) of her progress in this regard.

4. Dr. Willis shall extend her current contract with NCPHP until at least August 2025 and shall abide by its terms and conditions, including the timely payment of all fees required by NCPHP.

5. Dr. Willis shall not practice medicine outside the scope of her specialty of psychiatry until permitted to do so by the Board in writing.

6. Dr. Willis shall obey all laws. Likewise, she shall obey all rules and regulations involving the practice of medicine.

7. Dr. Willis shall meet with the Board or members of the Board for an investigative interview at such times as requested by the Board. This shall include, and not be limited to, an investigative interview in March 2024, or as soon thereafter as an investigative interview can be scheduled.

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

9. If Dr. Willis 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 her license to practice medicine and to deny any application she might make in the future or then have pending for a license to practice medicine.

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

11. Dr. Willis hereby waives any requirement under any law or rule that this Consent Order be served on her.

12. Upon execution by Dr. Willis 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 20th  
day of June, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By:   
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Michaux R. Kilpatrick, M.D., Ph.D.  
President

Consented to this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.

Brenda Sue Willis MD  
Brenda Sue Willis, M.D.

State of North Carolina  
County of Wake

I, Brenda Sue Willis MD, do hereby certify that Brenda Sue Willis, 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 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.

Isis Williams  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 10/27/27

