

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE

IN RE: JOSEPH PARIMAL GURRALA, M.D.
License Number: 0101-242248
Case Number: 208874

ORDER

JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4020, 2.2-4024(F), and 54.1-2400(11), a panel of the Virginia Board of Medicine ("Board") held a formal administrative hearing on February 18, 2021, to receive and act upon the application for reinstatement of the license of Joseph Parimal Gurralla, M.D., to practice medicine in the Commonwealth of Virginia and to inquire into evidence that grounds exist to deny said application. The formal administrative hearing was conducted via the Cisco Webex Meeting platform, pursuant to Executive Order 51 (2020), as issued and amended by the Governor due to the current state of emergency declared in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Joseph Parimal Gurralla, M.D., appeared at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Board adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the Order contained herein.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On July 25, 2007, the Board issued License Number 0101-242248 to Joseph Parimal Gurralla, M.D., to practice medicine in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Said license was suspended on December 1, 2020.
2. By Order entered May 12, 2011, the Board reprimanded Dr. Gurralla, ordered that he pay a monetary penalty of \$1,000, and that he complete eight (8) hours of continuing education ("CE") in the subject of professional ethics. By Amended Order entered September 25, 2012, the Board

reprimanded Dr. Gurralla. By Order of Mandatory Suspension entered by the Department of Health Professions on May 3, 2018, Dr. Gurralla's license was suspended based on the revocation of his license to practice as a physician and surgeon in the State of California. Because the action taken by the State of California was based solely on action previously taken by this Board, by Consent Order entered May 3, 2018, Dr. Gurralla's license to practice medicine in the Commonwealth of Virginia was reinstated without restriction. By Order entered January 27, 2020 ("January 2020 Order"), the Board reprimanded Dr. Gurralla, ordered that he pay a monetary penalty of \$1,500, and placed his license on indefinite probation, for not less than twelve (12) months, subject to terms and condition to include: that Dr. Gurralla obtain a primary care physician outside his practice group, that Dr. Gurralla continue monthly psychotherapy/medication management and monitoring of his mental health, that he complete fifteen (15) hours of CE in the subject of professionalism, ethics, and boundaries.

3. Dr. Gurralla surrendered his license to practice as a physician and surgeon in the State of California in lieu of disciplinary action, as evidenced by an Agreement for Surrender of License with the Medical Board of California, dated September 25, 2020.

4. Despite being ordered by the Board in its January 2020 Order, to obtain a primary care physician outside of his practice group, he requested, and received, prescriptions from a physician in his practice group.

a. On October 9, 2020, a practice partner prescribed to Dr. Gurralla diethylpropion (C-IV), testosterone, and B12.

b. On November 20, 2020, the same practice partner prescribed to Dr. Gurralla phentermine (C-IV), topiramate, and B12.

c. Dr. Gurralla testified to the Board that he did, as attested to the Board on March 9, 2020, obtain a primary care physician for treatment outside of his own practice. He testified that he

obtained the listed prescriptions after his primary care physician was unwilling to prescribe these medications and he was allegedly unable to locate another treating physician during the pandemic. He further testified that he has ceased receiving treatment from anyone in his practice group.

d. The panel found these actions problematic and disingenuous, regardless of the language of the January 2020 Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of Virginia Code § 54.1-2915(A)(5).

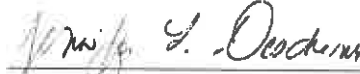
ORDER

WHEREFORE, the Virginia Board of Medicine, by affirmative vote of at least three-fourths of the members of the Board at the proceeding, effective upon entry of this Order, ORDERS as follows:

1. The license issued to Joseph Parimal Gurrula, M.D., to practice medicine in the Commonwealth of Virginia is REINSTATED.
2. Joseph Parimal Gurrula, M.D., is REPRIMANDED.
3. Joseph Parimal Gurrula, M.D., is assessed a MONETARY PENALTY of \$2,500.00. This penalty shall be paid to the Board by certified check or money order made payable to the Treasurer of Virginia within 45 days from the date of entry of this Order. Failure to pay the full monetary penalty by the due date may cause the matter to be sent for collection and constitutes grounds for an administrative proceeding and further discipline.
4. Any violation of the foregoing terms and conditions of this Order or any statute or regulation governing the practice of medicine shall constitute grounds for further disciplinary action.
5. Upon receipt of evidence that Dr. Gurrula has complied with the foregoing terms of this Order, the Executive Director is authorized to close this matter, or refer it to a special conference committee for review.

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4023 and 54.1-2400.2, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

FOR THE BOARD


Jennifer L. Deschenes, JD, MS
Deputy Executive Director
Virginia Board of Medicine

ENTERED: 2/24/2021

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, you have 30 days from the date you are served with this Order in which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with William L. Harp, Executive Director, Board of Medicine, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233. The service date shall be defined as the date you actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to you, whichever occurred first. In the event this decision is served upon you by mail, three days are added to that period.