



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Dianne L. Reynolds-Cane, M.D.
Director

Department of Health Professions

Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, Virginia 23233-1463

www.dhp.virginia.gov
TEL (804) 367- 4400
FAX (804) 527- 4475

March 7, 2011

Joseph Parimal Gurralla, M.D.
6133 12th Road, North
Arlington, Virginia 22205

CERTIFIED MAIL

7160 3901 9848 6289 1253

RE: License No.: 0101-242248

Dear Dr. Gurralla:

This letter is official notification that an informal conference of the Virginia Board of Medicine ("Board") will be held on **Thursday, May 5, 2011, at 11:30 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Henrico, Virginia.** The conference will be conducted pursuant to Sections 54.1-2400(10), 2.2-4019, and 2.2-4021 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code").

A Special Conference Committee ("Committee") will inquire into allegations that you may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of medicine and surgery in Virginia. Specifically:

1. You may have violated Sections 54.1-2915.A(1), (3), (12), (13), (16) and (18) of the Code, and 18VAC85-20-26.D of the Board's General Regulations, in that, from approximately March to June 2007, while in a residency training program, you provided psychotherapy and medication management to Patient A outside of the residency program's supervision, and took payments directly from the patient outside of the established clinical billing procedures. Further, you failed to maintain a record of numerous encounters with the patient and, in July 2007, when asked to produce the patient's record, you created and backdated records and presented them to your supervisor as contemporaneous documentation.

2. You may have violated Sections 54.1-2915.A(1), (16) and (18) and 54.1-111.A(6) and (8) of the Code in that, on or about September 30, 2007, you submitted an application for licensure to the District of Columbia Board of Medicine on which you misrepresented the circumstances under which you resigned from your residency training program in July 2007.

3. You may have violated Sections 54.1-2915.A(1), (16) and (18) of the Code, and 18VAC85-20-300.B of the Board's General Regulations, in that, on or about August 28, 2007, you provided false information to the Virginia Board for the physician profile system related to your graduate medical education, practice areas, and honors and awards.

Please see Attachment I for the name of the patient referenced above.

After consideration of all information, the Committee may:

1. Exonerate you;
2. Place you on probation with such terms it deems appropriate;
3. Reprimand you; and
4. Impose a monetary penalty pursuant to Section 54.1-2401 of the Code.

Further, the Committee may refer this matter for a formal administrative proceeding when it has failed to dispose of a case by consent pursuant to Section 2.2-4019 of the Code.

You have the right to information that will be relied upon by the Committee in making a decision. Therefore, I enclose a copy of the documents that will be distributed to the Committee for its consideration when discussing the allegations with you and when deliberating upon your case. These documents are enclosed only with the original notice sent by certified mail, and must be claimed at the post office. These materials have been provided this date to your counsel, Edward A. Gonzales, Esquire.

To facilitate this proceeding, you must submit eight (8) copies of any documents you wish for the Committee to consider to Reneé S. Dixon, Discipline Case Manager, Virginia Board of Medicine, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia, 23233, by **April 11, 2011**. Your documents may not be submitted by facsimile or e-mail. Should you or Adjudication Specialist Virginia Scher wish to submit any documents for the Committee's consideration after **April 11, 2011**, such documents shall be considered only upon a ruling by the Chair of the Committee that good cause has been shown for late submission.

Absent good cause to support a request for a continuance, the informal conference will be held on May 5, 2011. A request to continue this proceeding must state **in detail** the reason for the request and must establish good cause. Such request must be made, in writing, to me at the address listed on this letter and must be received by **March 21, 2011**. Only one such motion will be considered. Absent exigent circumstances, such as personal or family illness, a request for a continuance after **March 21, 2011**, will not be considered.

Relevant sections of the Administrative Process Act, which govern proceedings of this nature, as well as laws relating to the practice of medicine and other healing arts in Virginia cited in this notice can be found on the Internet at <http://leg1.state.va.us>. To access this

March 7, 2011

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information, please click on the *Code of Virginia* for statutes and *Virginia Administrative Code* for regulations.

In its deliberations, the Committee may utilize the Sanction Reference Points System, as contained in the Sanction Reference Manual. The manual, which is a guidance document of the Board, may be accessed at <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/medicine>. You may request a paper copy from the Board office by calling (804) 367-4513.

Please advise the Board, in writing, of your intention to be present. Should you fail to appear at the informal conference, the Board may proceed to a formal administrative hearing in order to impose sanctions.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Virginia Scher, Adjudication Specialist, at (804) 367-4669.

Sincerely,


William L. Harp, M.D.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Medicine

Enclosures:

Attachment I
Informal Conference Package
Map

cc: Karen A. Ransone, M.D., President, Virginia Board of Medicine
Virginia Scher, Adjudication Specialist, APD
Lorraine McGehee, Deputy Director, APD
Edward A. Gonzales, Esquire [w/enclosures]
Cecile Custer, R. N., Senior Investigator [127515]

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICINE

IN RE: JOSEPH PARIMAL GURRALA, M.D.
 License No.: 0101-242248

ORDER

In accordance with Sections 54.1-2400(10), 2.2-4019 and 2.2-4021 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), an informal conference was held with Joseph Parimal Gurralla, M.D., on May 5, 2011, in Henrico, Virginia. Members of the Virginia Board of Medicine ("Board") serving on the Special Conference Committee ("Committee") were: Stuart F. Mackler, M.D., Chairman; Sandra Anderson Bell, M.D.; and Gopinath Jadhav, M.D. Dr. Gurralla appeared personally and was represented by legal counsel, Edward A. Gonsalves, Esquire. Virginia Scher, Adjudication Specialist, was present as a representative for the Administrative Proceedings Division of the Department of Health Professions.

The purpose of the informal conference was to inquire into allegations that Dr. Gurralla may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of medicine in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as set forth in a Notice of Informal Conference dated March 7, 2011.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Now, having properly considered the evidence and statements presented, the Committee makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

1. Joseph Parimal Gurralla, M.D., was issued license number 0101-242248 to practice medicine in Virginia on July 25, 2007. Said license is currently active and will expire on June 30, 2012, unless renewed or acted upon.

2. Dr. Gurralla violated Sections 54.1-2915.A(1), (3), (12), (13), (16) and (18) of the Code, and 18VAC85-20-26.D of the Board of Medicine General Regulations, in that, from approximately March to June 2007, while in a residency training program, he provided psychotherapy and medication management to Patient A outside of the residency program's supervision, and took payments directly from the patient outside of the established clinical billing procedures. Further, Dr. Gurralla failed to maintain a record of numerous encounters with the patient and, in July 2007, when asked to produce the patient's record, he created and backdated records and presented them to his supervisor as contemporaneous documentation.

3. Despite a prior verbal warning from the director of residency training in regard to his patient documentation, Dr. Gurralla failed to keep records of his treatment of Patient A.

4. Dr. Gurralla violated Sections 54.1-2915.A(1), (16) and (18) and 54.1-111.A(6) and (8) of the Code in that, on or about September 30, 2007, he submitted an application for licensure to the District of Columbia Board of Medicine on which he misrepresented the circumstances under which he resigned from his residency training program in July 2007.

5. Dr. Gurralla violated Sections 54.1-2915.A(1), (16) and (18) of the Code, and 18VAC85-20-300.B of the Board of Medicine General Regulations, in that, on or about August 28, 2007, he provided false information to the Virginia Board for the physician profile system related to his graduate medical education, practice areas, and honors and awards.

6. On May 5, 2009, Dr. Gurralla completed the Medical Society of Virginia's Management of Medical Records Seminar.

7. Dr. Gurralla stated that from this experience he has learned he needs to be more upfront about his mistakes. He stated he understands the gravity of the mistakes he made, and

realizes how important honesty and integrity are to the practice of medicine. Finally, Dr. Gurralla noted he has had no billing or recordkeeping issues since this event occurred.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby ORDERED that Joseph Parimal Gurralla, M.D., be, and hereby is, issued a REPRIMAND.

It is further ORDERED that Dr. Gurralla shall pay a MONETARY PENALTY in the amount of ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00). Said monetary penalty shall be paid to the Board within forty-five (45) days from entry of this Order.

It is further ORDERED that Dr. Gurralla's license is subject to the following terms and conditions:

Within twelve (12) months from entry of this Order, Dr. Gurralla shall submit evidence satisfactory to the Board verifying that he has completed eight (8) hours of Board-approved continuing medical education ("CME") in the subject of professional ethics. Such CME shall be approved in advance of registration by the Executive Director of the Board, and shall be completed through face-to-face, interactive sessions (i.e., no home study, journal, or Internet courses). Any CME hours obtained in compliance with this term shall not be used toward compliance with the Board's continuing education requirements for license renewal.

Upon receipt of evidence that Dr. Gurralla has complied with the requirements of this Order, the Committee authorizes the Executive Director to close this matter, or refer it to a special conference committee for review.

Violation of this Order may constitute grounds for suspension or revocation of Dr. Gurralla's license. In the event that Dr. Gurralla violates this Order, an administrative

proceeding may be convened to determine whether such action is warranted.

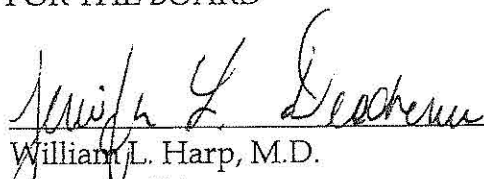
Dr. Gurrula shall maintain a course of conduct in his practice of medicine commensurate with the requirements of Title 54.1, Chapter 29 of the Code and all laws of the Commonwealth.

Pursuant to Sections 2.2-4023 and 54.1-2400.2 of the Code, 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.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Dr. Gurrula may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on June 14, 2011, notify William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director, Board of Medicine, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in writing that he desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated.

Therefore, this Order shall become final on June 14, 2011, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

FOR THE BOARD

for 
William L. Harp, M.D.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Medicine

ENTERED: 5/12/2011



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Dianne L. Reynolds-Cane, M.D.
Director

Department of Health Professions

Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, Virginia 23233-1463

www.dhp.virginia.gov
TEL (804) 367- 4400
FAX (804) 527- 4475

February 7, 2012

Joseph P. Gurralla, M.D.
12406 Brown Fox Way
Reston, Virginia 20191

RE: License No.: 0101-242248

Dear Dr. Gurralla:

The Virginia Board of Medicine ("Board") has received verification of your compliance with the terms and conditions of the Board Order entered May 12, 2011. Therefore, pursuant to the authority granted to me, I have determined that the terms and conditions imposed on your license should be TERMINATED effective this date.

Our records have been updated to reflect that you have a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine and surgery in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Pursuant to §54.1-2400.2 of the *Code of Virginia*, a signed copy of this letter 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.

The Board wishes you well in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William L. Harp M.D.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

William L. Harp, M.D.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Medicine

cc: Susan Brooks, Office Manager, APD [127515]



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Dianne L. Reynolds-Cane, M.D.
Director

Department of Health Professions

Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, Virginia 23233-1463

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TEL (804) 367-4400
FAX (804) 527-4475

June 26, 2012

Joseph Gurralla, M.D.
12406 Brown Fox Way
Reston, Virginia 20191

CERTIFIED MAIL
7196 9008 9111 0155 6245

RE: License No.: 0101-242248

Dear Dr. Gurralla:

This letter is official notification that an informal conference of the Virginia Board of Medicine ("Board") will be held on **Thursday, August 9, 2012, at 10:30 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 200, Henrico, Virginia.** The conference will be conducted pursuant to Sections 54.1-2400(10), 2.2-4019 and 2.2-4021 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code").

A Special Conference Committee ("Committee") will inquire into allegations that you may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of medicine and surgery in Virginia. Specifically:

1. You may have violated Sections 54.1-2914.A, 54.1-2915.A(3), (13), (16), (17), and (18), and 54.1-111.A(1) and (4) of the Code in that, from approximately April 2010 to February 4, 2011, you maintained in your Herndon, Virginia practice and dispensed to patients controlled substances without holding a valid pharmacy license, as required by Section 54.1-3302 of the Code. Such dispensing included phentermine (Schedule IV), zolpidem tartrate (Schedule IV), and/or bupropion HCL (Schedule VI) provided to Patient A on or about September 17, 2010 and October 1, 2010.

2. You may have violated Sections 54.1-2915.A(3), (12), (13), (16), and (18) of the Code, and 18 VAC 85-20-26.C and 18 VAC 85-20-40.A of the Board of Medicine General Regulations, in that, on multiple visits during September and October 1, 2010, you failed to adequately document in Patient A's medical record your rationale for administering injections and dispensing tablets containing vitamins, minerals or other supplements.

Please see Attachment I for the name of the patient referenced above.

After consideration of all information, the Committee may:

1. Exonerate you;
2. Place you on probation with such terms it deems appropriate;
3. Reprimand you; and
4. Impose a monetary penalty pursuant to Section 54.1-2401 of the Code.

Further, the Committee may refer this matter for a formal administrative proceeding when it has failed to dispose of a case by consent pursuant to Section 2.2-4019 of the Code.

You have the right to information that will be relied upon by the Committee in making a decision. Therefore, I enclose a copy of the documents that will be distributed to the Committee for its consideration when discussing the allegations with you and when deliberating upon your case. These documents are enclosed only with the original notice sent by certified mail, and must be claimed at the post office. These materials have been provided this date to your counsel, Edward Gonsalves, Esquire.

To facilitate this proceeding, you must submit eight (8) copies of any documents you wish for the Committee to consider to Reneé S. Dixon, Discipline Case Manager, Virginia Board of Medicine, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia, 23233, by **July 19, 2012**. Your documents may not be submitted by facsimile or e-mail. Should you or Adjudication Specialist Julia K. Bennett wish to submit any documents for the Committee's consideration after **July 19, 2012**, such documents shall be considered only upon a ruling by the Chair of the Committee that good cause has been shown for late submission.

A request to continue this proceeding must state **in detail** the reason for the request and must establish good cause. Such request must be made, in writing, to me at the address listed on this letter and must be received by **July 10, 2012**. Only one such motion will be considered. Absent exigent circumstances, such as personal or family illness, a request for a continuance after **July 10, 2012**, will not be considered.

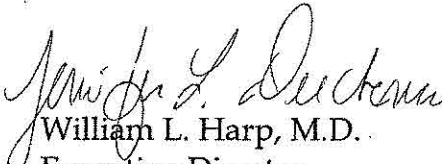
Relevant sections of the Administrative Process Act, which govern proceedings of this nature, as well as laws relating to the practice of medicine and other healing arts in Virginia cited in this notice can be found on the Internet at <http://leg1.state.va.us>. To access this information, please click on the *Code of Virginia* for statutes and *Virginia Administrative Code* for regulations.

In its deliberations, the Committee may utilize the Sanction Reference Points System, as contained in the Sanction Reference Manual. The manual, which is a guidance document of the Board, may be accessed at <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/medicine>. You may request a paper copy from the Board office by calling (804) 367-4513.

Please advise the Board, in writing, of your intention to be present. Should you fail to appear at the informal conference, the Board may proceed to a formal administrative hearing in order to impose sanctions.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Julia K. Bennett, Adjudication Specialist, at (804) 367-4427.

Sincerely,

for 
William L. Harp, M.D.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Medicine

Enclosures:

Attachment I
Informal Conference Package (1 volume)
Map

cc: Julia K. Bennett, Adjudication Specialist, APD
Lorraine McGehee, Deputy Director, APD
Enforcement Division (136678)
Edward Gonsalves, Esquire (*w/enclosures*)

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICINE

IN RE: JOSEPH GURRALA, M.D.
 License No.: 0101-242248

AMENDED ORDER

In accordance with Sections 54.1-2400(10), 2.2-4019 and 2.2-4021 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), an informal conference was held with Joseph Gurralla, M.D., in Henrico, Virginia on August 9, 2012. Members of the Virginia Board of Medicine ("Board") serving on the Special Conference Committee ("Committee") were: Stuart Mackler, M.D., Chair; William Epstein, M.D.; and J. Randolph Clements, D.P.M. Dr. Gurralla appeared personally and was represented by Edward A. Gonsalves, Esquire. Julia K. Bennett, Adjudication Specialist, was present as a representative for the Administrative Proceedings Division of the Department of Health Professions.

The purpose of the informal conference was to receive and act upon evidence that Dr. Gurralla may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of medicine and surgery in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as set forth in a Notice of Informal Conference dated June 26, 2012.

Following entry of the Board's Order on August 13, 2012, by letter dated September 13, 2012, counsel for Dr. Gurralla requested modification of Finding of Fact 5. This Amended Order has been entered *nunc pro tunc* to reflect the approved changes.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Now, having properly considered the evidence and statements presented, the Committee makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter:

1. Joseph Gurralla, M.D., was issued license number 0101-242248 by the Board to practice medicine and surgery in the Commonwealth of Virginia on July 25, 2007. Said license is currently active and will expire on June 30, 2014, unless renewed or restricted.

2. Dr. Gurralla violated Sections 54.1-2914.A, 54.1-2915.A(17) and (18), and 54.1-111.A(1) and (4) of the Code in that, from approximately April 2010 to February 3, 2011, he maintained in his Herndon, Virginia practice and dispensed to patients controlled substances without holding a valid pharmacy license, as required by Section 54.1-3302 of the Code. Such dispensing included phentermine (Schedule IV), zolpidem tartrate (Schedule IV), and/or bupropion HCL (Schedule VI) provided to Patient A on or about September 17, 2010 and October 1, 2010.

3. Dr. Gurralla acknowledged dispensing without a license, but states he did not intentionally do so. He explained he had relied upon the assurances of his employer that he was able to dispense because he held a valid medical license and DEA registration. It was not until Patient A complained that he again discussed the issue with his employer, and was again assured there was not a problem, since his employer informed him he was not dispensing but rather was "sampling" (i.e., dispensing sample medications to patients). Dr. Gurralla stated that in the future he will personally validate any recommendations made by his employer.

4. Pursuant to an application filed on or about April 23, 2010, the Board of Pharmacy issued Dr. Gurralla license #0213-001499 to sell/dispense controlled substances on or about February 4, 2011.

5. Dr. Gurralla violated Sections 54.1-2915.A(12) and (18) of the Code, and 18 VAC 85-20-26.C and 18 VAC 85-20-40.A of the Board of Medicine General Regulations, in that, on multiple visits during September and October 2010, he failed to adequately document in Patient A's medical record his rationale for administering injections and dispensing tablets containing vitamins, minerals or other supplements.

6. Dr. Gurralla pointed out that Patient A's record included a relatively detailed informed consent, which he believed covered the risks related to the vitamin supplementation injections. He explained that the standard software used by this company does not really allow him to capture his clinical findings and impressions for each patient encounter. Since this event, he has spoken with his employer about updating the software to allow the electronic medical record to better capture his patient encounters.

7. The Committee appreciated Dr. Gurralla's understanding of the allegations and his willingness to seek corrective measures in the practice in order to provide good patient care.

ORDER

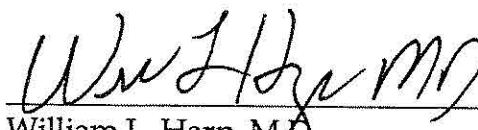
WHEREFORE, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby ORDERED that Dr. Gurralla is issued a REPRIMAND.

Pursuant to Sections 2.2-4023 and 54.1-2400.2 of the Code, 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.

Pursuant to Sections 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Dr. Gurrula may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on September 18, 2012, notify William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director, Board of Medicine, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in writing that he desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated.

Therefore, this Order shall become final on September 18, 2012; unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

FOR THE BOARD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W L Harp MD", written over a horizontal line.

William L. Harp, M.D.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Medicine

ENTERED: 9/25/12
Nunc Pro Tunc: August 13, 2012