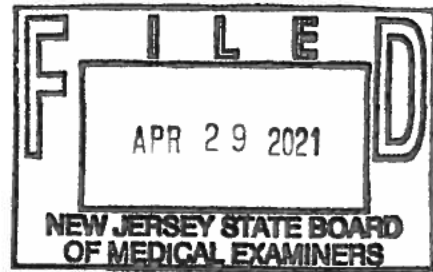


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STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
OAL DOCKET NO.: BDS-04509-2019N

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION  
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF

ANTHONY ANZALONE, M.D.  
LICENSE NO. 25MA04247500

TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY  
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

**FINAL CONSENT ORDER**

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") by Gurbir S. Grewal, Attorney General of New Jersey, upon receipt of information alleging that Anthony Anzalone, M.D. ("Respondent"), had failed, over multiple years, to comply with the rules of the State's Medicinal Marijuana Program ("MMP"), pursuant to the Compassionate Use Medicinal Marijuana Act ("the Act"), as defined by N.J.S.A. 24:6I-1 to -16,<sup>1</sup> and regulations promulgated thereunder by the Board and the State's Department of Health.

Information yielded by the Attorney General's investigation, including evidence obtained covertly by Division of Consumer Affairs Enforcement Bureau investigators posing as patients

<sup>1</sup> The misconduct alleged herein concerns treatment rendered by Respondent prior to the July 2, 2019 amendment of the Act. Therefore all references herein to MMP requirements derive from the Act and regulations, pre-amendment.

and from investigative interviews with several of Respondent's former and current patients, as well as Respondent's own testimony before a committee of the Board on June 6, 2018, resulted in the Attorney General's filing of a Verified Complaint and an Order to Show Cause, on December 21, 2018, seeking the immediate temporary suspension of Respondent's medical license.

On January 9, 2019, Respondent, without making any admissions to the Attorney General's underlying allegations, voluntarily agreed to enter an Interim Consent Order, which temporarily suspended his license to practice medicine and surgery in this State, effective February 8, 2019. On February 19, 2019, Respondent answered the Attorney General's Verified Complaint, and shortly thereafter, the matter was transferred to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") as a contested case and assigned OAL Docket Number BDS-04509-2019N.

Having considered information obtained by Enforcement Bureau investigators, as well as Respondent's sworn testimony, the Board finds evidence supporting Respondent's violation of the MMP requirements, based upon his failure to: establish bona fide physician-patient relationships prior to authorizing medicinal marijuana to his MMP patients; take comprehensive medical histories and/or physically examine MMP patients prior to authorizing their medicinal marijuana use; sufficiently monitor and/or meaningfully assess his MMP patients' ongoing use of medicinal marijuana and/or their qualifying conditions following his initial authorization of their medicinal marijuana use; and maintain adequate MMP patient treatment records.

The Board finds that the actions of Respondent described herein constitute repeated acts of negligence, malpractice or incompetence; professional and/or occupational misconduct; and a failure to comply with the provisions of any act or regulation administered by the Board, namely, N.J.A.C. 13:35-7A.2 (authorizing medicinal marijuana for individuals with whom he did not develop a bona fide physician-patient relationship), N.J.A.C. 13:35-7A.4 (failing to take comprehensive medical histories and/or perform physical examinations to determine whether the

patients were suffering from debilitating medical conditions qualifying under the Act), N.J.A.C. 13:35-7A.5(c) (failing to assess patients' qualifying conditions at least every three months), and N.J.A.C. 13:35-7A.5(f) (failing to keep accurate and complete records pertaining to his medicinal marijuana treatment). Such conduct provides grounds for the Board to take disciplinary action against Respondent's license to practice medicine and surgery in this State, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d), (e), and (h). Respondent neither admits nor denies the Board's above findings.

The parties being desirous of resolving this matter without the necessity of a hearing before the Board, and Respondent understanding the terms of this Final Consent Order, and their meaning and effect, and consenting to be bound by same; and the Board finding the within disposition adequately protective of the public health, safety, and welfare; and it appearing that good cause exists for the entry of the within Final Consent Order;

IT IS, therefore, on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021,

**ORDERED AND AGREED that:**

1. Respondent, Anthony Anzalone, M.D., voluntarily agrees to permanently retire from the practice of medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey, which the Board deems a suspension without opportunity to reapply for licensure in this State in the future.
2. Respondent shall continue to cease and desist all patient contact including, but not limited to, seeing, examining, treating or otherwise offering medical services at any location in New Jersey. This limitation shall specifically include the issuance of any prescription for, or dispensation of, medications of any kind within New Jersey including, but not limited to, Controlled Dangerous Substances ("CDS"), as well as the authorization of medicinal marijuana.
3. Respondent shall not charge, receive or share in any fee for professional services rendered by others in New Jersey. Respondent shall be permitted to collect accounts receivable

with respect to professional services that he rendered, in this State, prior to February 8, 2019, the effective date of the Board's Interim Consent Order.

4. Respondent shall not enter the premises of his former medical practice in New Jersey during business hours when patients may be present.

5. Respondent shall be precluded from managing, overseeing, supervising or influencing the practice of medicine or the provision of healthcare activities regulated by the Board; and he shall divest himself from any current and future financial interest in, or benefit derived from the practice of medicine, in this State.

6. Within ten days of the filing of this Final Consent Order, Respondent shall return his original New Jersey medical license and CDS registration to the Executive Director, State Board of Medical Examiners, 140 East Front Street, P.O. Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183.

7. Within ten days of the filing of this Consent Order, Respondent is to notify the Executive Director, State Board of Medical Examiners, 140 East Front Street, P.O. Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183 as to where his patient records are secured, and how patients may obtain them, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:35-6.5(h).

8. Promptly after the filing of this Final Consent Order, Respondent shall notify the Drug Enforcement Administration of the within Order and provide proof of such notification to the Board.

9. Respondent shall immediately send all of his remaining prescription blanks, along with a cover memorandum indicating that he will no longer be writing prescriptions in New Jersey and asking that his prescription blanks be destroyed pursuant to standard operating procedures, to Dana Pulizzano, Acting Executive Director, Drug Control Unit, P.O. Box 45045, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

10. Respondent is assessed costs, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21, in the amount of \$77,762, the total of which shall be stayed unless and until Respondent is found to be in violation of the terms of this Order, at which time such amount will become due and owing, in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

11. In the event the assessed costs, pursuant to Paragraph Ten of this Order, become due and owing, Respondent shall make payment of those costs, in total, by money order, bank or certified check, or wire transfer, made payable to the "State of New Jersey", and sent to the Executive Director, State Board of Medical Examiners, 140 East Front Street, P.O. Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183. Any payment in a form other than those noted in this Paragraph will be rejected and returned to Respondent. Failure to make timely payment in accordance with this Order shall result in the filing of a Certificate of Debt, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-24, for the total amount due and owing at the time the Certificate of Debt is filed.

12. The parties hereby stipulate that the entry of this Final Consent Order is without prejudice to further action or investigation, by this Board or any other professional board in the State of New Jersey, the Attorney General, the Drug Control Unit, the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs or any other law enforcement entity resulting from Respondent's conduct prior to the entry of this Order. This Consent Order shall be a full and final resolution by this Board of all violations and facts expressly referenced in this Order. The Board shall retain jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Order. Upon receipt of any reliable information indicating that Respondent has violated any term of this Order, the Board reserves the right to bring further disciplinary action.

13. This Order shall be a full and final disposition of the Administrative Action docketed as BDS-04509-2019N.

14 Respondent shall fully comply with the annexed Directives Applicable To Any Medical Board Licensee Who Is Disciplined Or Whose Surrender Of Licensure Or Cessation Of Practice Has Been Ordered Or Agreed Upon, which is attached to this Order and incorporated herein by reference

15. Respondent has been specifically informed that he may consult an attorney to represent him in this matter. Respondent acknowledges that he has been advised of the ability to consult with counsel and that he chooses to voluntarily enter into this Final Consent Order.

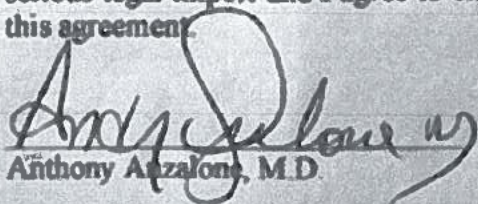
**NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**



By: ~~MEZGER, Scott E., M.D.~~

Scott E. Metzger, M.D.  
Board President

I have read and understand the foregoing Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms. I understand that this Order has serious legal import and I agree to enter into this agreement.



Anthony Anzalone, M.D.

Dated 1/16/21

**DIRECTIVES APPLICABLE TO ANY MEDICAL BOARD LICENSEE  
WHO IS DISCIPLINED OR WHOSE SURRENDER OF LICENSURE  
OR CESSATION OF PRACTICE HAS BEEN ORDERED OR AGREED UPON**

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON AUGUST 12, 2015**

All licensees who are the subject of a disciplinary order or surrender or cessation order (herein after, "Order") of the Board shall provide the information required on the addendum to these directives. Failure to provide the information required may result in further disciplinary action for failing to cooperate with the Board, as required by N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1 et seq: Paragraphs 1 through 4 below shall apply when a licensee is suspended, revoked, has surrendered his or her license, or entered into an agreement to cease practice, with or without prejudice, whether on an interim or final basis. Paragraph 5 applies to licensees who are the subject of an order which, while permitting continued practice, contains probationary terms or monitoring requirement.

**1. Document Return and Agency Notification**

The licensee shall promptly forward to the Board office at Post Office Box 183, 140 East Front Street, 2nd floor, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183, the original license, current biennial registration and, if applicable, the original CDS registration. In addition, if the licensee holds a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) registration, he or she shall promptly advise the DEA of the licensure action. (With respect to suspensions of a finite term, at the conclusion of the term, the licensee may contact the Board office for the return of the documents previously surrendered to the Board. Prior to the resumption of any prescribing of controlled dangerous substances, the licensee shall petition the Director of Consumer Affairs for a return of the CDS registration if the basis for discipline involved CDS misconduct. In addition, at the conclusion of the term, the licensee should contact the DEA to advise of the resumption of practice and to ascertain the impact of that change upon his/her DEA registration.)

**2. Practice Cessation**

The licensee shall cease and desist from engaging in the practice of medicine in this State. This prohibition not only bars a licensee from rendering professional services, but also from providing an opinion as to professional practice or its application, or representing him/herself as being eligible to practice. (Although the licensee need not affirmatively advise patients or others of the revocation, suspension, surrender or cessation, the licensee must truthfully disclose his/her licensure status in response to inquiry.) The licensee subject to the order

is also prohibited from occupying, sharing or using office space in which another licensee provides health care services. The licensee subject to the order may contract for, accept payment from another licensee for rent at fair market value for office premises and/or equipment. In no case may the licensee subject to the order authorize, allow or condone the use of his/her provider number by any health care practice or any other licensee or health care provider. In situations where the licensee has been subject to the order for less than one year, the licensee may accept payment from another professional who is using his/her office during the period that the licensee is (suspended), subject to the order for the payment of salaries for office staff employed at the time of the Board action.

A licensee whose license has been revoked, suspended or subject to a surrender or cessation order for one (1) year or more must immediately take steps to remove signs and take affirmative action to stop advertisements by which his/her eligibility to practice is represented. The licensee must also take steps to remove his/her name from professional listings, telephone directories, professional stationery, or billings. If the licensee's name is utilized in a group practice title, it shall be deleted. Prescription pads bearing the licensee's name shall be destroyed. A destruction report form obtained from the Office of Drug Control (973-504-6558) must be filed. If no other licensee is providing services at the location, all medications must be removed and returned to the manufacturer, if possible, destroyed or safeguarded. (In situations where a license has been suspended for less than one year, prescription pads and medications need not be destroyed but must be secured in a locked place for safekeeping.)

**3. Practice Income Prohibitions/Divestiture of Equity Interest in Professional Service Corporations and Limited Liability Companies**

A licensee subject to the order shall not charge, receive or share in any fee for professional services rendered by him/herself or others while barred from engaging in the professional practice.<sup>1</sup> The licensee may be compensated for the reasonable value of services lawfully rendered and disbursements incurred on a patient's behalf prior to the effective date of the Board order.

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<sup>1</sup>This bar on the receipt of any fee for professional services is not applicable to cease and desist orders where there are no findings that would be a basis for Board action, such as those entered adjourning a hearing.



A licensee who is a shareholder in a professional service corporation organized to engage in the professional practice, whose license is revoked, surrendered or suspended or who is ordered to cease practice for a term of one (1) year or more shall be deemed to be disqualified from the practice within the meaning of the Professional Service Corporation Act. (N.J.S.A. 14A:17-11). A disqualified licensee shall divest him/herself of all financial interest in the professional service corporation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 14A:17-13(c). A disqualified licensee who is a member of a limited liability company organized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 42:1-44, shall also divest him/herself of all financial interest. Such divestiture of the licensee's interest in the limited liability company or professional service corporation shall occur within 90 days following the entry of the order rendering the licensee disqualified to participate in the applicable form of ownership. Upon divestiture, a licensee shall forward to the Board a copy of documentation forwarded to the Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services demonstrating that the interest has been terminated. If the licensee is the sole shareholder in a professional service corporation or sole member of the limited liability company, the corporation must be dissolved within 90 days of the licensee's disqualification unless it is lawfully transferred to another licensee and documentation of the valuation process and consideration paid is also provided to the Board.

#### 4. Medical Records

If, as a result of the Board's action, a practice is closed or transferred to another location, the licensee shall ensure that (during the three (3) month period) immediately following the effective date of the disciplinary order, a message will be delivered to patients calling the former office premises, advising where records may be obtained. The message should inform patients of the names and telephone numbers of the licensee (or his/her attorney) assuming custody of the records. The same information shall also be disseminated by means of a notice to be published at least once per month for three (3) months in a newspaper of general circulation in the geographic vicinity in which the practice was conducted. If the licensee has a website, a notice shall be posted on the website as well.

At the end of the three month period, the licensee shall file with the Board the name and telephone number of the contact person who will have access to medical records of former patients. Any change in that individual or his/her telephone number shall be promptly reported to the Board. When a patient or his/her representative requests a copy of his/her medical record or asks that record be forwarded to another health care provider, the licensee shall promptly provide the record without charge to the patient.

## 5. Probation/Monitoring Conditions

With respect to any licensee who is the subject of any order imposing a probation or monitoring requirement or a stay of an active suspension, in whole or in part, which is conditioned upon compliance with a probation or monitoring requirement, the licensee shall fully cooperate with the Board and its designated representatives, including the Enforcement Bureau of the Division of Consumer Affairs, in ongoing monitoring of the licensee's status and practice. Such monitoring shall be at the expense of the disciplined practitioner.

(a) Monitoring of practice conditions may include, but is not limited to, inspection of the professional premises and equipment, and inspection and copying of patient records (confidentiality of patient identity shall be protected by the Board) to verify compliance with the Board Order and accepted standards of practice.

(b) Monitoring of status conditions for an impaired practitioner may include, but is not limited to, practitioner cooperation in providing releases permitting unrestricted access to records and other information to the extent permitted by law from any treatment facility, other treating practitioner, support group or other individual/facility involved in the education, treatment, monitoring or oversight of the practitioner, or maintained by a rehabilitation program for impaired practitioners. If bodily substance monitoring has been ordered, the practitioner shall fully cooperate by responding to a demand for breath, blood, urine or other sample in a timely manner and providing the designated sample.

## 6. Payment of Civil and Criminal Penalties and Costs.

With respect to any licensee who is the subject of any order imposing a civil penalty and/or costs, the licensee shall satisfy the payment obligations within the time period ordered by the Board or be subject to collection efforts or the filing of a certificate of debt. The Board shall not consider any application for reinstatement nor shall any appearance before a committee of the Board seeking reinstatement be scheduled until such time as the Board ordered payments are satisfied in full. (The Board at its discretion may grant installment payments for not more than a 24 months period.)

As to the satisfaction of criminal penalties and civil forfeitures, the Board will consider a reinstatement application so long as the licensee is current in his or her payment plans.

NOTICE OF REPORTING PRACTICES OF BOARD  
REGARDING DISCIPLINARY ORDERS/ACTIONS

All Orders filed by the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners are "government records" as defined under the Open Public Records Act and are available for public inspection, copying or examination. See N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1, et seq., N.J.S.A. 52:14B-3(3). Should any inquiry be made to the Board concerning the status of a licensee who has been the subject of a Board Order, the inquirer will be informed of the existence of the Order and a copy will be provided on request. Unless sealed or otherwise confidential, all documents filed in public actions taken against licensees, to include documents filed or introduced into evidence in evidentiary hearings, proceedings on motions or other applications conducted as public hearings, and the transcripts of any such proceedings, are "government records" available for public inspection, copying or examination.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:9-22, a description of any final board disciplinary action taken within the most recent ten years is included on the New Jersey Health Care Profile maintained by the Division of Consumer Affairs for all licensed physicians. Links to copies of Orders described thereon are also available on the Profile website. See <http://www.njdoctorlist.com>.

Copies of disciplinary Orders entered by the Board are additionally posted and available for inspection or download on the Board of Medical Examiners' website.

See <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/bme>.

Pursuant to federal law, the Board is required to report to the National Practitioner Data Bank (the "NPDB") certain adverse licensure actions taken against licensees related to professional competence or conduct, generally including the revocation or suspension of a license; reprimand; censure; and/or probation. Additionally, any negative action or finding by the Board that, under New Jersey law, is publicly available information is reportable to the NPDB, to include, without limitation, limitations on scope of practice and final adverse actions that occur in conjunction with settlements in which no finding of liability has been made. Additional information regarding the specific actions which the Board is required to report to the National Practitioner Data Bank can be found in the NPDB Guidebook issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in April 2015. See <http://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/resources/npdbguidebook.pdf>.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A.45:9-19.13, in any case in which the Board refuses to issue, suspends, revokes or otherwise places conditions on a license or permit, the Board is required to notify each licensed health care facility and health maintenance organization with which a licensee is affiliated and every other board licensee in this state with whom he or she is directly associated in private medical practice.

In accordance with an agreement with the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, a list of all disciplinary orders entered by the Board is provided to the Federation on a monthly basis.

From time to time, the Press Office of the Division of Consumer Affairs may issue press releases including information regarding public actions taken by the Board.

Nothing herein is intended in any way to limit the Board, the Division of Consumer Affairs or the Attorney General from disclosing any public document.