

**BEFORE THE IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE**

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**IN THE MATTER OF THE STATEMENT OF CHARGES AGAINST**

**STEVE R. LASATER, M.D., RESPONDENT**

**FILE No. 02-13-096**

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**STATEMENT OF CHARGES and SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT  
(Combined)**

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COMES NOW the Iowa Board of Medicine (Board) and Steve R. Lasater, M.D., (Respondent), on August 8, 2014, and pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.10(2) and 272C.3(4) and 653 IAC 25.3, enter into this combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement to resolve this matter.

**STATEMENT OF CHARGES**

1. Respondent was issued Iowa medical license no. 22270 on September 30, 1980.
2. Respondent's Iowa medical license went inactive due to nonrenewal on July 1, 1981.
3. The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 147, 148 and 272C.

## COUNT I

4. **Discipline by Another Licensing Authority:** Respondent is charged pursuant to Iowa Code section 148.6(2)(d) and 653 IAC 23.1(1) with having a license to practice medicine and surgery disciplined by a licensing authority of another state. A certified copy of the order of disciplinary action is prima facie evidence.

### STATEMENT OF THE MATTERS ASSERTED

5. **Practice Setting:** Respondent is an Iowa-licensed physician who practiced hormone replacement therapy in Grand Rapids and Wixom, Michigan.

6. **First Michigan Disciplinary Action:** On January 16, 2013, Respondent was disciplined by the Michigan Board of Medicine (Michigan Board) for failing to provide appropriate hormone replacement therapy to an elderly female patient between December 8, 2010, and January 12, 2011. The Michigan Board alleged that Respondent inappropriately prescribed hormone replacement therapy to the patient based on standing orders with pre-determined treatment protocols based upon patient lab values without performing appropriate examinations, without evaluating her medical history and lab values and without rendering a diagnosis or verifying that her complaints were attributed to a hormone imbalance. The Michigan Board issued Respondent a Reprimand and ordered him to pay a \$2,500 fine and restitution to the patient. See Attachment A.

7. **Second Michigan Disciplinary Action:** On March 19, 2014, Respondent was disciplined by the Michigan Board for failing to provide appropriate hormone replacement therapy to a female patient between January 12, 2011, and September 18, 2011. The Michigan Board alleged that Respondent inappropriately prescribed hormone replacement therapy to the patient without performing appropriate examinations, without evaluating her medical history and lab values, without rendering a diagnosis or verifying that her complaints were attributed to a hormone imbalance and despite a lack of improvement and continuing troubling symptoms. The Michigan Board placed Respondent on probation for a period of one (1) year subject to a Board-approved reviewer and ordered Respondent to pay a \$5,000 fine and restitution to the patient. The Michigan Board also ordered Respondent to successfully complete 10 hours of continuing medical education in the area of treatment of post-menopausal women. See Attachment B.

#### **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

8. **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER:** Respondent voluntarily surrenders his Iowa medical license to resolve this matter.

9. Respondent voluntarily submits this Order to the Board for consideration.

10. Respondent agrees that the State's counsel may present this Order to the Board for consideration.

11. This Order constitutes the resolution of a contested case proceeding.

12. By entering into this Order, Respondent understands that he has a right to be represented by legal counsel in this matter, voluntarily waives any rights to a contested case hearing on the allegations in the Statement of Charges, and waives any objections to the terms of this Order.

13. Respondent understands that by entering into this combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, Respondent cannot obtain a copy of the investigative file. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.6(4), a copy of the investigative file may only be provided to a licensee after a Statement of Charges is filed but before the final resolution of those charges.

14. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, and all rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa.

15. Respondent understands that the Board is required by Federal law (45 C.F.R. 60.8) to report this Order to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

16. This Order becomes a public record available for inspection and copying upon execution in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code Chapters 17A, 22 and 272C.

17. This Order is subject to approval of the Board. If the Board fails to approve this Order it shall be of no force or effect to either party.

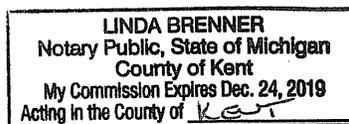
18. The Board's approval of this Order shall constitute a **Final Order** of the Board.

  
Steve R. Lasater, M.D., Respondent

Subscribed and sworn to before me on June 30, 2014.

Notary Public, State of Michigan.





This Order is approved by the Board on August 8, 2014.



Hamed H. Tewfik, M.D., Chairman  
Iowa Board of Medicine  
400 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite C  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4686

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
BUREAU OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
BOARD OF MEDICINE  
DISCIPLINARY SUBCOMMITTEE

In the Matter of

STEVE RALPH LASATER, M.D.  
License No. 43-01-051317

Complaint No. 43-11-119207

CONSENT ORDER AND STIPULATION

CONSENT ORDER

An administrative complaint was filed with the Disciplinary Subcommittee of the Board of Medicine on July 13, 2012, charging Steve Ralph Lasater, M.D. (Respondent) with having violated sections 16221(a), (b)(i), (h), and 17048(4) of the Code of the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended, MCL 333.1101 *et seq.*

The parties have stipulated that the Disciplinary Subcommittee may enter this consent order. The Disciplinary Subcommittee has reviewed the stipulation contained in this document and agrees that the public interest is best served by resolution of the outstanding complaint. Therefore, the Disciplinary Subcommittee finds that the allegations of fact contained in the complaint are true and that Respondent has violated section 16221(a) of the Public Health Code.

Accordingly, for these violations, IT IS ORDERED:

Respondent is REPRIMANDED.

Respondent is FINED \$2,500.00 to be paid by check, money order or cashier's check made payable to the State of Michigan (with complaint number 43-11-119207 clearly indicated on the check or money order) within 120 days from the effective date of this order. The timely payment of the fine shall be Respondent's responsibility. Respondent shall mail the fine to: Sanction Monitoring, Bureau of Health Professions, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, P.O. Box 30185, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Within 60 days of the effective date of this order, Respondent shall pay RESTITUTION in the amount of \$1,249.00 to Bob and Kay Coppens. At the time Respondent makes restitution, he shall mail proof of payment to the Department.

Respondent shall direct any communications to the Department that are required by the terms of this order to: Sanction Monitoring Unit, Bureau of Health Professions, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, P.O. Box 30670, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Counts II and III of the complaint, alleging a violation of sections 16221(b)(i), (h), and 17048(4) of the Public Health Code, are DISMISSED.

Respondent shall be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in complying with the terms and conditions of this consent order.

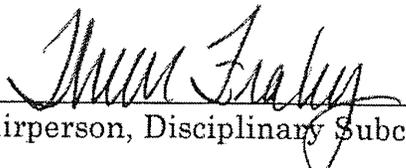
Respondent shall be responsible for the timely compliance with the terms of this consent order, including the timely filing of any documentation. Failure to comply within the time limitations provided will constitute a violation of this order.

If Respondent violates any term or condition set forth in this order, Respondent will be in violation of 1996 AACRS, R 338.1632, and section 16221(h) of the Public Health Code.

This order shall be effective on the date signed by the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Subcommittee or the Disciplinary Subcommittee's authorized representative, as set forth below.

Signed on 1-16-13

MICHIGAN BOARD OF MEDICINE

By   
Chairperson, Disciplinary Subcommittee

## STIPULATION

The parties stipulate as follows:

1. Respondent does not contest the allegations of fact and law in the complaint. Respondent understands that, by pleading no contest, he does not admit the truth of the allegations but agrees that the Disciplinary Subcommittee may treat the allegations as true for resolution of the complaint and may enter an order treating the allegations as true.

2. Respondent understands and intends that, by signing this stipulation, he is waiving the right under the Public Health Code, rules promulgated under the Public Health Code, and the Administrative Procedures Act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 *et seq*, to require the Department to prove the charges set forth in the complaint by presentation of evidence and legal authority, and to present a defense to the charges before the Disciplinary Subcommittee or its authorized representative. Should the Disciplinary Subcommittee reject the proposed consent order, the parties reserve the right to proceed to hearing.

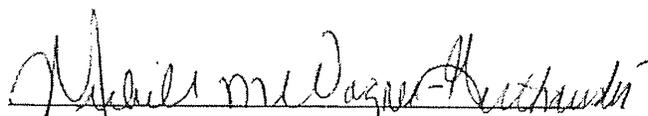
3. The Disciplinary Subcommittee may enter the above Consent Order, supported by Board conferee Mohammed A. Arsiwala, M.D. Dr. Arsiwala or an attorney from the Licensing and Regulation Division may discuss this matter with the Disciplinary Subcommittee in order to recommend acceptance of this resolution.

4. Dr. Arsiwala and the parties considered the following factors in reaching this agreement:

- A. Respondent is board certified in family medicine, bariatric medicine, and clinical lipidology. He has had no prior disciplinary action taken, or complaints filed, against his license since its issuance in 1987.
- B. HRC Medical Center (HRC) operates over 30 hormone replacement therapy centers in 19 states; the two Michigan clinics are located in Grand Rapids and Wixom. Respondent began working for HRC in October 2010 as an independent contractor, just two months before the conduct at issue in this case.
- C. When he started with HRC, Respondent continued the practices and procedures used by HRC in its clinics throughout the country and by the physician previously practicing at the HRC Michigan clinics.
- D. During an October 16, 2012 compliance conference, Respondent advised the parties that HRC's clinical director and in-house counsel advised him that the clinics were in compliance with applicable state law. Upon beginning his practice at HRC, Respondent met with nurses and staff and reviewed policies, protocols and guidelines with them; he was comfortable with the clinic protocols and the nurses' level of training and expertise.
- E. Since 2011, HRC has undergone significant revisions to its office practices. Currently, Respondent personally evaluates all patients before any treatments are instituted.

By signing this stipulation, the parties confirm that they have read,  
understand and agree with the terms of the consent order.

AGREED TO BY:



Michele M. Wagner-Gutkowski (P44654)  
Assistant Attorney General  
Attorney for Complainant

Dated: November 9, 2012

AGREED TO BY:



Steve Ralph Lasater, M.D.  
Respondent

Dated: 6 November 2012



Richard C. Kraus (P27553)  
Attorney for Respondent

Dated: 11/7/12

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
BUREAU OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
BOARD OF MEDICINE  
DISCIPLINARY SUBCOMMITTEE

In the Matter of

STEVE RALPH LASATER, M.D.  
License No. 43-01-051317

Complaint No. 43-12-123274

CONSENT ORDER AND STIPULATION

CONSENT ORDER

An administrative complaint was filed with the Disciplinary Subcommittee of the Board of Medicine on July 11, 2013, charging Steve Ralph Lasater, M.D. (Respondent) with having violated sections 16221(a), (b)(i) and (b)(vi) of the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended, MCL 333.1101 *et seq.*

The parties have stipulated that the Disciplinary Subcommittee may enter this consent order. The Disciplinary Subcommittee has reviewed the stipulation contained in this document and agrees that the public interest is best served by resolution of the outstanding complaint. Therefore, the Disciplinary Subcommittee finds that the allegations of fact contained in the complaint are true and that Respondent has violated sections 16221(a) and (b)(i) of the Public Health Code.

Accordingly, for these violations, IT IS ORDERED:

Respondent is placed on PROBATION for a period of one (1) year commencing on the effective date of this order. Reduction of the probationary period shall occur only while Respondent is employed as a physician. Respondent shall be automatically discharged from probation at the end of the probationary period provided the Department has received satisfactory written evidence that Respondent has successfully complied with the terms of this order. The terms and conditions of the probation, which Respondent must complete within the period of probation, are as follows:

- A. EMPLOYMENT CHANGE. Respondent shall report to the Department in writing any and all changes in his employment within 15 days of such change. Respondent shall provide copies of this order and the complaint dated July 11, 2013, to each successor employer in any position in which he is working as a physician.
- B. MEETING WITH BOARD APPROVED REVIEWER. Respondent shall meet quarterly with a physician designated by Affiliated Monitors, Inc. to review Respondent's professional practice. The initial meeting shall occur at the end of the third month of probation, and subsequent meetings shall occur every third month thereafter until the period of probation ends. Within 30 days of the effective date of the order, Respondent shall contact the Sanction Monitoring Unit to obtain the contact information for Affiliated Monitors, Inc., and the designated physician reviewer. Respondent shall then be responsible for scheduling the time and place of the meetings with the designated physician reviewer. Respondent shall submit the request for the Affiliated Monitors, Inc., designated physician reviewer to: Sanction Monitoring Unit, Bureau of Health Care Services, Health Professions Division, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, P.O. Box 30670, Lansing, Michigan 48909, or by fax to (517) 241-1431.
- C. COMPLIANCE WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH CODE. Respondent shall comply with all applicable provisions of the

Public Health Code and rules promulgated under the Public Health Code.

- D. CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS. Respondent shall successfully complete 10 hours of continuing education credits in the area of treatment of post-menopausal women. These credit hours shall not count toward the number of credit hours required for license renewal. Respondent must seek and obtain advance approval of the continuing education courses from the Chairperson of the Board or the Chairperson's designee. Respondent shall mail requests for approval of a course and proof of successful completion of a course to the Department at the address set forth below.
- E. REPORT OF NON-EMPLOYMENT. If, at any time during the period of probation, Respondent is not employed as a physician, he shall file a report of non-employment with the Department. Respondent shall file this report within 15 days after becoming unemployed. Respondent shall continue to file reports of non-employment on a quarterly basis until he returns to practice as a physician. If Respondent subsequently returns to practice as a physician, he shall notify the Department of this fact within 15 days after returning to practice.
- F. PHYSICIAN REVIEWER CHANGE. If at any time during the period of probation, Affiliated Monitors, Inc. is unable to designate a suitable physician to review Respondent's professional practice, Respondent shall report this information in writing to the Department within 15 days of such change, and request approval of another physician reviewer or Board Member designated by the Chairperson of the Board of Medicine. Respondent shall submit the request for the designated physician reviewer assignment to: Sanction Monitoring Unit, Bureau of Health Care Services, Health Professions Division, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, P.O. Box 30670, Lansing, Michigan 48909, or by fax to (517) 241-1431.
- G. RECORDS REVIEW. During the period of probation, the designated physician reviewer shall review the charts of 20% of Respondent's current patients. The designated physician reviewer shall check the patient chart for appropriate laboratory and diagnostic monitoring tests, appropriate monitoring of hormone dosing levels, and appropriate rendering of follow-up

care, especially as it relates to any off-label employment of hormone replacement therapy.

H. DESIGNATED PHYSICIAN REVIEWER REPORTS.

Respondent's designated physician reviewer shall file reports with the Department, as further provided below, advising of Respondent's work performance. If, at any time, Respondent fails to comply with minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing practice, or appears unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety, his designated physician reviewer shall immediately notify the Department.

- I. REPORTING PROCEDURE. Unless otherwise provided above, all reports required by the terms of probation shall be filed on a quarterly basis, the first report to be filed at the end of the third month of probation, and subsequent reports every three months until Respondent is discharged from probation. In addition to receiving reports as required above, the Department or its authorized representative may periodically contact the reporting individuals or agencies to inquire of Respondent's progress. By accepting the terms of this consent order and stipulation, Respondent has authorized the release of all necessary records and information.

Any violation of the Public Health Code by Respondent during the period of probation shall be deemed a violation of probation and constitute grounds for further disciplinary action.

Respondent is FINED Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000.00) to be paid by check, money order or cashier's check made payable to the State of Michigan (with complaint number 43-12-123274 clearly indicated on the check or money order) within 180 days from the effective date of this order. The timely payment of the fine shall be Respondent's responsibility. Respondent shall mail the fine to: Sanction Monitoring, Bureau of Health Care Services, Health Professions

Division, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, P.O. Box 30189, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Within 90 days of the effective date of this order, Respondent shall pay RESTITUTION in the amount of Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty and 00/100 Dollars (\$2,950.00) to patient B.L. identified in the July 11, 2013 administrative complaint. At the time Respondent makes restitution, Respondent shall mail proof of payment to the Department.

Count III of the complaint, alleging a violation of section 16221(b)(vi) of the Public Health Code, is DISMISSED.

Respondent shall direct any communications to the Department that are required by the terms of this order to: Sanction Monitoring Unit, Bureau of Health Care Services, Health Professions Division, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, P.O. Box 30670, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Respondent shall be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in complying with the terms and conditions of this consent order.

Respondent shall be responsible for the timely compliance with the terms of this consent order, including the timely filing of any documentation. Failure to comply within the time limitations provided will constitute a violation of this order.

If Respondent violates any term or condition set forth in this order, Respondent will be in violation of 1996 AACRS, R 338.1632, and section 16221(h) of the Public Health Code.

This order shall be effective thirty days from the date signed by the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Subcommittee or the Disciplinary Subcommittee's authorized representative, as set forth below.

Signed on 3.19.14

MICHIGAN BOARD OF MEDICINE

By Mark F. Jorcano  
Chairperson, Disciplinary Subcommittee

STIPULATION

The parties stipulate as follows:

1. Respondent understands and intends that, by signing this stipulation, he is waiving the right under the Public Health Code, rules promulgated under the Public Health Code, and the Administrative Procedures Act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 *et seq*, to require the Department to prove the charges set forth in the complaint by presentation of evidence and legal authority, and to present a defense to the charges before the Disciplinary Subcommittee or its

authorized representative. Should the Disciplinary Subcommittee reject the proposed consent order, the parties reserve the right to proceed to hearing.

2. The Disciplinary Subcommittee may enter the above Consent Order, supported by Board conferee Mohammed A. Arsiwala, M.D. Dr. Arsiwala or an attorney from the Licensing and Regulation Division may discuss this matter with the Disciplinary Subcommittee in order to recommend acceptance of this resolution.

3. Dr. Arsiwala and the parties considered the following factors in reaching this agreement:

A. The parties participated in a compliance conference on October 24, 2013. During the conference, Respondent advised he worked as an independent contractor for HRC/Legacy Clinics until it went into receivership in May 2013. Although he worked at the Wixom location for a short period of time in 2011, he primarily worked at the Grand Rapids location.

B. Respondent has been the medical director of PhysioAge Medical Group since approximately August 2011. He predominately provides age management medicines, bio-identical hormone replacement therapy, and clinical lipidology to a senior citizen patient population. Respondent is also employed by the United States Government to provide physical examinations to candidates desiring to enter the military.

C. Respondent advised the parties that, as owner of PhysioAge, he operates the clinic with an approach and clinical practice substantially different than that employed by HRC. Respondent has had no complaints filed against his license for the treatment he has rendered at PhysioAge.

D. The standard of practice for hormone replacement therapy, and in particular bio-identical hormone use, continue to evolve. Respondent advises that he operates from a basis of treating symptoms rather than hormone test values. Respondent provided the parties with an expert opinion from a physician with extensive experience and

credentialing in the field who opined that Respondent's treatment of B.L. met the standard of care.

E. Moreover, Respondent's expert attributed B.L.'s hair loss due to physical emotional distress reflected in the patient charts, and her endometrial proliferation due to lack of compliance with recommended progesterone regime; testosterone, he advised, does not cause endometrine thickening, pain, or other pelvic symptoms.

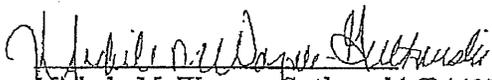
F. Respondent acknowledges that HRC should have tested B.L. for "free testosterone," and, at the time, HRC clinic employed testing for total testosterone values. At PhysioAge, he now tests for "free testosterone." He further acknowledged that he could have done a better job of documenting and performing follow-up monitoring of patient's receiving off-label use of testosterone.

G. Respondent advised the parties that he is making less money than when he practiced family medicine, but finds his current practice more rewarding. He believes he has helped numerous people to live fulfilling lives in the last four years, and is just trying to do the right thing.

By signing this stipulation, the parties confirm that they have read, understand and agree with the terms of the consent order.

AGREED TO BY:

AGREED TO BY:



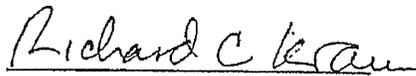
Michele M. Wagner-Gutkowski (P44654)  
Assistant Attorney General  
Attorney for Complainant

Dated: 2-14-14



Steve Ralph Lasater, M.D.  
Respondent

Dated: 2-11-2014



Richard C. Kraus (P27553)  
Attorney for Respondent

Dated: 2-13-2014