

STATE OF MAINE
BOARD OF LICENSURE IN MEDICINE

In re:) CONSENT AGREEMENT
GEETA GODARA, M.D.)
Complaint No. CR16-50)

This document is a Consent Agreement, effective when signed by all parties, regarding disciplinary action against the license to practice medicine in the State of Maine held by Geeta Godara, M.D. The parties to the Consent Agreement are: Geeta Godara, M.D. (“Dr. Godara”), the State of Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine (“the Board”), and the State of Maine Department of the Attorney General. This Consent Agreement is entered into pursuant to 10 M.R.S. § 8003(5)(B) and 32 M.R.S. § 3282-A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Dr. Godara has held a license to practice medicine in the State of Maine since May 20, 2014 (license number MD20181), and specializes in internal medicine. Prior to full licensure, Dr. Godara held Temporary Educational Certificates issued for the period July 1, 2009 through September 19, 2015.

2. On January 4, 2016, the Board received a report from Central Maine Medical Center (“CMMC”) made pursuant to 24 M.R.S. § 2506. CMMC reported that the clinical privileges of Dr. Godara had been revoked based upon “a breach of ethical standards concerning written documents and verbal communication with staff at CMMC.” The written documents and verbal communication related to knowing untruthful statements Dr. Godara made to Maine Medical Center (“MMC”) about her paid employment at CMMC during

the time she was engaged in a cardiac fellowship at MMC. CMMC also reported that an Investigation Committee found that it was highly probable that Dr. Godara created three fictitious letters on CMMC letterhead concerning her work at CMMC and misrepresented the truth when speaking with staff at CMMC concerning her practice. CMMC's Medical Executive Committee subsequently adopted the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Investigation Committee and recommended that the Board of Trustees terminate Dr. Godara's clinical privileges and medical staff membership.

3. On January 19, 2016, the Board received additional information from CMMC. According to that information, in June 2014 Dr. Godara was an active member of the medical staff at CMMC with privileges in internal medicine. Dr. Godara was also in her cardiology fellowship at MMC. From June 2014 through August 2015, Dr. Godara engaged in per diem work at CMMC in Internal Medicine. At the time of starting the per diem work, Dr. Godara stated that there were a "lot of challenges going on at MMC and anything [CMMC] can do to not tell MMC she has taken a job at [CMMC] she would appreciate."

CMMC reappointed Dr. Godara in July 2015. In August 2015, one of Dr. Godara's references for her reappointment requested to rescind his reference letter. Upon inquiry, CMMC discovered that Dr. Godara had been on probation in the cardiology fellowship program since February 2015, and would not be completing the fellowship program on the date originally expected. Dr. Godara had failed to inform CMMC of the probation during the reappointment process.

As a result of CMMC inquiries, MMC requested information regarding Dr. Godara's per diem work at CMMC, including payroll information. In late September and early October 2015, the MMC fellowship program director received the three fictitious letters referenced above.

4. On February 22, 2016, the Board received a report pursuant to 24 M.R.S. § 2506 from MMC. MMC reported the termination of Dr. Godara from MMC's cardiology program and MMC employment. The report stated that she was terminated on September 30, 2015, for unprofessional behavior and for violating the terms of her May 2014 probation. As part of Dr. Godara's probation she was not allowed to moonlight.

5. The Board received additional information from MMC. The MMC information reflected that Dr. Godara was placed on probation on May 1, 2014, for actions relating to untruthful statements about why she did not attend an outing for fellows which MMC said she was required to attend as part of her obligations as a member of the cardiology fellowship program. Dr. Godara signed the notice of probation on May 2, 2014. The notice stated that Dr. Godara's "moonlighting privileges" were suspended for the period of probation.

On September 3, 2015, the program director received an inquiry from CMMC regarding Dr. Godara. CMMC informed the MMC program director that Dr. Godara had been working at CMMC per diem and she was expected to start cardiology work at CMMC in January. CMMC requested official documentation regarding Dr. Godara's participation in the cardiology program. On September 7, 2015, the MMC program director wrote CMMC requesting confirmation

regarding Dr. Godara's moonlighting at CMMC, and stating that meant "clinical work and getting paid for it." By letter dated September 16, 2015, CMMC confirmed that Dr. Godara worked on a paid per diem basis between April 3, 2015 and August 27, 2015.

Dr. Godara met with the MMC program director and another staff member on September 21, 2015, and made knowing misstatements about her moonlighting at CMMC. She told them that she did some unpaid shifts at CMMC in July and August, but did not get paid for any clinical work outside MMC since she was placed on probation on May 1, 2014.

6. On April 7, 2016, the Board initiated a complaint based upon the reports and information received from CMMC and MMC. The Board docketed the complaint as CR16-50, and sent it to Dr. Godara for a response.

7. On May 14, 2016, Dr. Godara underwent an independent neuropsychological evaluation requested by the Board.

8. By letter dated June 20, 2016, Dr. Godara responded to the complaint. In her response, she took full responsibility for her "inexcusable misconduct of not being truthful about her moonlighting work at CMMC during the course of her MMC fellowship." She reported that she entered into a behavioral monitoring agreement with the Maine Medical Professionals Health Program ("MPHP") on December 18, 2015. Dr. Godara explained steps that she has taken to ensure that her "aberrational behavior of dishonesty never recurs." She described efforts made regarding rehabilitation including completing courses focused on professional ethics and professionalism.

9. At its meeting on July 12, 2016, the Board reviewed Complaint CR16-50, and voted to set this matter for an adjudicatory hearing. In addition, the Board voted to offer Dr. Godara this Consent Agreement to resolve this matter without further proceedings. Absent Dr. Godara's acceptance of this Consent Agreement by signing and dating it in front of a notary and mailing it to Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine, 137 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0137 on or before September 20, 2016, the matter will be scheduled for an adjudicatory hearing.

COVENANTS

10. Dr. Godara admits the facts stated above and that such conduct constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to 32 M.R.S. §§ 3282-A(2)(A), and (2)(F) (for engaging in the practice of fraud, deceit or misrepresentation in connection with service rendered within the scope of the license issued, and for engaging in unprofessional conduct).

11. As discipline for the conduct described above, Dr. Godara agrees to accept the following discipline:

a. A REPRIMAND for engaging in fraud, deceit, and unprofessional conduct; and

b. A period of PROBATION of at least one (1) year. During her probation, Dr. Godara shall maintain and comply with a behavioral monitoring agreement with MPHP. The MPHP behavioral monitoring contract shall require that Dr. Godara continue mental health counseling and have a workplace monitor. Dr. Godara shall provide a copy of her current MPHP monitoring

agreement to the Board within ten (10) days of the effective date of this Consent Agreement. Dr. Godara shall provide the Board with written notice of any modification or amendment to her MPHP monitoring agreement, or any change in her workplace monitor or mental health care provider(s), within ten (10) days of the date of any modification, amendment, or change. Dr. Godara shall cause MPHP, her workplace monitor(s), and her mental health treatment provider(s) to submit written reports to the Board on or before October 10, 2017, regarding her compliance with the monitoring agreement and recommended mental health treatment. In addition, the written reports shall identify any issues or concerns with Dr. Godara's behavior or conduct and provide recommendations for continued monitoring or treatment, if any. Following receipt of the written reports, the Board shall review the information provided, and in its sole discretion, determine whether to terminate, continue, or modify Dr. Godara's probation.

12. Violation by Dr. Godara of any of the terms or conditions of this Consent Agreement shall constitute grounds for discipline, including but not limited to modification, suspension, or revocation of licensure or the denial of re-licensure.

13. This Consent Agreement is not appealable and is effective until modified or rescinded in writing by the parties hereto.

14. The Board and the Department of the Attorney General may communicate and cooperate regarding Dr. Godara or any other matter relating to this Consent Agreement.

15. This Consent Agreement is a public record within the meaning of 1 M.R.S. § 402 and will be available for inspection and copying by the public pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 408-A.

16. This Consent Agreement constitutes discipline and is an adverse licensing action that is reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB), the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), and other licensing jurisdictions.

17. Nothing in this Consent Agreement shall be construed to affect any right or interest of any person not a party hereto. If any clause of this Consent Agreement is deemed illegal or invalid, then that clause shall be deemed severed from this Consent Agreement.

18. Dr. Godara acknowledges by her signature hereto that she has read this Consent Agreement, that she has had an opportunity to consult with an attorney before executing this Consent Agreement, that she executed this Consent Agreement of her own free will and that she agrees to abide by all terms and conditions set forth herein.

19. Dr. Godara has been represented by Phillip E. Johnson, Esq. and David G. Webbert, Esq., who have participated in the negotiation of the terms of this Consent Agreement.

20. For the purposes of this Consent Agreement, the term "execution" means the date on which the final signature is affixed to this Consent Agreement.

I, GEETA GODARA, M.D., HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING CONSENT AGREEMENT AND AGREE WITH ITS CONTENTS AND TERMS. I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, I WAIVE CERTAIN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO A HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD. I SIGN THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT VOLUNTARILY, WITHOUT ANY THREAT OR PROMISE. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT CONTAINS THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NO OTHER AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND, VERBAL, WRITTEN OR OTHERWISE.

DATED: 09/21/2016 Geeta Godara
GEETA GODARA, M.D.

STATE OF Maine
Kennebec, S.S.

Personally appeared before me the above-named Geeta Godara, M.D., and swore to the truth of the foregoing based upon her own personal knowledge, or upon information and belief, and so far as upon information and belief, she believes it to be true.

DATED: 9-21-2016 Leslie Grace Poole
NOTARY PUBLIC / ATTORNEY

STATE OF MAINE
Leslie Grace Poole
Notary Public
Commission Expires October 4, 2021
MY COMMISSION ENDS: 10-4-2021

DATED: 9/21/16 Phillip E. Johnson
PHILLIP E. JOHNSON, ESQ.
DAVID G. WEBBERT, ESQ.
Attorneys for Geeta Godara, M.D.

STATE OF MAINE
BOARD OF LICENSURE IN MEDICINE

DATED:

10/11/16




MAROULLA S. GLEATON, M.D., Chairman

STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATED:

October 11, 2016



MICHAEL MILLER
Assistant Attorney General

Effective Date: October 11, 2016