

STATE OF MAINE
BOARD OF LICENSURE IN MEDICINE

In re:) CONSENT AGREEMENT
G. PAUL SAVIDGE, M.D.)
Complaint Nos. CR17-260,)
CR18-122)

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 G. Paul Savidge, M.D. The parties to the Consent Agreement are: G. Paul Savidge, M.D. (“Dr. Savidge”), 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. Savidge has held a license to practice medicine in the State of Maine since July 1, 1976 (license number MD8503), and specializes in obstetrics and gynecology.

2. On January 19, 2018, the Board issued a complaint alleging that Dr. Savidge, who provides medication assisted treatment for individuals with substance use disorders, created inadequate medical records, documented checks of the prescription monitoring program (“PMP”) that had not been conducted, and failed to consistently follow universal precautions and compliance with prescribing standards. The Board docketed that complaint as CR17-260 and sent it to Dr. Savidge for a response.

3. By letter dated February 19, 2018, Dr. Savidge responded to the complaint. In his response, Dr. Savidge explained that for the past four years he has “practiced in addiction care.” Dr. Savidge explained his reliance on the format used by a practice he previously was associated with, acknowledged some recordkeeping deficiencies, but also contended that some of the medical records reviewed by the Board were adequate. Dr. Savidge explained his reliance on staff to conduct PMP checks and acknowledged that it appears PMP checks were documented that did not occur. Dr. Savidge informed the Board of changes that he has made to his practice to address the concerns raised.

4. The Board conducted further investigation, including a review of additional patient charts. Further investigation revealed that Dr. Savidge also prescribed benzodiazepines and stimulants to some patients.

5. On June 15, 2018, the Board initiated a complaint based upon receipt of a report from a pharmacist on April 19, 2018, stating that the pharmacist called Dr. Savidge about a prescription for a 30 day supply of Xanax for a female patient who had filled a prior prescription for a 50 day supply of that medication on March 15, 2018. The pharmacist reported that when questioned about the early refill, Dr. Savidge instructed the pharmacist not to fill the prescription because he was concerned that the patient may be abusing or selling the medication. The pharmacist reported observing the patient’s husband on a cellphone in the store and that Dr. Savidge then issued a prescription for a 30 day supply of Xanax to the patient’s husband who had

never previously been prescribed that drug by Dr. Savidge. The Board docketed the complaint as CR18-122 and sent it to Dr. Savidge for a response.

6. By letter dated July 16, 2018, Dr. Savidge responded to complaint CR18-122. In his response, Dr. Savidge explained that his current medical practice focuses on the treatment of opioid dependency. Dr. Savidge described his treatment of the patient and the patient's husband. Dr. Savidge explained the circumstances surrounding the prescribing of Xanax to the patient, and acknowledged that his concern about the patient's safety and well-being if she were to go off the Xanax abruptly had "regretfully" clouded his judgment leading to his writing a Xanax prescription in the patient's husband's name.

7. By letter dated June 26, 2018, Dr. Savidge pledged to the Board that he would restrict his addiction treatment practice solely to prescribing buprenorphine products (i.e., he would not prescribe any other controlled substances).

8. Pursuant to 32 M.R.S. § 3282-A(2)(F), the Board may impose discipline for unprofessional conduct if the licensee has engaged in conduct that violates a standard of professional behavior that has been established for the practice of medicine.

9. On June 12, 2018, and August 14, 2018, the Board reviewed complaints CR17-260 and CR18-122, and voted to set the matters for an adjudicatory hearing. In addition, the Board voted to offer Dr. Savidge this Consent Agreement to resolve the matter without further proceedings. Absent Dr. Savidge'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 October 6, 2018, the matter will be scheduled for an adjudicatory hearing.

COVENANTS

10. Dr. Savidge admits the facts stated above and agrees that such conduct constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to 32 M.R.S. § 3282-A(2)(F) for engaging in unprofessional conduct.

11. As discipline for the foregoing conduct, Dr. Savidge agrees to accept, and the Board imposes:

a) a REPRIMAND for unprofessional conduct;

b) a CIVIL PENALTY in the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), payment of which shall be made by certified check or money order made payable to "Treasurer, State of Maine," and remitted to Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine, 137 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0137, within thirty (30) days of the execution of this Consent Agreement; and

c) a LICENSE PROBATION for a period of at least one (1) year with the following terms and conditions:

1) Upon the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Dr. Savidge shall limit controlled substance prescribing to buprenorphine products and shall cease prescribing any other controlled substances.

2) Dr. Savidge shall attend the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine course "Buprenorphine: Keeping Up with the Changing Landscape of Office Based Opioid Treatment" to be held on October

10, 2018, or an in-person continuing medical education course on addiction medicine pre-approved by the Case Reporter or designee within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Consent Agreement. Dr. Savidge shall provide evidence of completion of the course required by this subparagraph within four (4) months of the effective date of this Consent Agreement.

3) Within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Dr. Savidge shall complete the American Society of Addiction Medicine (“ASAM”) 40-Hour Program “The Fundamentals of Addiction Medicine” or other continuing medical education course on addiction medicine pre-approved by the Case Reporter or designee. Dr. Savidge shall provide evidence of completion of the continuing medical education course required by this subparagraph within four (4) months of the effective date of this Consent Agreement.

4) Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Dr. Savidge shall enroll in an in-person continuing medical education course on the subject of medical recordkeeping pre-approved by the Case Reporter or designee. The following courses are pre-approved by the Case Reporter: 1) Case Western Medical Documentation Course; 2) KSTAR Medical Record Course; 3) PACE Medical Record Keeping Course; and 4) CPEP Medical Recordkeeping Seminar. Dr. Savidge shall provide evidence of completion of the continuing medical education course required by this subparagraph within thirty (30) days after successful completion of the continuing medical education course which successful

completion shall occur within seven (7) months of the effective date of this Consent Agreement.

5) Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Dr. Savidge shall submit for approval by the Case Reporter or designee the name of a Physician Practice Monitor. The Physician Practice Monitor must be currently engaged in treating opioid addiction and prescribing suboxone (buprenorphine) in an office-based treatment program. The Physician Practice Monitor shall monitor Dr. Savidge's compliance with prescribing and medical recordkeeping standards. The monitoring and medical record review contemplated by this subparagraph may NOT occur solely by telephone, and must include in person communication at least quarterly or via HIPAA compliant shared portal access or interface. The Physician Practice Monitor must randomly select and review at least ten (10) patient charts each month. The Physician Practice Monitor shall submit written reports to the Board every two months following his/her approval. In the reports to the Board, the Physician Practice Monitor shall provide a summary of his or her monitoring activities, Dr. Savidge's compliance with universal precautions and buprenorphine product prescribing and medical recordkeeping standards, and shall identify any issues with medical decision-making or documentation. Dr. Savidge understands that the Physician Practice Monitor is an agent of the Board pursuant to 24 M.R.S. § 2511. Dr. Savidge shall permit the Physician Practice Monitor full access to his medical practice, including but not limited to all patient information. After receipt by the Board of at least six (6) Physician

Practice Monitor reports, Dr. Savidge may request that the Board modify or eliminate the requirements of this subparagraph. Upon receipt of such request, the Board shall review all information, and in its sole discretion, may maintain, modify, or eliminate the requirements of this subparagraph for any remaining period of probation.

12. Dr. Savidge acknowledges that while this Consent Agreement together with any amendments is in effect he must directly communicate with the Board or Board staff and has the obligation to respond to any request for information or documentation within the timeframe specified or requested. If providing notice or supplying information to the Board is required by any provision of this Consent Agreement, Dr. Savidge shall provide such notice in writing to Julie Best, Complaint Coordinator, or her successor. Failure to comply with or respond to any request will be considered a violation of this Consent Agreement.

13. The duration of any probationary period shall be tolled for: a) any absence from the state that is in excess of thirty (30) continuous days; b) any absence from the state that is in excess of sixty (60) aggregate days in a single year; c) any period in which Dr. Savidge does not hold an active Maine license. Dr. Savidge shall inform the Board in writing in advance of any absence from the state specified above.

14. Any conduct of Dr. Savidge described herein may be considered in future Board action(s) as evidence of a pattern of misconduct.

15. Violation by Dr. Savidge 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.

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

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

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. Dr. Savidge acknowledges by his signature hereto that he has read this Consent Agreement, that he has had an opportunity to consult with an attorney before executing this Consent Agreement, that he executed this

Consent Agreement of his own free will and that he agrees to abide by all terms and conditions set forth herein.

22. Dr. Savidge has been represented by Taylor D. Fawns, Esq., who has participated in the negotiation of the terms of this Consent Agreement.

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

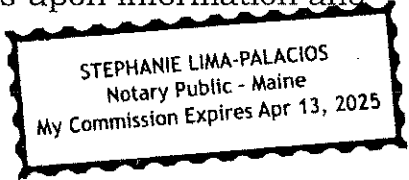
I, G. PAUL SAVIDGE, M.D., HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING CONSENT AGREEMENT AND AGREE WITH ITS CONTENTS AND TERMS. I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, I WAIVE CERTAIN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO A HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD. I SIGN THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT VOLUNTARILY, WITHOUT 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: 10/2/18 G Paul Savidge MD
G. PAUL SAVIDGE, M.D.

STATE OF Maine
county of Cumberland, S.S.

Personally appeared before me the above-named G. Paul Savidge, M.D., and swore to the truth of the foregoing based upon his own personal knowledge, or upon information and belief, and so far as upon information and belief, he believes it to be true.

DATED: 10/2/18 [Signature]
NOTARY PUBLIC/ATTORNEY



MY COMMISSION ENDS: _____

DATED: 10/8/2018 Taylor D. Fawns
TAYLOR D. FAWNS, ESQ.
Attorney for G. Paul Savidge, M.D.

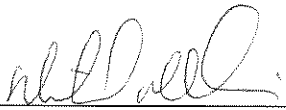
STATE OF MAINE BOARD
OF LICENSURE IN MEDICINE

DATED: 10/9/18


MAROULLA S. GLEATON, M.D., Chair

STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATED: October 9, 2018


MICHAEL MILLER
Assistant Attorney General

Effective Date: October 9, 2018