

IN AND BEFORE THE OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND SUPERVISION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

FILED

DEC - 1 2023

OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL LICENSURE & SUPERVISION

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, *ex rel.*)
OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD)
OF MEDICAL LICENSURE)
AND SUPERVISION,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
)
STEPHEN JAMES RIDDEL, M.D.,)
LICENSE NO. MD 16862,)
)
Defendant.)

Case No. 23-03-6205

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

The State of Oklahoma, *ex rel.* Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision ("Board"), for its Verified Complaint against Stephen James Riddel, M.D. ("Defendant"), alleges and states as follows:

I. JURISDICTION

1. The Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter and is a duly authorized agency of the State of Oklahoma empowered to license and oversee the activities of physicians and surgeons in the State of Oklahoma. 59 O.S. § 480, *et seq.* and Okla. Admin. Code 435:5-1-1, *et seq.*
2. Defendant holds medical license No. 16862, issued 06/12/1989 by the Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision. The acts and/or omissions complained of herein were made while Defendant was licensed to practice medicine by the State of Oklahoma.

II. ALLEGATIONS OF UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

3. This action arises out of unprofessional conduct by Defendant as detailed herein. The Board originally received a complaint containing allegations that Defendant had been prescribing phentermine to a patient at doses exceeding the medically acceptable standard. After reviewing the complainant subject patient's prescription record, Board staff subpoenaed medical records for this and five (5) additional patients of Defendant, all of which were provided to an expert for review. The expert determined that Defendant's practices relating to the prescription of phentermine were outside the medically accepted standard of care for all six (6) patients, for varying reasons. Specifically, Defendant had prescribed phentermine in excess of recommended doses, for extending periods of time, without consistent clinical monitoring of vitals for these patients. For three of the patients,

this practice continued despite clinical indications of hypertension when the patients' vitals were in fact observed. Moreover, Defendant prescribed phentermine to one patient when doing so was clearly contraindicated considering the patient's history of cardiovascular disease. Defendant's prescribing practices also continued as described herein despite apparent loss of efficacy or benefit to the patient in several instances. The expert determined that Defendant's prescription of phentermine as described herein demonstrated a pattern of medical practice inconsistent with or in violation of the appropriate and medically accepted standard(s) of care.

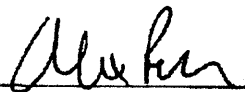
III. VIOLATIONS

4. Based on the foregoing, Defendant is guilty of unprofessional conduct as follows:
 - a. Prescribing, dispensing or administering of controlled substances or narcotic drugs in excess of the amount considered good medical practice, in violation of 59 O.S. 509(16)(a) and Okla. Admin. Code § 435:10-7-4(2).
 - b. Indiscriminate or excessive prescribing, dispensing or administering of controlled or narcotic drugs, in violation of Okla. Admin. Code § 435:10-7-4(1).
 - c. Prescribing or administering a drug or treatment without sufficient examination and the establishment of a valid physician-patient relationship and not prescribing in a safe, medically accepted manner, in violation of 59 O.S. 509(12).
 - d. Failure to maintain an office record for each patient which accurately reflects the evaluation, treatment, and medical necessity of treatment of the patient, in violation of 59 O.S. § 509(18).
 - e. Failure to maintain adequate medical records to support diagnosis, procedure, treatment or prescribed medications, in violation of 59 O.S. § 509(21) and Okla. Admin. Code § 435:10-7-4(41).

V. CONCLUSION

Given the foregoing, the undersigned respectfully requests the Board conduct a hearing, and, upon proof of the allegations contained herein, impose such disciplinary action as authorized by law, up to and including suspension or revocation and any other appropriate action with respect to Defendant's professional license, including an assessment of costs and attorney's fees incurred in this action as provided by law.

Respectfully submitted,



Alex A. Pedraza, OBA No. 33584
Assistant Attorney General
OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL
LICENSURE AND SUPERVISION

101 N.E. 51st Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105
Telephone: 405.522.5264
Email: Alex.Pedraza@oag.ok.gov

VERIFICATION

I Melissa Davis, under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of Oklahoma, state as follows:

1. I have read the above Complaint regarding Stephen James Riddel, M.D.; and
2. The factual statements contained therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

M. Davis, RN

Melissa Davis, Investigator, RN
OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL
LICENSURE AND SUPERVISION

Date:

12-1-23

Oklahoma, Oklahoma

County, State of Execution