

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

FILED

OCT 13 2009

STATE OF OKLAHOMA )  
EX REL. THE OKLAHOMA BOARD )  
OF MEDICAL LICENSURE )  
AND SUPERVISION, )  
 )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
v. )  
 )  
MICHAEL CURTIS WEST, M.D., )  
LICENSE NO. 20377, )  
 )  
Defendant. )

OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF  
MEDICAL LICENSURE & SUPERVISION

Case No. 09-08-3829

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, the State of Oklahoma ex rel. the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision (the "Board"), by and through its attorney, Elizabeth A. Scott, Assistant Attorney General, and for its Complaint against the Defendant, Michael Curtis West, M.D., alleges and states as follows:

1. The Board 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 pursuant to 59 Okla. Stat. §480 *et seq.*
2. Defendant, Michael Curtis West, M.D., holds Oklahoma license no. 20377 and practices in Valiant, Oklahoma and Wright City, Oklahoma.

AIDING AND ABETTING UNLICENSED  
PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

3. In or around 2006, Defendant purchased the CosMedic Clinic, a weight loss clinic in Valiant, Oklahoma. When Defendant first purchased the clinic, he periodically worked at the clinic. He additionally hired a nurse practitioner to see patients at the clinic.
4. In or around 2008, Defendant's nurse practitioner left the clinic. Defendant did not replace her, nor did he begin working at the weight loss clinic. Instead, he allowed three (3) unlicensed individuals to examine patients, take vital signs, and prescribe controlled dangerous substances, which were dispensed out of the CosMedic Clinic by the unlicensed individuals.

5. A review of the PMP records at the CosMedic Clinic in Valiant, Oklahoma reveals that from August 1, 2008 until August 9, 2009, **4,970 prescriptions for controlled dangerous substances** were dispensed by the unlicensed individuals employed by Defendant. These controlled dangerous drugs were primarily Phentermine, Supramine, Fastin and Bontril, all weight loss medications. Prescriptions were for thirty (30), sixty (60), ninety (90) or one-hundred twenty (120) dosage units of these medications.

6. Defendant admits that he never performed a physical examination on any of the patients who received the controlled dangerous drugs set forth in paragraph 5 above prior to the patients being dispensed controlled dangerous substances by his unlicensed employees. Defendant additionally never saw any of the patients prior to the patients receiving controlled dangerous substances prescribed by his unlicensed employees. Defendant further admits that these patients who received controlled dangerous substances did not see any licensed practitioner prior to being prescribed the drugs.

7. Defendant admits that when patients came to the clinic, if they met certain standards, they would be allowed to receive weight loss medications prescribed by his unlicensed employees. The patients were not charged for office visits, but were only charged for the medications prescribed by the unlicensed employees. The patients were advised of the medication choices and the cost for differing dosage units. The patients then advised Defendant's unlicensed employees what controlled dangerous substance they wanted and the dosage units they were willing to pay for. The controlled dangerous substances were then dispensed by Defendant's unlicensed employees to the patients.

8. Defendant additionally admits that he devised an incentive bonus plan for his employees to encourage more prescribing of controlled dangerous substances by the unlicensed employees. Under Defendant's plan, the clinic employees would receive a \$250.00 bonus each month that the clinic generated more than \$25,000.00 in sales of controlled dangerous substances. Defendant admits that his employees received this bonus on several occasions.

### **UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION**

9. On or about August 25, 2009, Board Investigator Jana Lane conducted an undercover office investigation into the allegations that Defendant was aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine at the CosMedic Clinic in Valiant, Oklahoma. Investigator Lane posed as patient "Jana Rhodes" for a "walk-in" visit at the clinic and wore a digital recorder to record the office visit.

10. When the undercover investigator first arrived, she inquired about the laser treatment the clinic was advertising on pamphlets in the waiting room. She was introduced to clinic employee Angela Wright who identified herself as a "laser tech". Ms. Wright advised that she was still in training but she could perform a laser treatment on Investigator Lane as part of her training at no charge. Paperwork was completed and Ms. Wright performed a laser treatment on the undercover investigator's leg. The undercover investigator was not examined by any licensed healthcare provider prior to receiving the laser treatment.

11. The undercover investigator was later called back to an exam room for the weight loss portion of her office visit. At this time, an unlicensed individual, Nancy Marx, weighed her and took her blood pressure. Ms. Marx then explained the choice of controlled dangerous substances available to the undercover investigator and the price for either thirty (30), sixty (60) or ninety (90) pills. The undercover investigator chose thirty (30) Phentermine and paid the clinic \$60.00 for the drugs. There was no charge for the actual office visit.

12. At no time during the undercover investigator's office visit was she treated or examined by any licensed healthcare provider.

13. After paying for the drugs, the undercover investigator received a prescription bottle with thirty (30) Phentermine 37.5 mg. The label identified the prescribing physician as "Dr. M.C. West Jr." of "CosMedic Inc." Investigator Lane then left the clinic.

14. Defendant is guilty of unprofessional conduct in that he:

- A. Procured, aided or abetted a criminal operation in violation of 59 O.S. §509(1).
- B. Engaged in dishonorable or immoral conduct which is likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public in violation of 59 O.S. §509(8) and OAC 435:10-7-4(11).
- C. Committed any act which is a violation of the criminal laws of any state when such act is connected with the physician's practice of medicine in violation of 59 O.S. §509(9).
- D. Confessed to a crime involving violation of the antinarcotic or prohibition laws and regulations of the federal government or the laws of this state in violation of 59 O.S. §509(7).
- E. Prescribed or administered a drug or treatment without sufficient examination and the establishment of a valid physician patient relationship in violation of 59 O.S. §509(12).
- F. Engaged in the indiscriminate or excessive prescribing, dispensing or administering of controlled or narcotic drugs in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(1).
- G. Prescribed, dispensed or administered controlled substances or narcotic drugs in excess of the amount considered good medical practice or prescribed, dispensed or administered

controlled substances or narcotic drugs without medical need in accordance with published standard in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(2) and (6).

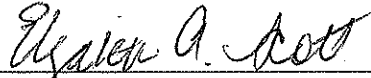
- H. Engaged in gross or repeated negligence in the practice of medicine and surgery in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(15).
- I. Violated any state or federal law or regulation relating to controlled substances in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(27).
- J. Prescribed, dispensed or administered a controlled substance or narcotic drugs in excess of the amount considered good medical practice, or prescribed, dispensed or administered controlled substances or narcotic drugs without medical need in accordance with published standards in violation of 59 O.S. 509(16).
- K. Aided or abetted, directly or indirectly, the practice of medicine by any person not duly authorized under the laws of this state in violation of 59 O.S. §509(14) and OAC 435:10-7-4(21).
- L. Failed 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) and OAC 435:10-7-4(41).
- M. Directly or indirectly gave or received any fee, commission, rebate, or other compensation for professional services not actually and personally rendered in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(30).
- N. Violated any provision of the medical practice act or the rules and regulations of the Board or of an action, stipulation, or agreement of the Board in violation of 59 O.S. §509(13) and OAC 435:10-7-4(39).

### *Conclusion*

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff respectfully requests that 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 medical license, and an assessment of costs and attorney's fees incurred in this action as provided by law.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Elizabeth A. Scott (OBA #12470)  
Assistant Attorney General  
State of Oklahoma  
5104 N. Francis, Suite C  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Attorney for the Plaintiff