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

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel., THE OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND SUPERVISION, Plaintiff,	JUL 1 3 2023 OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE & SUPERVISION
vs.) Case No. 20-12-5948
CHIGURUPATI VENKATA RAMANA., M.D., LICENSE NO. MD 31923,))
Defendant.)

ORDER OF REVOCATION WITHOUT THE RIGHT TO REAPPLY

AND

ORDER DENYING DEFENDANT'S SPECIAL APPEARENCE AND OBJECTION TO JURISDICTION

This matter comes on for hearing before the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision ("Board") on May 11, 2023, at the office of the Board, 101 N.E. 51st Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105, pursuant to notice given as required by law and the rules of the Board.

Joe L. Ashbaker, Assistant Attorney General ("AAG Ashbaker"), appears for Plaintiff. Defendant Chigurupati Venkata Ramana appeared not. Additionally, no representative or attorney for Defendant appeared.

AAG Ashbaker made an offer of proof as to the evidence. Dr. Robert Hass was duly sworn and testified. The Board, having considered representations of counsel, briefs of the parties, as well as the exhibits that were admitted into evidence, and being fully apprised of the premises therein, finds the following has been established by default and/or by clear and convincing evidence.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. This complaint was filed by an attorney representing patient named E. C., who underwent numerous procedures performed by Defendant from May 2018 through October 2019. The patient's attorney alleged that Defendant damaged vessels in patient E.C.'s legs to the extent that the right leg was amputated in October 2019.

- 2. Patient E.C.'s medical records were subpoenaed on December 28, 2020. The subpoena was sent directly to Defendant.
- 3. On February 24, 2021, an electronic copy of E.C.'s records were received from Defendant's counsel and a printed copy was received from Cioxx, the company that manages the electronic records for St. Anthony's Hospital, on March 4, 2021. On May 24, 2021, Defendant supplied a CD with the imaging related to the procedures Defendant performed on E.C.
- 4. On June 7, 2021, the sister of a patient of Defendant, called to ask questions about limitations on Defendant's license. The caller explained that her brother, patient E.L., had recently been referred to Defendant, who subsequently performed multiple stenting procedures over a period of several days. This occurred after Defendant entered a VSJ prohibiting him placing venous stents. The caller was not sure if the stents placed by Dr. Ramana were venous or arterial, but on June 6, 2021, patient E.L. was taken to the hospital for a suspected blood clot in his leg, and it was unclear if the leg would ultimately need to be amputated.
- 5. It was decided that the records for E.L and patients with current court cases pending against Defendant be obtained and reviewed. In addition to E.C. and E.L., four (4) more patient records were checked. Two of those did not concern arterial stenting as E.C. and E.L. appeared to. However, the records for patients S.L. and T.P. did have allegations involving problems with arterial stenting. In spite of the subpoenas for these records calling for every page of medical records as well as any diagnostic radiological images belonging to these patients, very few images were provided. Whether that is because Defendant did not have sufficient radiological images created, did not record them in the records, did not cooperate with Board staff, did not maintain the records, or some combination thereof is unclear.
- 6. The records show that Defendant demonstrates inadequate documentation throughout the records reviewed. Defendant demonstrated poor judgment and technical ability. Stents were overutilized and utilized in instances when it was inappropriate or premature. There were continued and repeated instances of stent thrombosis and very little if any discussion on the record regarding how or why it happened and what to do about it. Defendant continually treated patients in an outpatient lab rather than admitting them to the hospital. When the treatment failed, he didn't seek counsel from others and didn't seem to consider surgical options or alternative treatments. There were instances where the record lacked historical or physical exam findings that supported the care plan.
- 7. The records for patients E.C., E.L., S.L. and T.P. were sent for expert review. The expert found that Defendant's patient care fell well below the standard of care on numerous occasions. He went on to say, "this provider displays consistent inadequacy in documentation, judgement, technical ability and choosing when, where and how to intervene as well as a stunning lack of ability to manage his patients carefully, thoughtfully or effectively."

8. Any conclusion of law below which is more properly characterized as a finding of fact law is hereby incorporated as a finding of fact.

The Board, having considered representations of counsel, briefs of the parties, as well as the exhibits that were admitted into evidence, and being fully apprised of the premises therein, finds the following has been established by default and by clear and convincing evidence.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 9. 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.
- 10. Notice was provided as required by law and the rules of the Board. 75 O.S. § 309; 59 O.S. § 504; Okla. Admin. Code §§ 435:3-3-5, 435:3-3-6.
- 11. The Board is authorized to suspend, revoke, or order any other appropriate conditions against the license of any physician or surgeon holding a license to practice medicine in the State of Oklahoma for unprofessional conduct. 59 O.S. §§ 503, 513(A)(1). The Board's action is authorized by 59 O.S. § 509.1.
- 12. Based on the foregoing, the Defendant is guilty of unprofessional conduct as follows:
 - a. Dishonorable or immoral conduct which is likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public in violation of Title 59 § 509(8):
 - b. The inability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of age, illness, drunkenness, excessive use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other type of material or as a result of any mental or physical condition in violation of Title 59 § 509(15):
 - c. 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 Title 59 § 509(18):
 - d. Failure to provide a proper and safe medical facility setting and qualified assistive personnel for a recognized medical act, including but not limited to an initial inperson patient examination, office surgery, diagnostic service or any other medical procedure or treatment. Adequate medical records to support diagnosis, procedure, treatment, or prescribed medications must be produced and maintained in violation of Title 59 § 509(20):
 - e. Conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(11):
 - f. Gross or repeated negligence in the practice of medicine and surgery in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(15):

- g. Being physically or mentally unable to practice medicine and surgery with reasonable skill and safety in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(17):
- h. Practice or other behavior that demonstrates an incapacity or incompetence to practice medicine and surgery in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(18):
- i. OAC 475:10-7-4(40): The inability to practice medicine and surgery with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of age, illness, drunkenness, excessive use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other type of material or as a result of any mental or physical condition in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(40):
- j. Failure to provide a proper setting and assistive personnel for medical act, including but not limited to examination, surgery, or other treatment. Adequate medical records to support treatment or prescribed medications must be produced and maintained in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(41).
- 13. Any finding of fact above which is more properly characterized as a conclusion of law is hereby incorporated as a conclusion of law.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision that Defendant's Special Appearance and Objection to Jurisdiction is DENIED.

IT IS FURTHER THEREFORE ORDERED by the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision that Oklahoma medical license no. 31923 is hereby REVOKED, without the right to reapply.

- 1. Promptly upon receipt of an invoice, Defendant shall pay all costs of this action authorized by law, including without limitation, legal fees, investigation costs, staff time, salary and travel expenses, witness fees and attorney's fees. The Board reaffirms that Defendant shall pay all costs and fees as previously ordered by the Board at any time.
- 2. A copy of this Order shall be provided to Defendant, as well as the California Medical Board as soon as it is processed.

This Order is subject to review and approval by the Oklahoma Attorney General, and this Order shall become final upon completion of the review by the Oklahoma Attorney General unless disapproved, in which case this Order shall be null and void.

Dated this 13th day of July, 2023.

Gran Katha MDSteven B. Katsis. MD (Jul 13, 2023 10:34 CDT)

Steven Katsis, President
OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL
LICENSURE AND SUPERVISION

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on the <u>13</u> 4day of <u>Tulu</u>	_, 2023, a true and correct copy
of this Order was transmitted as indicated, postage prepaid, the	following:

U.S Certified mail
Chigurupati Venkata Ramana
7032 Willow Pine Way
Port Saint Lucie, Fl 34986
DEFENDANT

U.S Certified mail and E-mail
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3035 NW 63"" Street, Suite 214
Oklahoma City, OK 73116
ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT

E-mail
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ATTORNEY FOR OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL LICENSURE AND SUPERVISION

Shelley Crowder





OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE & SUPERVISION

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION 2023-26A

Billy H. Stout, M.D., Board Secretary State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision 101 N.E. 51st Street Oklahoma City, OK 73105-1821 July 12, 2023

Re:

Ramana ("Defendant"); Case No. 20-12-5948

Dear Dr. Stout:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding action that the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision intends to take in case 23-02-6202.

The Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act authorizes the Board to suspend, revoke or order other appropriate sanctions against the license of a physician for unprofessional conduct. 59 O.S. 2021, § 503.

According to a Board complaint, filed in October 2021, Defendant committed multiple breaches of professional conduct, including dishonorable or immoral conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public; inadequate documentation, judgment, ability, and decision making; and negligent patient care. Finding clear and convincing evidence of the above-mentioned unprofessional conduct, the Board proposes to revoke Respondent's license without the right to reapply and require Respondent to pay costs related to the disciplinary action. *See* 59 O.S.2021 §§ 509(8), (15), (18), (21), 509.1(A); OAC 435:10-7-4(11), (15), (18), (40–41). The Board may reasonably believe that the proposed action is necessary to deter future violations and to protect the public.

It is, therefore, the official opinion of the Attorney General that the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision has adequate support for the conclusion that this board action advances the State's policy of protecting the health, safety, and well-being of the citizens of Oklahoma.

ROB JOHNSON GENERAL COUNSEL

¹Oklahoma statutes and the Board rules define "unprofessional conduct" to include 1) [c]onduct "likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public[;] 2) "inability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety[;]" 3) [f]ailure to maintain records which "accurately reflect[] the evaluation, treatment, and medical necessity of treatment[;] 4) "[f]ailure to provide a proper and safe medical facility setting[;]" and 5) "[g]ross or repeated negligence" or "behavior that demonstrates" inability, incapacity or incompetence to practice medicine or surgery "with reasonable skill and safety." 59 O.S.2021 § 509(8), (15), (18), (21); OAC 435:10-7-4(11), (15), (18), (40–41).