

BEFORE THE
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

In re:)
Ramesh Loganathan Krishnaraj, M.D.,) CONSENT ORDER
Respondent.)

This matter is before the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") on information received relating to Ramesh Loganathan Krishnaraj, M.D. ("Dr. Krishnaraj"). Dr. Krishnaraj admits and the Board finds and concludes that:

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Board is a body duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding under the authority granted it in Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the rules and regulations promulgated thereto.

FINDINGS OF FACT

On or about September 18, 1999, the Board issued a license to Dr. Krishnaraj to practice medicine, license number 9901228.

During the times relevant herein, Dr. Krishnaraj practiced as a hospitalist in Morganton, North Carolina.

In March 2015, the Board received information regarding a malpractice payment made in relation to the care rendered to Patient A. The complaint named several physicians, including

Dr. Krishnaraj. As a result of that information the Board opened an investigation that included obtaining Patient A's medical records for review by the Board.

The medical records reveal that in October 2009, Patient A, a 64-year old woman, presented to the emergency department for admission due to weakness and difficulty walking. Patient A had a known past medical history of moderate-severe aortic stenosis, congestive heart failure, diabetes and chronic low back pain. At the time of this emergency department visit, Patient A also presented with a urinary tract infection. Patient A was treated empirically with ceftriaxone for presumptive urinary tract infection. After patient improved, she was discharged with oral Levaquin to cover both a urinary tract infection and the coagulase negative staph bacteremia.

On December 21, 2009, Patient A again presented to the emergency department with worsening back pain as well as nausea, vomiting and a low grade fever. All work-up regarding Patient A's fever were negative, her symptoms improved with pain medications and physical therapy, and Patient A was discharged.

On January 17, 201, Patient A again presented to the emergency department experiencing falls and confusion. Patient A was started on ceftriaxone for coverage for empiric coverage for a urinary tract infection. By the next day the urine cultures were negative and blood cultures were positive as staph

epidermidis. At this point a cross-covering physician added vancomycin to Patient A's treatment. Patient A's condition deteriorated from this point forward, and ultimately because of Patient A's poor prognosis, Patient A's family withdrew care and she died.

Following the initial internal review by the Board, Patient A's medical records were submitted for an independent expert medical review.

The reviewing medical expert concluded that Dr. Krishnaraj's care of Patient A failed to conform to the standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice when he failed to recognize two positive blood cultures with the same organism and drawn at separate times as a likely infective agent. According to the reviewing medical expert, this failure lead to Dr. Krishnaraj providing an ineffective treatment for Patient A's infection.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Dr. Krishnaraj's medical treatment and care of Patient A, as described above, constitutes a failure to conform to the standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6).

PROCEDURAL STIPULATIONS

Dr. Krishnaraj acknowledges and agrees that the Board has jurisdiction over him and over the subject matter of this case.

Dr. Krishnaraj knowingly waives his right to any hearing and to any judicial review or appeal in this case.

Dr. Krishnaraj acknowledges that he has read and understands this Consent Order and enters into it voluntarily.

The Board has determined it to be in the public interest to resolve this matter as set forth below.

Dr. Krishnaraj would like to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, with Dr. Krishnaraj's consent, it is ORDERED that:

1. Dr. Krishnaraj is hereby REPRIMANDED for the above-described conduct.

2. Dr. Krishnaraj shall obey all laws. Likewise, Dr. Krishnaraj shall obey all rules and regulations involving the practice of medicine.

3. Dr. Krishnaraj shall notify the Board in writing of any change in his residence and practice addresses within ten (10) days of the change.

4. Dr. Krishnaraj shall meet with the Board or members of the Board for an investigative interview at such times as requested by the Board.

5. If Dr. Krishnaraj fails to comply with any of the terms of this Consent Order, that failure shall constitute

unprofessional conduct within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6) and shall be grounds, after any required notice and hearing, for the Board to annul, revoke, suspend or limit his license or to deny any application he might then have pending or might make in the future for a license.

6. This Consent Order shall take effect immediately upon its execution by both Dr. Krishnaraj and the Board, and it shall continue in effect until specifically ordered otherwise by the Board.

7. Dr. Krishnaraj hereby waives any requirement under any law or rule that this Consent Order be served on him.

8. Upon execution by Dr. Krishnaraj and the Board, this Consent Order shall become a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and shall be subject to public inspection and dissemination pursuant to the provisions thereof. Additionally, it will be reported to persons, entities, agencies and clearinghouses as required and permitted by law.

By Order of the North Carolina Medical Board this the 21st day of June, 2016.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD



By:

Pascal O. Udekwu, M.D.
President

Consented to this the 16th day of May, 2016.


Ramesh Loganathan Krishnaraj, M.D.

State of N.C.

County of Burke

I, Tamaria H. Herron, a Notary Public for the above named County and State, do hereby certify that Ramesh Loganathan Krishnaraj, M.D. personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal

this the 16th day of May, 2016.

Tamaria H. Herron
Notary Public

(SEAL)



My Commission Expires: July 24, 2018