

pain and was admitted to the Hospital based on a verbal order by Dr. Krishnaraj, and

Whereas, Emergency Department personnel called Dr. Krishnaraj to come to the Emergency Department to evaluate and admit Patient A to the hospital, and

Whereas, prior to admission, at no time did Dr. Krishnaraj obtain a history or perform a physical examination of Patient A,

Whereas, without doing a history or physical on Patient A, Dr. Krishnaraj called in an order to implement opiate therapy to Patient A while she was in the Hospital, and

Whereas Patient A was given a bed in another Hospital the next day and was transferred thereto without Dr. Krishnaraj having ever seen her, and

Whereas over a two day period Dr. Krishnaraj admitted Patient A to the Hospital, called in orders for Patient A, and discharged Patient A to another Hospital, and, at nurses' requests changed non-opiate medications for Patient A while she was a patient at the other Hospital, yet at no time did Dr. Krishnaraj ever examine or personally assess Patient A during this two day period, and

Whereas, as a result of the initial and repeated doses of opiate therapy prescribed to Patient A by Dr. Krishnaraj, Patient A became obtunded, and

Whereas, Patient A subsequently suffered a cardiorespiratory arrest and was transferred to the intensive care unit where she deteriorated and ultimately passed away, and

Whereas Patient B presented to the Hospital with a chief complaint of epigastric pain, and

Whereas Dr. Krishnaraj gave verbal orders to the staff to administer opiate therapy to Patient B, and

Whereas shortly thereafter, Patient B was found obtunded and unresponsive and had to be revived, and

Whereas Patient C, an eighty-seven year old male with multiple medical problems, was admitted to the Hospital through the Emergency Department, and

Whereas Dr. Krishnaraj performed the admission workup for Patient C, and

Whereas the admission workup performed by Dr. Krishnaraj was deficient in detailing Patient C's presentation, past medical history, and physical examination; specifically, Patient C presented with signs and symptoms suggesting multiple organ system dysfunction that were not comprehensively addressed by Dr. Krishnaraj in that Dr. Krishnaraj did not develop diagnoses and treatment plans in response to all of the patient's signs and symptoms, and

Whereas, Dr. Krishnaraj's conduct as described above constitutes unprofessional conduct, including, but not limited to, departure from, or the failure to conform to, the standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6), and grounds exist under that section of the North Carolina General Statutes for the Board to annul, suspend, revoke, or limit his license to practice medicine and surgery issued by the Board or deny any application he might make in the future, and

Whereas Dr. Krishnaraj readily acknowledged to the Board that he should have seen Patient A the evening of January 16, and

Whereas Dr. Krishnaraj has relocated to another hospital system and has provided the Board with letters attesting to the quality of his work and his professionalism, and

Whereas Dr. Krishnaraj has provided the Board with information regarding the self-examination he conducted to assure himself and others that he would not conduct himself likewise in the future, and

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

Whereas the Board has determined that it is in the public interest to resolve this case as set forth below;

Now, therefore, with Dr. Krishnaraj's consent, it is ORDERED that:

1. Dr. Krishnaraj's North Carolina medical license is hereby SUSPENDED for a period of TWO YEARS. Such SUSPENSION is hereby STAYED, except for a period of NINETY (90) days beginning on July 1, 2009 and ending on September 28, 2009 wherein Dr. Krishnaraj will serve an active suspension.

2. Within NINE (9) MONTHS of the date of this Consent Order, Dr. Krishnaraj shall take and successfully complete a prescribing course(s) as approved by the Board's Medical Director.

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

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

5. Dr. Krishnaraj shall meet with the Board or members of the Board for an informal interview at the Board's May 2010 meeting and at such times as requested by the Board.

6. 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, suspend, or revoke his license to practice medicine and surgery and to deny any application he might make in the future or then have pending for a license.

7. 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.

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

9. The admissions and findings contained herein are intended solely for the purpose of resolving the case at hand or in connection with other matters before the Board involving Dr. Krishnaraj.

10. 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 by and permitted by law including, but not limited to, the Federation of State Medical Boards, the National Practitioner's Data Bank, and the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank.

This the 24th day of June, 2009.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By: *George L. Saunders MD*

George L. Saunders, III, MD
President

Consented to this the 16th day of June, 2009.



Ramesh Loganathan Krishnaraj, M.D.

State of North Carolina
County of Caldwell

I, Elizabeth T. Cloniger, 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 16 day of June, 2009.


Notary Public

(SEAL)

My Commission expires: October 4, 2011